

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 21st

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 30:1-14)
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Brian Word

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper Monroe Pressnell
Serving Larry White
..... Stephen Stewart
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Eddie Hammond
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Proverbs 30:15-33)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Volume XI

March 21, 2004

No. 12

Come Join Us As We Study Together In A

Gospel Meeting

March 28 – April 2

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.

Evangelist – David Hartsell
of Auburn, Alabama

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

“Forgive One Another”

David B. Hartsell

“Jesus once told Philip, “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). That is, Jesus showed us God’s nature, and forgiveness is one of His most compelling qualities. All through His ministry Jesus extended mercy. The paralyzed man (Luke 5), the sinful woman (Luke 7), and Zacchaeus (Luke 19) are just a few examples. God’s desire and willingness to forgive is seen most clearly in the suffering Savior, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Naturally, God’s children would be expected to reflect this same attitude. “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do” (Colossians 3:12-13). So we must forgive one another “as Christ forgave” and “just as God in Christ also forgave” (Ephesians 4:32). Let’s look at this forgiveness.

Jesus taught in the parable of the unmerciful servant that compassion motivates God to forgive (Matthew 18:23-25). The story tells of a servant who owed his master 10,000 talents; an enormous sum! When the master ordered the man, his family, and possessions sold to satisfy the debt, the servant fell down and pled with him for more time to pay. Can you imagine that pitiful sight? The servant could never have repaid the debt, and his lord, knowing it, had pity on him and canceled it, and when he had been forgiven all, went out and found a fellow-servant who owed him a meager amount, took him by the throat and demanded payment. In words similar to his tormentors earlier appeal he begged for patience, but, receiving one, was sent to prison. When the master of the servant heard the story, he rebuked him severely and “delivered him to the tormentors.”

The lesson is ours. “So my heavenly Father

also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” When we consider the great debt (of sin) God has forgiven us, the offenses we receive seem trivial. The person that cannot remember the magnitude of God’s mercy and “compassionately” pardon his brother will burn the bridge (of God’s forgiveness) across which he himself must pass (Matthew 6:14-15).

To imitate Christ, a brother must forgive “from his heart.” There are some things we call forgiveness that, in reality, are counterfeits. For instance, a brother asks our pardon for some offense. We smile and say, “Oh, it’s no big deal” or “Don’t worry about it.” But inside we determine to avoid him in the future. We may even privately rejoice when some misfortune comes his way. Insincere forgiveness may also occur in marriage. Inevitably, married couples will have times when they hurt each other. The injury may range from angry words to infidelity. In tears, the guilty party asks for pardon, and thinks it has been received. But a week, a month, or a year later the whole offense is dredged up again. We may also secretly put those whom we said we forgave on probation. We are willing to pardon if there is no future transgression.

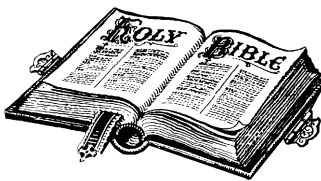
God, however, has shown us how to forgive from the heart. When He remits our sins, He remembers them no more (Hebrews 8:12). Do you recall the father’s reaction to the returning prodigal? (Luke 15:22-24)? When the heavenly Father pardons, the penitent one is treated as though he had never left. Someone may say that it is impossible for humans to forgive this way. Friend, God never asks us to do anything that we cannot do, but assures us that we can reach our spiritual goals through His Son (Philippians 4:13). We may not literally erase the offense from our minds, but we can put away “all bitterness, wrath, anger...” (Ephesians 4:31). We can determine not to reflect and meditate on things that are behind us. It is tragic to see people create their own private hell and destroy relationships forever because they refuse to forgive from the heart.

Furthermore, the Lord's forgiveness is not limited. Peter asked Jesus how often one should forgive his brother – “up to seven times?” (Matthew 18:21-22). Some see forgiveness as Peter did, thinking that each person is allotted a certain number of “forgiveness coupons.” When the coupon book is empty, forgiveness is refused. Is this how God forgives? Is this how we want Him to pardon us? No, thank you! Jesus said our forgiveness is to be “up to seventy times seven.”

It is Christ's will that His people live together in peace and love. That is impossible without forgiveness. Jesus has instructed that the offending brother try to make things right with the wounded brother even before he attempts to worship God (Matthew 5:23-24). Sadly, some brethren sit in the same building and try to talk to God while they refuse to speak to one another. But what if the offender will not approach the offended? The Lord teaches that the wounded brother should take the initiative (Matthew 18:15). His objective is to restore the relationship. His hope is to restore the relationship. His hope is that they meet each other on the road, repenting and forgiving.

Learning to forgive each other frees us from hatred and vindictiveness and allows us to enjoy the human fellowships God has provided. But more importantly, it enables us to be partakers of the divine nature and to draw closer to eternal fellowship with Him.

-via *Christianity Magazine*, Vol 9 No. 7.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.



Remember our regular scheduled song service will be this afternoon at 5:00. Phil Pressnell will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make plans to attend as we teach and admonish one another in songs, hymns and spiritual songs.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *C. L. Weathers* is in the ECM hospital room 574 and is doing better... *Myrtie Williams* is in ECM hospital in Florence, room 362 and hopes to be released today... *Hoyt Hammond* has not been doing as well the past week ... *Corey Word* was able to be back services Wednesday night after being in the hospital over the weekend... *Jean Ray* is still not able to be out but is doing better ... *Sissy Clemmons* is scheduled to have her surgery next Monday, March 29th ... *Michael Clemmons' father, Bobby Clemmons* is now home following his stay in the hospital... *James McConnell's cousin, Sue Frazier*, is now home from the hospital... 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 Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are away this weekend visiting with Aric's mother in Florida... *The Dickey's: Jerry, Charlotte, Justin and Brandon* are away this weekend in Gulf Shores... *Glenda Phillips* is visiting her family today... *Jerry Best* is out of town a few days this week... *The Martels: Claus and Sanda* are in Germany on vacation... *Angie Cook* has been out of town with her work this week.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Wanda Tucker* in the passing of her brother, *Stanley Letson*, on Wednesday night... Also we want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Helen Stewart* in the passing of her nephew, *John Rowland*, this past Monday. His funeral was Friday in Columbia, Tennessee.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Posey church* in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Randall Hammock* will be the speaker in this meeting.

SONG PRACTICE: Remember we will be meeting this afternoon at 4:15 for our song practice. Our young men will each lead a song and we will sing some new songs that we are not as familiar with. I hope every one who can will be present to encourage our young men as they develop their talents.

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of March 14th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 109
 Morning Worship 117
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 75

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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