

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 28th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (Proverbs 31:10-31)
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell
Lord's Supper Rocky Rose
Serving Brian Word
..... Aric Butler
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Mike Rogers
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Meeting)
.....
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
..... Brian Word
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Volume XI

March 28, 2004

No. 13

Beginning Today

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

The God of Hope

Jim Ward

Nobody could pack a passage quite like the apostle Paul. Take, for example, Romans 15:13 “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” There are enough ideas in this verse and its context to keep us occupied for a long while.

Perhaps the greatest internal danger to the early church was the constant threat of a Jew/Gentile rupture. Centuries of distrust and animosity were no small barrier to peace and harmony among disciples of Christ, a fact of which Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, was keenly aware. Consequently, he constantly wrote about and promoted the solidarity shared in Christ by these two segments of society. Jesus, he insisted, had died in order to “reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enemy” (Ephesians 2:16). When he gathered funds from Gentile saints for the aid of needy Jewish saints in Judea, he emphasized their interdependence. “For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things” (Romans 15:26,27).

This is the context of Romans 15:13. It serves as a sort of culmination of a long section dealing with the unity which God has created between Jews and Gentiles, and the mutual endeavor which they are to make in behalf of maintaining that unity (cf. Ephesians 4:1-7). Of course, the Jew/Gentile dichotomy aside, other factors often contributed to a divisive spirit. At Corinth, for example, the problem was plain, old-fashioned carnality, a carnality so great that they turned even the gifts of the Spirit into an occasion of envy and strife (1 Corinthians 12). In Rome

“strong” disciples were at odds with “weak” disciples over scruples involving eating meats (Romans 14:2,3) and observing certain days (vv 5,6), a rift that likely had some relationship to the Jew/Gentile distinctions.

When Paul finally urges the strong “to bear with the scruples of the weak,” to “please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification,” and to “receive one another” (Romans 15:1,2,7), he appeals to the example of Christ, who “did not please Himself” (vs. 3) and who “also received us” (vs. 7). Next, he ties this all to Christ’s redemption of the Jew first and then the Gentiles: “Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy” (vs. 8,9). He then quotes four verses (Psalm 18:49; Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 117:1; Isaiah 11:10) which speak prophetically of the mission of Christ to the Gentiles. The Isaiah passage in Romans 15:12 says, “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”

Finally, in verse 13, building upon the word hope in verse 12, the apostle identifies the God who shaped centuries of human history, who brought His Son into the world through Jewish bloodlines, all for the purpose of redeeming Jew and Gentile alike, as the God of hope. Romans is in fact a book of hope, touching upon the subject in chapters 4,5,8,12, and 15. “Hope does not disappoint” (5:5); it is the confident expectation of the glory of God (5:2); “we eagerly wait for (the object of our hope) with perseverance” (8:25). Hope anticipates the certain return of Jesus Christ to gather His redeemed people, both dead and living, to be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). It is hope in which we are saved (8:24) and in which we continue to rejoice (12:12). Every Christian lives “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began” (Titus 1:2). In Romans the chief witness of this hope is the outworking of God’s plan to redeem Jew and Gentile. This is the

message the “God of patience and comfort” (Romans 5:5) has “written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (5:4).

Finally again, in verse 13, on behalf of his readers, Paul appeals to this one, true, living God of hope for the joy and peace that heaven alone can give, and to which we can aspire only “in believing.”

There is a joy and a peace available to God’s people and to them alone, in spite of the circumstances of their lives. It is the joy and peace that moved Paul and Silas to sing hymns at midnight in a prison cell (Acts 16). It is the joy and peace by which Jesus discounted the shame of the cross (Hebrews 12:2) and said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). It is the peace that Jesus bequeathed to the early disciples when He said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

And only through this comfort and peace can believers “abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

May the God of hope grant you and your family joy, peace, and hope.

-via *Lost River Bulletin* Vol 54 No. 1.



He Just Talked Right Back

Phil Roberts

Most of you readers will be familiar with the story of Balaam and his donkey (Numbers 22:22-35). The prophet Balaam was on his way to Balaak, the king of Moab, who had hired him to pronounce a curse on the Israelites. But as he was going along, the angel of the Lord appeared in the way. Now when the donkey saw the angel she balked and turned off the road. Balaam, who did

not see the angel, beat his donkey and got her back on the road.

The angel appeared again and the donkey swerved aside again, this time crushing Balaam’s foot against the wall. Balaam, his anger rising, beat her again. The angel appeared a third time and donkey just sat down in the middle of the road. Balaam was so incensed that he began to beat her with his staff. If was just then that the Lord “opened the mouth” of the donkey and she began to talk back to Balaam: “What have I done unto thee, that thou has smitten me these me these three times?”

Now what would you do if you had a donkey that started talking back to you? I believe most of you would just stand there with your mouth hanging open. But what did Balaam do? He was so blinded by his anger and his sinful ambition that he just talked back to the thing! I can’t help it. I get ticked off every time I read this story. But there is an important warning here for us. A person is never so liable to play the fool as when that are blinded by their anger and sinful ambition as was Balaam.

-via *The Exhorter*, Athens, Alabama..

News & Notes

THE SICK: *C. L. Weathers* is now at home and is doing much better...*Myrtie Williams* is in Glenwood Rehabilitation in Florence... *Hoyt Hammond* has not been able to be out this past week ...*Helen Stewart* received good reports from the tests she had done recently...*Jean Ray* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Signa Skipworth* is doing better now after returning from her trip sick ...*Sissy Clemmons* is to have her surgery at Brookwood hospital in Birmingham tomorrow morning...*Brooke and Sam Phillips* have been sick this past week...*Mike Rogers* has been sick and not able to be at services Wednesday night ...*Jamie Mosley* has been sick

and not able to be at services this week ... **Mandy Griffin** has not able to be at services this week ... 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: **Signa Skipworth** is back in town after being away last week with her sisters in the mountians.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **River Bend church** in western Lauderdale county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. **Matt Oglesby of Lexington** will be the speaker in this meeting.

SINGING: There will be a singing this afternoon at 3:00 prior to our afternoon assembly at 4:00. I hope everyone will be back at 3:00 ready to lift our voices together as we sing songs of praise to our God.

OUR MEETING We are beginning our meeting today with **David Hartsell** preaching. This is the second meeting David has held here. I hope that all of us have made our plans to be at all the services of this meeting. I know that as we study along with brother Hartsell we will be strengthened and better equipped to face life as Christians. Remember to continue to pray for the meeting. Continue to invite others that you come in contact with and remind those you have already invited.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of March 21st*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 91
 Morning Worship 103
 Evening Worship 76

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 75

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 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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