

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 23rd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Isaiah 2:1-10)
..... Larry White
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Claus Martel
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Eddie Hammond
..... Stephen Stewart
..... Chase Williams
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Isaiah 2:11-20)
..... Mark McCrary
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Claus Martel
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Volume XI

May 23, 2004

No. 21

How Important Is Your Faith To You?

David Deason

Dedication to a task is one of the most important elements one must have in order to complete it. In any athletic event, the people who play must be dedicated in order to succeed. Athletes will dedicate their time, their money, and their efforts so that they will be at the top of their game. It can be said of many athletes that they dedicate their lives to become the best at the sport that they play. Their success is of a great importance in their lives.

The preacher said, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all of your might" (Ecclesiastes 9: 10). When people have a job to do, their response should be in diligent labor to finish the job. This is true in every aspect of that person's life, but more so even in their walk as a Christian. How hard they work on this job will reflect just how important they view it. All will see how dedicated this person is to their Christianity.

Please look at these questions and honestly search your own heart for the answers:

1. How dedicated are you to being a Christian?
2. How important is your faith to you?
3. Do you really want to go to Heaven?

These questions can sometimes be quickly and easily answered. Perhaps the most important question to ask then would be "does my life show my dedication to the Lord?"

When people are totally dedicated to being a Christian, they are going to be active and busy serving the Lord. The days of their lives begin and end with a prayer. Throughout the day they are looking for and taking advantage of the multiple opportunities that come their way. They understand that dedication demands hard work

and they are willing to do the work.

When Christians place great importance on their faith, they cherish every opportunity for it to grow. They are studying daily. They seek to improve their knowledge of why they believe what they do. They rely on their own faith and not the faith of their parents or grandparents. Their faith is valuable to them because it is their own.

When Christians really want to go to Heaven, they strive to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. This is a daily walk that will take them many places. They must be excited to be around other Christians, looking for every opportunity to do so. Enjoying times spent in songs of praise and in talking to God. They do this because they are dedicated and because their faith is of great importance to them.

Sometimes as you are driving down the road, you may see a young person in their little red hot rod. As this young person pulls out of a driveway or parking lot, you may hear the sound of tires screeching, smell the odor of rubber burning, and see the white smoke flying. When people encounter this scene, the statement is often made, "his daddy must buy his tires." That statement is made because we understand the fact that we sometimes take better care of the things that we saved our own money for and bought. When our faith is our own, the same principle applies. We are going to take better care of it. We are going to cultivate it and help it grow because we truly want to go to Heaven and we have dedicated our lives to that end. When our faith is not our own, we haven't taken the time to cultivate it and it is not growing.

How important is your faith to you? Is it your own? Are you dedicated to watching it grow?

-via *Hueytown Church Bulletin*, Hueytown, Alabama.

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

"Portraits of Salvation"

Randy Harshbarger

God sent His Son to die for us. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:2 1). Jesus did not sin, but He was willing to die for our sins. We are new creatures; a new day has dawned. Attempts to characterize salvation by using only one term or definition is to take away the richness and fullness of our rescue from sin. Something so great and grand cannot be adequately defined by just one term. For example, the church is variously referred to in Scripture as the bride of Christ, the body of Christ, the house of God, the church of God. Christians are disciples; sometimes they are branches, sometimes sheep. In describing our salvation, we find several terms that express the beauty and fullness of our salvation.

Consider the word *propitiate*. It is defined as "to appease, to render favorable." The idea of wrath is a part of the meaning of this word; in this case, it is the judicial wrath of God against sin, rather than the arbitrary, capricious wrath of pagan gods. God's wrath is a holy wrath; it is not spiteful or vindictive. Romans 3:24-25 says: "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." God's will has been violated; He cannot ignore man's trespasses; if He did so, He would not be God. The majesty of His law must be upheld; the penalty for sin must be paid. God's righteousness remains intact, not because of our own sacrifice, but because of Christ's sacrifice. Jesus paid the penalty for our redemption. His death propitiated God's **wrath** against sin.

Consider the word *redeem*. This word was employed in the market place. It means "to buy back; to pay the ransom price." As captives of sin,

we lack the ability or power to free ourselves. Divine rescue was necessary. "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). He paid with His life; He shed His blood. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time" (1 Timothy 2:6).

Consider the word *justification*. This word is the opposite of condemnation. It is a legal term employed in the courtroom by the judge. Justification is by God's grace; our salvation is utterly undeserved (Rom. 3:24). Justification is possible through the blood of Christ. "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:9). Justification is appropriated upon the basis of faith. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). What are the effects of justification? "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1-2).

Every picture of salvation points to the sacrifice of Christ. Every picture says loudly that God took the initiative in reconciling us to Him through Christ. The better we understand our need for salvation, the better our understanding of propitiation, redemption, and justification. These words do not flatter us; they do suppose the magnitude of our need. These words should send us running as fast as we can possibly get there to the outstretched arms of Jesus!

-via *Stallings Road Bulletin*, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Morgan Grisham* has been sick with a reaction from a tick bite...*Helen Stewart* continues to recover from her recent cornea transplant...*Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, has begun chemo treatments...*Sam Noles* has not been doing well this week...*Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips' grandmother, Vera Simmons*, has spent several days in the Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield...*Myrtie Williams* continues to recover at home...*Ashley Thomas* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...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.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Janice Glass and all the family* in the passing of Janice's grandmother, Emma Ray, this past Thursday evening.

NEW BABY: *June Calvert* became the proud grandmother of a baby girl on Wednesday night. Her name is *Pheobe Gervais* and is doing well at home.

GRADUATES: As the school year ends, we see our children completing another year as they grow and get older and develop. This year *Tyler Glass* graduated from Anderson Junior High School and will be entering high school. We wish the very best for Tyler and all the graduates of 2004.

BIBLE CLASSES: This past week we began a new quarter in our Bible classes. We concluded

a good spring quarter and I am eagerly looking forward to the summer quarter. This quarter will continue until August. If you have not been coming to our Bible study periods, I would encourage you to come and study with us. As we begin a new quarter, this would be a good time to join with us.

PREACHING TONIGHT: Tonight we will continue our series this month with several of our young men preaching and directing the service. I hope that everyone will come and join with us tonight and encourage these young men as they develop themselves in the service of God.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of May 16h*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 98
 Morning Worship 109
 Evening Worship 77

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 90



Vacation Bible School

July 12-16

10:00 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

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
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