

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, March 14th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Proverbs 28:11-16?)

..... Eddie Hammond

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Lord's Supper Mark McIntyre

Serving Ronnie Phillips

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Mark McCrary

..... Mike Rogers

..... James McConnell

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading (Proverbs 29:16-16)

..... Larry White

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

..... Ronnie Phillips

Closing Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Volume XI

March 14, 2004

No. 11

The Wondrous Word of God

Randy Harshbarger

"Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18). Why do otherwise successful people see little need to read, study, and obey the word of God? Perhaps the answer is found in different value systems. In the eyes of the world, many folks are successful because they have acquired great wealth, or because they have been recognized by their peers as having done something important. Yet, how can any people be successful unless they seek out the wonderful things found in the word of God? Christians become weak, discouraged, and begin to fail in their walk with the Lord. Can they not see the value of seeking eternal truths found in God's word? Every person can be blessed if he chooses to be. Yet, we may be our own worse enemies. We face a greater danger from our own lack of interest than from the atheists and agnostics. If we are not careful we can destroy the power of God's word, at least as far as we are personally concerned. A knowledge of God's word is essential to an unyielding faith in God. The Bible, the wondrous word of God can help us if we will let it.

The Bible is a supernatural book. Man would not have written the Bible if he could have; he could not have written the Bible if he wanted to. Certainly no man, without God's help, could be responsible for such a majestic composition. The Bible claims to be from God. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Prophets spoke for God; when doing so, they acted not by their own human intellect, but were guided by the Holy Spirit of God (2 Peter 1:20-21). The Bible originated with God!

The Bible is a sovereign book. That is, it expresses the supreme

authority of God. It remains the supreme authority in religious matters. This is true whether you or I accept or reject it. We accept the Bible on its own authority. It claims to be from God; just so, God cannot lie, and we believe His word, and act accordingly. Some accuse us of worshiping the Bible, of engaging in Bibliolatry. We do not worship the Bible; we worship the God who gave us the Bible! The question is not: What does the church say? or, What does man say? or, What do I think? The question is: What does the Bible say!

The Bible is a saving book. It contains words of life (John 6:63ff). The Bible was written to tell us how to be saved. It produces faith in Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God (John 20:30-31). The gospel, God's power unto salvation, is the only message God has for saving us from sin. The gospel is the only message needed to save us from sin. Yes, if followed, the Bible will make us better people-in whatever relationship of life we are part of. Ultimately, the Bible brings us to God in this life and to God in heaven when this life is over. Read and study and obey the wondrous word of God.

~via *Sallings Drive Bulletin* Nachogdoches, Texas.



Baptism Is A Figure

Jim R. Everett

Peter said, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21). To which our denominational friends say, "Aha, baptism is only a figure of our salvation – it is an outward sign of an inward grace." But that conclusion is a distortion of the wording in Peter's statement.

Based upon the general admission that Peter is talking about water baptism, and he is, let us

accept some necessary conclusions. First, baptism is obviously a figure (type). But of what is it a type? The text gives the answer -- v. 21 speaks of baptism as a "like figure" connects back to v. 20. Peter had just said, "...God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." The comparison is between Noah's salvation by the flood's waters and our salvation by water baptism.

Notice that when God sent the flood upon the earth, its design was to destroy all evil men, to rid the earth of all corruption. The flood accomplished that and when the water subsided, Noah walked out of the ark and into a clean new world. In the same way, when one is baptized in water, he comes forth from that baptism into a clean new life. It is from baptism that we are raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4b).

Again, based upon the admission that v. 21 is discussing water baptism, it must also be admitted that water baptism is the subject of the sentence. Hence, the simple sentence reads, "Baptism doth also now save us." The qualifying phrases and clauses merely explain what water baptism is and is not, but do not contradict or annul the simple sentence.

Other scriptures tell us of God love and grace; Christ's sacrifice for sin and God's commands to believe and repent (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16; Romans 5:1-10; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). Therefore, Peter is not affirming that baptism, by itself, saves us. But such observations do not set aside the simplest, most straightforward interpretation of the language in 1 Peter 3:21 – baptism in water saves us. Peter does not say that the good conscience saves nor does he say that baptism is a symbol of our salvation. He says, "baptism saves us."

~via *Toward A Better Understanding* Cedar Park, Texas.

Remember Our Evening Service at 5:00.

A Call For Sincerity

Dee Bowman

In our age of intense and concentrated advertising efforts, the finding of an open mind is indeed a rare thing. All of us are so bombarded with ideas from others that even from our earliest years we form prejudices which affect our lives from then on. Customs, traditions, backgrounds of various sorts influence the most insignificant decisions.

The only solution to the problem of prejudice is a serious effort by every individual to obtain and maintain an attitude of sincerity. A sincere person is, first of all, a truth-seeking person. His quest in every situation and circumstance is for the truth. A person who is determined to base all his decisions on the truth has laid out for himself a most difficult course, for truth is not always easily accessible. However, prompted by a sincere desire to be right, he will not be deterred.

The sincere person is looking for ALL the truth. Half-truths have ever been the major cause for man's demise. If the powers of evil can cause a person to subscribe to only part of the truth, the end is the same ruination as if he had subscribed to no truth at all! Such has been the problem of Protestant denominationalism from the very beginning. It is based on part, but not all of the truth.

"Getting to the bottom of a thing" is characteristic of him who sincerely seeks truth and that means he must engage in a sincere effort to find ALL the truth. Any person who seeks to excel in any area will solicit as much information as he can about that area. And the sincere person is interested in knowing as much as possible about a situation before rendering any decision about that matter.

The sincere person applies the truth. The truth known, while it may thrill the intelligence of him who procures it, is not really valuable

until it is applied. The person who knows a truth and does not apply it is only slightly better off than the person who does not know that truth at all! The Scriptures compare that person who fails to apply truth to a foolish man who views his physical imperfections in a mirror and walks away unconcerned about what he has seen (cf. James 1:23-25). On the other hand, the person who applies the truth as he sees necessary "shall be blessed in his deed."

Furthermore, the sincere person applies the truth without regard to consequences. Faith in God requires that we put our complete confidence in Him. That is, when lie says a situation calls for a certain application of truth, we obey without consideration of any circumstances and with full confidence in Him. The sincere person is fully persuaded that God's way is the right way and that He would not require of man that which did not benefit him.

A sincere person is respectful of the opinions of others. He has such a high regard for truth that he will not be guilty of forcing what he knows is opinion. Conversely, he has enough knowledge of truth to not allow you to force your opinions on him either! The sincere person is totally honest with the truth.

-via Plain Talk, Burnett, Texas.

Gospel Meeting

March 28 – April 2

David Hartsell, Speaking

Schedule of Services

Sunday – 9:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Singing 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday – 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *C. L. Weathers* is in the ECM hospital in ICU following emergency surgery on Thursday to remove his appendix... *Corey Word* is in the Athens-Limestone hospital with pneumonia and hopes to come home this afternoon... *Sissy Clemmons* is to go to the doctor on in Birmingham about her coming surgery... *Michael Clemmons' father, Bobby Clemmons* is now home following his stay in the hospital... *James McConnell's cousin, Sue Frazier*, is in the ECM hospital... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home and is making slow progress in her recovery ... 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Roses: Rocky and Donna* are away this weekend and plan to be back this evening... *The McConnells: James and Freda* are back after being away for a few weeks in Florida.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Mandy Griffin* in the passing of her great-grandmother, *Lille Howard*, this Sunday. Her funeral was Tuesday.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Remember tonight will be the night for Communication Group two to meet. If you are in group two plan to meet with your group this evening.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of March 7th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 109
 Morning Worship 125
 Evening Worship 86
Wednesday: Bible Classes 88

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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