

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, May 2nd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Eccl. 9:1-8)
..... Stephen Stewart
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Micheal Clemmons
Assisting Larry White
Serving Eddie Hammond
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Chase Williams
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Eccl. 9:9-18)
..... Mike Rogers
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Volume XI

May 2, 2004

No. 18

We Will Not Forget

Rick Duggin

On September 1, 1923, Japan suffered a devastating earthquake that killed 143,000 people. In a matter of hours the United States sent a convoy of ships with medical supplies and more than ten million dollars in aid. The Emperor sent a famous five word cablegram to the White House: "America, we will never forget." Eighteen years later, on December 7, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, killing 2800 Americans. Japan forgot.

There are some things that we should forget. "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehend; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead..." (Philippians 3:13). Paul would not let past victories distract him from present duties. The team that wins the Super Bowl this year will have a hard time repeating its success next year. Satisfaction often prevents us from doing our best.

There are other things that we must never forget.

We must remember acts of kindness that we have received. Joseph was forgotten twice. The chief butler forgot his kindness in the Egyptian prison (Genesis 4:23). A Pharaoh later forgot his acts of kindness to Egypt (Exodus 1:8).

Belshazzar, king of Babylon, forgot that God had made his nation great (Daniel 5). Many Americans have forgotten the Biblical principles that made this nation great and strong. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17). "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

The worst forgetfulness of all occurs when a child of God forgets

his Creator and all the blessings that He has bestowed. People can drive 100 miles to watch a ball game, or jump out of bed at 4:00 a.m. for a fishing trip, but then let earthly cares prevent them from assembling with the saints to worship God (Hebrews 10:25). People can read the paper or watch TV for hours at a time, but they just can't find time to study the Bible. Have you forgotten God?

~via *Westvue Messenger*, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.



How Firm A Foundation

Hal Hammons

The Christian life begins with Jesus. It really is that simple. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:11, “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” It is phrased somewhat differently in other places in the New Testament. Paul calls the gospel “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” earlier in the same book (1 Corinthians 2:2). Later he writes that the gospel, which he calls “of first importance”, was that Jesus died, was buried, and was raised from the dead on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-9). He told the Ephesians that they were “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets” — that is, the teaching they had heard from him and other inspired speakers and writers. Jesus Himself said the one who built upon a firm foundation was parallel to the one “who hears these words of Mine and acts on them” (Matthew 7:24).

All of these passages give us the same message: that Jesus Christ Himself — the life He lived, the death he died, the crown He wears, the message He sends — Jesus must be the focal point of our existence. As all decisions on a job site must be predicated finally on the foundation, so too our lives must be squarely and firmly fixed in

Him. That is the whole point of a foundation. To build elsewhere is to deny its importance, and such an exercise is as doomed to failure as the time- and effort-saving efforts of the foolish man who built a house on the sand.

Any efforts on our part to elevate man's teaching to the level of Christ's teaching is a violation of this most fundamental of principles; “*This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men*” (Matthew 15:8-9). Any effort to dismiss any aspect of His doctrine as dated, irrelevant or optional is similarly unacceptable; “*Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar*” (Proverbs 30:5-6). Although the statement of Revelation 22:18-19 is given in the context of that particular book, its warnings are entirely adequate for the whole of Jesus' teachings: “*If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*”

But more important even than our repeated efforts to build our own foundation is our contempt for the one that already exists. To lay a new foundation is to argue that the Lord Jesus is Himself somehow inadequate. Could we possibly argue that the One who maintains the universe (Colossians 1:17) is incapable of maintaining our lives in His service? To ask such a question is to answer it. But we must believe in His allsufficiency in deed, not just in word.

If we are to begin constructing a church that is truly a temple, bringing honor and glory to God (1 Peter 2:5), we must begin with the assumption that all the necessary instructions are found within His revealed word. Likewise, if we are to be individual stones in that temple, we must have confidence that He is able to make us “adequate, equipped for every good work” (2

Timothy 3:16). To do otherwise is to build on our own foundation instead of on Jesus Christ.

-via *The Good News*, Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Dangers

Frank Himmel

The author of Hebrews points out several dangers facing Christians.

Drifting. “For this reason we must pay much closer attention to the things we have heard, lest we drift away from it” (Hebrews 2:1). Drifting is a slow, almost imperceptible movement, the result of going with the tide. To recognize it we must keep our eye on a fixed marker, God’s word. And when we realize we have drifted, we must get back to where we were, else we will continue to go even further away.

Hardening. “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:13). The more we yield to sin, the easier it becomes. Conscience does not condemn as sharply as it once did. In time, we begin to rethink those passages which clearly condemn our conduct; somehow, they do not mean what they say. Finally, we abandon all effort at obeying the Lord.

Stagnation. “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God...” (Hebrews 5:12). It is not the infant state per se, but that state after so long a time that is the problem. “Let us press on to maturity,” both in knowledge (Hebrews 6:1) and discernment of right and wrong (Hebrews 5:14).

Wavering. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who prom-

ised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23). Some Christians are like a faucet: on a while, off a while. This may be due to persecution, distractions, or indifference. Some are too readily caught up in the latest trends in thinking, “carried away about by every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians 4:14). Do you have a solid conviction about the things of Christ?

Fainting. “For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart” (Hebrews 12:3). Christianity is a marathon, not a sprint. It covers all kinds of terrain, much of which is challenging. What shall we do? Learn from those who have run before us (Hebrews 11:1-40). Lay aside every encumbrance (Hebrews 12:1). Fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). Run with endurance (Hebrews 12:1). The finish line will be well worth it.

-via *The Manslick Road Speaker*; Louisville, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Lou Helms’ daughter, Melissa Thornton*, is now at home following her recent surgery ... *Angie McCrary’s father, Buford Shook*, had an angioplasty this past Tuesday and is to return to the doctor this week ... *Hoyt Hammond* has not been able to be at services this week ... *Myrtie Williams* is at home ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Kathy Smith’s sister-in-law, Sue Gilliam*, is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments... *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.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Belgreen church* in Belgreen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting.

SINGING INSTRUCTION: The *Jackson Drive church* in Athens is beginning a singing school this week and it will continue through Friday. They will begin at 7:00 p.m. *Gilbert Alexander* will be the speaker in this meeting.

PREACHING TONIGHT: Tonight *Rocky Rose, Stephen Stewart, Aric Butler and Brad Hammond* will be preaching. I look forward to hearing the lessons they have prepared and I hope everyone will be here tonight to hear and encourage them.

COMMUNICATION GROUP: Tonight will be the time for Communication Group one to meet following our evening service. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coopers: Marcia and Erin* are back in town after being away last weekend... *The Pressnells: Monroe and Yvonne* are back in town after being away for a week or so.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of April 25th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 95
Morning Worship 110
Evening Worship 82

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 90

Vacation Bible School

July 12-16

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

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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