

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 7th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (Proverbs 27:11-16?)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper . Michael Clemmons

Serving Brian Word

..... Jim Phillips

..... Ethan Pressnell

..... Stephen Stewart

..... Chase Williams

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Bible Reading (Proverbs 27:16-16)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Phil Pressnell

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

..... Brian Word

Closing Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume XI

March 7, 2004

No. 10

What Matters Most

W. Frank Walton

"Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

From The Biblical Illustrator, I saw this illustration about discerning what really matters. In the Jules Verne's novel, The Mysterious Island, he tells of five men who escaped a Civil War prison by hijacking a hot air balloon. As they rise into the air, they realize the wind is carrying them over the ocean, and they are powerless to stop it. Watching their homeland disappear on the horizon, they wonder how much longer the balloon can stay aloft.

The hours pass and the surface of the ocean draws gradually closer. Since they had no way to heat the air for it to rise in the balloon, the men decide they must cast some weight overboard. Shoes, overcoats and weapons that they worked so hard to collect for the escape are reluctantly discarded. The anxious aviators feel their balloon rise. Yet, it is only temporary. They slowly descend again and draw dangerously close to the waves. Then, they had to toss their food. They realize it is better to be high and hungry than to drown on a full belly!

Unfortunately, lightening their load helps only for a short time. The craft again floats downward and threatens to crash into the sea. One man has an idea: they can tie the ropes that hold the passenger car to themselves. Then, they could cut away the basket beneath them. As they sever the very thing they had been standing on, it drops into the ocean and the balloon rises again.

In the nick of time, they spot land! When they drift close enough to the island, the five men jump into the water and swim to safety on the island.

They had lived, when they otherwise might have perished, because they were able to discern the difference between what really was needed and what was not. The necessities they once thought they couldn't live without, in that critical situation, were really the very weights that almost cost them their lives. Christians must learn to not let the "trivial many crowd out the vital few." In fact, the only thing that any of us will carry from this life is our character we have developed, in following Christ, by the thoughts we think, the attitudes we harbor, the words we say and the deeds we do. Every physical thing – our homes, our cars, our clothes, our furniture, our bank, our workplace, etc. – will be burned up (2 Peter 3:10-13)! We won't even take any pictures of them as souvenirs to show each other in heaven! Our physical blessings can become our curse if we are consumed with them and "choke out" our primary relationship with our Creator (Mark 4:18-19). It is God's eternal purpose to train and transform our character into the image of Jesus Christ, so we're fitted for eternal glory (Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 2:4-10, Titus 2:11-14). This pursuit is what matters most in this life.

So, in our journey to eternity, we must know what to ignore, what to sins to shun, what to hold lightly, when to let go, and how to always keep our eyes focused foremost on our Lord, who ever beckons us onward and upward to Himself in our heavenly home (Philippians 3:13-14, Matthew 6:33, Luke 10:41-42). Jesus our example gained nothing great this world offers, yet He gained everything God offers (Philippians 2:5-11). So, when we're frustrated and stressed out, we must ask ourselves, "What difference will this make in eternity?" In the end, preparing ourselves by faith for that inevitable interview with our Creator is the true purpose of life. Everything else in this world is ultimately like arranging deck chairs on the Titanic. ~via *Truth Seeker*; New Albany, Indiana.

Problems With Pride

Dee Bowman

Selfishness is at the base of all sin. The desire to satisfy self, glorify self, excuse self is what precipitates sin. And the most graphic illustration of such selfishness is seen in the inordinate love of ones own person, just simple pride. It encroaches into all human relationships. It wreaks havoc with everything it touches and causes needless destruction in every area of life. Pride respects no age group and had no economic barriers; it crosses all racial lines. It knows no limit in its desire to capture and subdue its prey. It may lie dormant in a person for years then rise to strike with such ferocity and savage fierceness as to completely overwhelm that person. Pride is a prime adversary, a constant, never-ceasing enemy.

Now some pride is necessary—and important. Without an amount of self-esteem—legitimate pride, if you please—we would likely not take care to make ourselves presentable, or even practice personal hygiene. Without self-respect we would not likely educate ourselves, or be good citizens, or do lots of other things that are necessary to good and appropriate social relationships. And we certainly would exercise little personal discipline or practice any moral code in the absence of some amount of legitimate self-regard. The Lord's command in Matthew 22:37 which says "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," is based to some extent on that legitimate self-care. And the so called Golden Rule loses its sense when there is no self-care. It says, "as ye would that others do unto you, do ye even also unto them" (Luke 6:31). That pre-supposes that we want what is best for ourselves. And there's nothing wrong with that.

But excessive or inordinate pride is opposed to our best interests. Such pride quickly degenerates into egotism, arrogance, conceit, and pomposity. Too much pride militates against meekness and self control. Self-importance turns to

vainglory and smugness. “A man’s pride shall bring him low,” said the wise man (Proverbs 29:23). And did he not also say that “pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18 LBX)? This kind of pride likes nothing better than unrestrained independence. It is the chief enemy of humility, the first danger to meekness, and it’s behind many, if not most, of man’s problems—both large and small.

Here are three prominent areas where the monster pride plays its various roles.

Self-justification. Here is one of the more prominent results of excessive pride. The person who is lifted up by his own self-importance just can’t bow down enough to admit to wrong. He is quick to find ways to excuse his conduct when some sin or imperfection is called to his attention. He will not admit to the wrong—his pride won’t let him. He shifts the blame. It’s someone else’s fault. There were extenuating circumstances; certainly he is not at fault. It’s easier for him to excuse his conduct than to correct it, for to correct it he must first admit that he’s wrong. Wrong? Are you kidding?

Self-complacency. Another product of inordinate self-care. A person’s lack of involvement in a project is very often the result of his feelings of superiority. Without admitting it (sometimes even to himself), this person elevates himself above his fellows, allowing them to take care of the project while he stands by, pretending to be a part, and relishes in his own self-worth. Oh, he wants credit for being part; but he just hangs around near enough to make it appear he’s involved. In reality, he has no intention of getting involved. He wants the credit without the work. And when a fellow tells you, “I don’t have to,” you may rest assured that he has elevated himself above the assignment.

Self-righteousness. Perhaps the most subtle use of pride, self-righteousness finds ways to make it appear to be legitimate concern for truth and piety when, in reality, it’s main concern is for the self-aggrandizement which comes from ap-

pearing to be religious. Self-righteousness seldom has much to do with the small stuff in religion, the everyday matters that nobody notices. Self-righteousness has to be involved with the big stuff, the public stuff, the stuff that draws attention. Actually what self-righteousness is is excessive pride, not religion. A truly religious person has no reason for self-elevation; he only has a place for humility. He has no reason for self-acclaim for he is no more than a forgiven sinner. He has no reason to make himself better than others, for he was others just a little while ago.

The answer to pride? Humility. How does it come? Well, you just decide that without God you’re nothing and it comes right along. You just realize that when you’re divorced from the forgiveness that is in Christ, you have no worth at all. The person with this kind of disposition comes to see authority as his friend, restraint as his associate, and self-effacement as his constant companion. The easiest way I know to become humble is to compare yourself to the Savior. That’ll do it. Every time.

-via *Southside Sunday* Pasadena, 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: *Helen Stewart* was sick last Sunday, but was able to be back at services Wednesday night... *Jerry Best* has been sick this past week and hasn't been able to be at services ... *Michael Clemmons' father, Bobby Clemmons* is in the ECM hospital following an arteriogram on Friday... *Mandy Griffin's great-grandmother, Lillie Howard*, is in the ECM hospital... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home and is making slow progress in her recovery ... *Sam Noles* had surgery on his left eye on Tuesday ... *Hoyt Hammond* has been able to be at services this past 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.

PICTURES FOR DIRECTORY: We need to finish the pictures for the pictorial directory today. If you have not have your picture made yet, be sure to do it this morning or tonight.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Westview church* in Hartselle is beginning a meeting today and will continue through Friday with servcies Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Gary Patton of Decatur* will be the speaker.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Remember tonight will be the night for Comunication Group 1 to meet. If you are in group one plan to meet with your group this evening.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of February 29th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 104
 Morning Worship 117
 Evening Worship 82
Wednesday: Bible Classes 82

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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