

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

The Gospel Power is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
Anderson-church.org

Men Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, January 25th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 18:1-12)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper . Michael Clemmons
Serving Phil Pressnell
..... Stephen Stewart
..... Mike Rogers
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Proverbs 18:13-24)
..... Larry White
Prayer
..... Aric Butler
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Volume XI

January 25, 2004

No. 4

Some Sound Investment Advice

Gary Henry

Investments of money involve some risk. However much we learn about the thing we are investing in and however cautiously we proceed, there is a chance that our investment may prove, in the end, to have been a bad one. When that happens, we look back regretfully and wish we had put our money into something else.

But time is also a thing we "invest." We "spend" our time for various things -- generally on the assumption that these will provide some kind of "payoff" to show that our time has been "well spent." We may not always consciously think in terms of benefit, but it is nevertheless true that we do whatever we do on the grounds that there is something in our activities that we want, something "worth" the time spent.

Time is, of course, the very stuff of life. It is the basic medium of exchange with which we purchase the objects of our desire. And as in "Monopoly," where everybody gets the same amount of money at the start, everybody gets exactly twenty-four hours each day. We take those hours and do many and varied things with them, exchanging them for whatever it is that we want. Since no two individuals are exactly alike, no two individuals spend their time on exactly the same things. We each exchange our allotment of time for that which is of value to us, even if others think we are "wasting" time. Hour by hour we are sinking our time -- our very lives -- into one pursuit or another.

Now the important consideration is simply this: many people get to the end of their lives and come to the realization that they have invested their time in the wrong things. Early on, they may have thought that things like money, career, advancement, and social standing were worth large amounts of time. Later, when the invest-

ment has already been made, it becomes tragically obvious that other things would have yielded a more substantial “return.”

Someone has said that the only worthwhile use of life is the building of something that will outlast life. For the Christian that means pursuing spiritual ends (cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14). Paul wrote, “Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16). And really, the pursuit of spiritual ends comes down, at the practical level, to investing our lives in the spiritual uplifting of people, particularly our families. The folks who are the happiest with the lives they have lived tend to be those who have spent life building godly relationships with other human beings, rather than chasing the American Dream.

With any investment, whether of money or time, there comes a “day of reckoning.” This is the day when we find out for sure whether our investment has been wise. Until that day, both foolish and wise investments may at times appear to be other than what they are. In the short run, silly investments may seem to pay off and sound investments may seem to work out poorly. It is only in the final analysis that the wisdom of the wise is fully revealed. In the investment of our time, even more than our money, the bottom line is that we need to spend what we have in exchange for the truly valuable equities, and not for things that perish with the using. There is just too little of life to invest any of it wrongheadedly. There comes a time when we will want to be pleased with the “basket” we have put so many of our “eggs” into for so many years. If we are not pleased then, it will be too late to change plans. Let the investor beware.

-via *Focus Magazine*; February 1997.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

And God

Dee Bowman

A word is a wonderful thing. Words are often aptly defined as vehicles of thought. Technically, they are a speech sound which has meaning attached to it. So strong is the word attached to the thing it represents that we cannot separate the two. Some have called words signs of ideas—and so they are. They represent something. They are not actually that thing, but they represent it so closely you cannot think of the thing without using the sign that represents it.

Words don't really do much by themselves. They need help from other words. When we string a group of words together to express an idea we often refer to the result as a train of thought. Notice, if you will, the idea of expressing the thought, like a train expresses its load. An express train, I suppose you'd say.

Words are not the only form of communication; but they are the most efficient and accurate form of it. Written words, properly understood and used, are a very accurate means of expressing an idea or thought. Spoken language is the most emotional and, probably the most accurate and expressive means of communicating because it combines so many things to bring thoughts from one mind to another. God has always used language—what He says—to accomplish His plans and purposes. He spoke the worlds into existence with words. He sent Christ who is called The Word that he might be understood by man (John 1:1-3, 18). The ability to communicate through the spoken word is one of the ways we were created “in the image” of God.

After man had created him, man become very vain (Genesis 11:1-9). He sought glory for himself. He wanted a name (11:4). Not, mind you, just a monument, but one which would give him a name, a reputation. The impiety of these insurrectionists caused them to make the name-structure reach all the way to heaven, thus the tower of Babel.

How did God treat their rebellion? He separated them by “confounding” their language. He mixed up their speech so they could no longer understand one another. Clever. The result was predictable: there can be no commonality when there is no understanding, no fellowship where there is no comprehension, so they “left off the building.” No wonder—you can’t build with one another when you don’t understand one another.

Scripture states or implies in many places the role of communication in God’s plans. The Bible says, “God said, let there be light and there was light.” He literally spoke the creation into existence. He said and that which had not heretofore existed, came into existence. Jesus is called The Word because He became the very expression of God. God spoke to man in various ways, but “in these last days hath spoken to us by his Son...” (Hebrews 11:2). In John 1:18, John says of Jesus, “...the only begotten son who was in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 speaks of Scripture being “inspired of God.” The Greek word used here literally means “God-breathed,” an obvious reference to the language factor involved in revelation. Just as creation involved language, inspiration involved language. God’s eternal purpose involves language.

Ephesians 3:1-10 combines inspiration, revelation—both by God—and perception and application—both involving man. Paul says he received by inspiration what he wrote down so that “when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ Jesus.” Our ability to perceive the will of God—that is, what God expects of His creatures—is inseparably connected to words, words which can be understood and acted upon.

In Romans chapter ten, Paul says, “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart’ (that word which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved.”

Here, our salvation is connected to our confession—our statement of our belief. He continues, “for with the heart one believes to righteousness and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” He further asks, “How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?” and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?” Faith, according to the same writer, “comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

At the Pentecost sermon in Acts 2, Peter said, “Ye men of Israel and all ye that dwell in Jerusalem, hear these words...” He then preached about Jesus as the provider of salvation through his death. When they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts and said, “Men and brethren what shall we do?” Peter told them. Communicated information is involved in God’s part in salvation (God spoke to the people in their own languages). It is also involved in man’s part of the process so they said, “men and brethren what shall we do?”

In addition, consider that:

1. We are born again by the word (1 Peter 1:23).
2. We are cleansed by the word (Ephesians 5:26; Psalm 119:9).
3. We are saved by the word (1 Timothy 4:16; James 1:21).
4. We grow by the word (1 Peter 2:2; Jeremiah 15:16).
5. We are sanctified by the word (John 17:17).
6. We are enlightened by the word (Psalm 19:8; Psalm 119:105).
7. We are kept by the word (Psalm 17:4).

If a man would be saved he must listen to what God has said. What God has said will make him aware of what he has to do to be saved. Doesn’t that say something about the necessity of looking frequently into His word? Never underestimate the power of words. But especially God’s words while here on earth.

—via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

Remember Our Evening Service at 5:00.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Helen Trousdale* has been sick this past week with bronchitis ...*Myrtie Williams* continues at home making slow progress in her recovery ...*Onzell Tucker* has been sick and not able to be out...*Sam Noles* has been sick this past week ...*Hoyt Hammond* is at home...
 ...*James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell* is at home... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* who is at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrence-burg ...*James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home...*Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, who is at El Reposo Nursing Home ...*Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, who is staying with family.

OUT OF TOWN: *Betty White* has been out of town this past week.

PICTURES FOR DIRECTORY: Remember pictures are currently being made for the pictorial directory and everyone needs to have their picture made even if your picture was made for the last directory. If you have not have your picture made yet, be sure to do it in the next couple of weeks. *Claus Martel* is taking the pictures and they are being made in the High School classroom after services.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communion group 4 to meet following our evening service. If you are in group 4, plan to meet this evening.

THE RECORD: *For The Week of January 18th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 100
 Morning Worship 116
 Evening Worship 78
Wednesday: Bible Classes 76

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Michael Clemmons (256) 247-0836
 Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391

Deacons

Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
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