

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, February 29th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Proverbs 25:11-28)
..... Eddie Hammond
Prayer
..... Mark Mcintyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Aric Butler
Lord's Supper Rocky Rose
Serving Jimmy Glass
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Chase Williams
..... Claus Martel
Closing Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 26:1-16)
..... Claus Martel
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
..... Jimmy Glass
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Volume XI

February 29, 2004

No. 9

When A Child Talks To A Parent

David Thomley

Tears were streaming down little red cheeks, and his short stubby legs were still stinging from the switchin'. I heard him protest, with an obvious degree of hesitation, "But I didn't say anything bad... I just wanted to know why I had to come inside?" His mother, switch still in hand, bent down until her eyes were parallel with his eyes, and she had his undivided attention. "Listen to me, young man! It's not what you said – it's how you said it that got you in trouble. You watch your tone of voice when you talk to me!"

Thank God for godly mothers who expend time and effort in planting Biblical values deep in the hearts of little boys and girls. "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother...*" (Ephesians 6:1-2). Babies do not come into the world pre-programmed to demonstrate honor in their relationships with their parents. They must be taught honor and respect, and be trained in behavior which bespeaks these qualities.

Honor and respect are attitudes, ways of thinking about something. Neither of these, however, can be separated from behavior. How you treat a person speaks volumes about whether or not you respect that person. On a crowded subway, one man yields his seat to a young lady with a baby, and another man almost knocks her down as he pushes ahead of her to exit the train. Arriving to pick up their dates for the evening, one young man walks to the door and knocks, and the other skids into the driveway sounding his horn. If a child is so unfortunate as to grow up without knowing who to show honor and respect to in the most important relationships of his life – beginning with his parents – he is destined for a lifetime of dysfunctional relationships.

The need to show honor and respect to parents does not end with

the teenage years. There is nothing more ungodly than a young man or woman who has sapped the resources of a humble father and mother, received a good education and obtained a lucrative job, who will subsequently behave with disrespect and contempt toward his parents. No matter how much more education you received, nor how much more money you now have, nor how much more important you fashion yourself to be – your parents are still your parents, and you are not the least bit better than they are!

~via *College View Column*; Florence, Alabama.



If Baptism Is Optional...

Dan S. Shipley

That water baptism is a part of New Testament teaching cannot be denied. Christ taught it. “The apostles and other inspired men taught it and sinners submitted to it. However, many (including those who practice it) minimize the importance of baptism in claiming it not essential to one’s salvation. To them, it is an **OPTIONAL** thing, to be received or rejected without eternal consequences one way or the other. If they are right, then certain other things must necessarily follow.

If baptism is optional, then observing the teaching of Christ is optional because the Bible teaches that “he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). If one could be saved without doing what Jesus says about baptism, then what of the faith required in the same verse? Remember, God says, “hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5); and “to Him shall ye hearken in all things” (Acts 3:22). However, if observing and abiding in the teaching of Christ (2 John 9) cannot be optional, then neither can the baptism contained in His teaching.

Further, Jesus plainly tells the apostles to

“make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you...” (Matthew 28:19,20). His instructions include teaching and baptism. Which is optional? Also, note that the apostles were to teach men to observe what Christ commanded. The apostles taught baptism, therefore it was among those things commanded by Christ. (cf. Acts 2:38; 10:48; Romans 6:3-ff; 1 Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:27). If baptism is optional, then keeping the commandments of Christ is optional! Recall in John 14:15 Jesus says, “If you love me, ye will keep my commandments.” Is it possible to show love for Christ while regarding His commandments as optional and not keeping His word (v.23)?

Again, if baptism is optional, then obeying truth is optional. Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all the truth (John 16:13). What the apostles and other inspired men set forth concerning baptism was a part of that gospel truth. Among other things, this truth teaches that men put on Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:27) and that newness of life begins at baptism (John 3:3-5; Romans 6:4. **That’s The Gospel Truth!** Can men please God without newness of life and without putting on Christ? — are these optional matters? To reject this truth is to reject the God who gives it (1 Thessalonians 4:8) and Paul depicts the fate of all who do not obey it (2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9).

Finally, if it makes no difference whether one is baptized, then it makes no difference whether one receives forgiveness of sins. Through Peter, God shows that remission of sins follows repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38). Acts 22:16 teaches that sins are washed away in baptism. Christ himself shows that being saved (forgiven) comes after faith expresses itself in baptism (Mark 16:16). This is why God says that baptism saves us (1 Peter 3:21). Nothing necessary to the salvation of man can be optional. God, in many ways, says baptism is needful. Will you receive it?

~via *Plain Talk*; Burntite, Texas.

God's Sufficient Word

Jason Moore

The Bible is like no other book. It reveals the mind of God to man so that when we have the Bible, we can say with Paul, "We have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). God's mind, unlike man's, is "made up." There is no new information that awaits discovery which will change God's mind or alter His decisions. If God failed to think through His will for man or made some accidental oversight, He would not be God. His plan is perfect, complete. It requires no alterations. Who would propose a better organization, or worship, or program of work for the Lord's people than that which the Lord Himself designed? For, "who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?" (1 Corinthians 2:16). God's program needs no upgrading. It is sufficient.

God has not only perfectly planned, but perfectly revealed His will to man through the Holy Spirit. The things spoken and written by the apostles and prophets were not said "in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:13). That means that, not just the thoughts, but the very words spoken by inspired men are "spiritual" (1 Corinthians 2:13). In other words, their source is the Holy Spirit. The mind of God has been articulated by the Spirit so that the written word perfectly expresses what was perfectly planned in the mind of God. Who would propose to add methods or missions or ministries to the Lord's church which the Lord Himself did not assign? For, "who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?" (1 Corinthians 2:16). God's word needs no revision. It is sufficient.

God's will has been perfectly planned and perfectly revealed by the Spirit that man might be perfectly informed, "thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17). Man permits himself to be informed and persuaded by God's speech with the same interpretive skills he

uses in understanding his teachers, his parents, or his neighbor. We raised three hogs in back of the Moore household and it was my job of a morning to slop them. Dad told me that it was my job. You could say that he commanded me. "Son, you're to feed the hogs before you go to school." That was as plain to me as "Thou shalt feed the hogs." Dad showed me with a Mason jar how much feed to put in the bucket and how to reckon that measurement in accord with the growth of our pigs. He gave me an example to follow as a standard for every future feeding of our pigs. Dad didn't have to tell me every day, "Feed the hogs before you go to school." He told me once. But I understood that, when he said "before you go to school", he meant "every morning." That was a logical conclusion. He implied "every morning" and I inferred that by his speech.

A ten year-old intuitively understands the commands, the examples, the implications of his parent. That's simply the way men communicate with men. It's also the way God communicates with men. God in perfectly expressing His perfect will to man: commands or issues clear statements of approved behavior (Mark 16:16), supplies approved examples that serve as a standard (Acts 20:7), makes necessary implications by which men infer logical conclusions (Hebrews 7:12). Who then would propose for the Lord's people to act or to organize in ways or by means which the Lord Himself did not specify with command, approved example, or necessary inference? For, "who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?" (1 Corinthians 2:16). God's speech needs no supplement. It is sufficient.

-via *Southern Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Jean Ray* continues to be sick at home and not able to be out...*Ella & Ivy Wallen* were both sick and unable to be at services last Sunday...*Helen Trousdale's sister,*

Margaret Grisham Newton has been in the hospital undergoing a series of tests...*Myrtie Williams* continues at home and is making slow progress in her recovery ...*Sam Noles* is scheduled to have surgery on his left eye on Tuesday ...*Hoyt Hammond* is at home ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* is at the Countryside Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ...*James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home...*Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, is staying with family.

PICTURES FOR DIRECTORY: Pictures are continuing to be made for the pictorial directory. If you have not have your picture made yet, be sure to do it soon. *Claus Martel* is taking the pictures and they are being made in the High School classroom after services.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Carriger church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and will continue through Tuesday with servcies Monday through Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. *Lowell Sallee of Huntsville* will be the speaker.

BUSINESS MEETING: There will be a business for all the men of the congregation tonight following our evening service. I hope that all the men will make their plans to be present.

SINGING: The *New Hope church* in Cross Key will be having a singing this afternoon at 3:00.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of February 22nd*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 104
 Morning Worship 119
 Evening Worship 85

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 82

Remember Our Evening Service at 5:00.

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
 Monroe Pressnell (256) 232-0780

Deacons

Jimmy Glass (256) 247-0571
 Mark McIntyre (256) 233-1953
 Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
 Larry White (256) 247-0988
 Brian Word (256) 229-5823

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