

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 9th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Eccl. 11:1-8)
..... Eddie Hammond
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Mark McIntyre
Assisting Jimmy Glass
Serving Stephen Stewart
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Eccl.11:9-18)
..... Aric Butler
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
..... Mark McIntyre
..... Jimmy Glass
Closing Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume XI

May 9, 2004

No. 19

When and Why To Be Patient

David A. Cox

We live in a day and age that is just about as impatient a culture as there can be. We expected immediate results from everything we want. To see how prevalent this "now" generation is that we live in just look around our daily lives and see the microwave ovens, fax machines, personal computers/internet, fast-food outlets, and even remote controls on everything from TV's to door locks. Nothing can be done quickly enough. Even though our society has programmed us to hate to wait on anything, the fact is that we actually are going to spend a lot of time just flat-out waiting. Sometime we just need to learn to "wait". In James 5:7-11, James mentions the word "patience" or "waited" six times and gives us three illustrations of when and why we should be patient. Let us consider what the scriptures teaches us about when and why we should be patient and wait.

When To Be Patient

1. *When Circumstances are Uncontrollable.* In James 5:7 we read, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." James gives the illustrations of the farmer that works and waits for the harvest. There are many things in farming that are beyond the farmer or husbandman's control. So as the farmer is patient in waiting for the harvest, so must we learn to be patient in life as we await the reward. Many things in life are beyond our control and we must learn to be patient.

2. *When People are Unchangeable.* In James 5:10 we read, "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the

Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.” James reminds us of the prophet of old who prophesied to the children of Israel trying to persuade them to be faithful to God and to turn back to Him. They are an example to us of how we must be patient when we are trying to do right and others around us seem to not care at all. Even when we work diligently to persuade people to do right and they will not change, we must be patient.

3. *When Problems are Unexplainable.* In James 5:11 we read, . “Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” Job was a man with great wealth, but lost it all and even all his family, with the exception of his wife. Job did not know why all of the terrible things were happening to him. He could not explain and he got no real encouragement from his friends, even his wife urged him to curse God and die. This is a classic example of the lesson that we must be patient when problems are unexplainable. For Job there was no explanation. For 37 chapters in Job, God was silent. When God is silent I must be patient. I must not try to speak for God when he has not spoken, I must just be patient, trusting in God when I do not know the whys.

Why Should I Be Patient

1. *Because God Is In Control.* James writes, “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh” (James 5:8). Three times in James 5:7-11, James mentions the Lord is coming back. First, we may wonder why this would be mentioned in connection with patience? But as we consider this it must be quickly recognized that the second coming of Christ is the ultimate proof that God is in control. Jesus said of the second coming, “of that day and hour knowth no man, not the angels of heaven, but my Father” (Matthew 24:36). It matters not about the headlines and what is happening on Wall Street, because God is in control. We are moving toward a climax; the return of Christ.

When? No one knows, but God is in control. So in my personal life, when it seems that everything is coming unraveled at the seams, remember God is in control.

2. *Because God Rewards Patience.* James reminds us that patience pays. Notice “Behold, we count them happy which endure” (James 5:11a). It is much more profitable to be patient than impatient. Patience will bring you honor in the eyes of others, your personal relationships will be stronger if patience is built into the character of your life. Jesus, in the sermon on the mount, states that there are eternal blessings as you exhibit patience when people mistreat you, or falsely accuses you and misrepresents you (Matthew 5:13-14). Remember, every time you are patient you are building eternal rewards.

3. *Because God Is Working It Out.* In James 5:11b James reminds us of the patience of Job. While Job was patiently waiting, God was working things out. We need to remember this point, as we face an uncontrollable circumstance, or an unchanging person, or those unexplainable problems, that God is working. Remember what Paul wrote, “All things work together for good, to them that love the Lord, and are the called according to His good purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Waiting may be hard and difficult at times, but let us then strive for a deeper and a more intense faith. Patience and waiting is a part of faith. Do you believe that God is working while you wait? How can we face problems and calamities of life? Trust in God and do His will in all things, recognizing that God is for us and is working.

Vacation Bible School

July 12-16

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

One Hundred People

Ed Harrell

In a recent book, historian Leo Braudy estimated that the average person in medieval society saw only about one hundred other people in the duration of his or her lifetime. That statement astonished me. When I ran it past two of my historians friends who teach courses on the middle ages, they gave me another tidbit. The average person during those centuries never journeyed more than ten miles from home.

These pieces of historical trivia pretty well destroy romantic notions of chivalry courtly elegance. Throughout most of human history, life has been grim provincial and short.

Think of problems of living in such a society. How did you find someone to marry? Of the one hundred people encountered by the average person, half were probably kinsmen. Half of the remainder would be of the same sex, and no more than a quarter of the rest would be near your age. That leaves five or six girls for the average boy to choose from. What if they were all homely? Maybe you would have to marry your cousin, as people frequently did.

Thinking on the harshness of medieval life should cause us to reflect on modern opportunities. I know thousands of people, perhaps tens of thousands. In some hours of some days I encounter hundreds. The same is true of most modern people.

We live in the most mobile time in history. I can remember preaching to farmers in the rural churches of Middle Tennessee who had never left the county of their birth. But I have not had the experience lately. Most everyone has traveled to the next county, and the state beyond, and the state beyond that. Many have visited foreign nations.

Such thoughts highlight our opportunities and responsibilities. I remember thirty years ago

going through Harold Dowdy's card file where he kept a hundred names all the time of people that he was trying to teach the gospel. And I know of churches today that are teaching several hundred people at a time through correspondence courses and home studies. It is possible today to be acquainted with Christians in many lands. In just a few hours, one can go places that would have taken weeks only a hundred years ago.

I have wondered lately what a medieval Christian would have thought when he read the Great Commission: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). In the profound personal confinement of the middle ages, could one even imagine the dimensions of that command?

Surely no generation in history has been better able to comprehend the Great Commission. "All the world" and "every creature" are a part of our consciousness. We know they are there, and, within certain limits, we have access to the world and its creatures. It is fitting that good men in our time show a growing concern about taking the gospel to other lands.

In some ways, however, our world is not so different from that of the middle ages. While we encounter thousands of people during our lives, we do not deeply influence many. One hundred might be a good number to keep in mind. If you come truly to know that many people, if you can share with them the things that you deeply believe, that probably will be a productive lifetimes' work.

Technology, modern communications and transportation rightly set our minds to soaring about the contemporary potential to spread the good news. On the other hand, your life, like the lives of medieval people, is made up of a few years composed of twenty-four days. You will fill it up with one personal encounter after another. Live life wisely. Make those personal relations worth something. If you significantly touch one hundred lives, you will have done pretty well.

-via College View Columns, Florence, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, had surgery this past Monday in Birmingham.....*Lou Ann Phillips & Shelia Goode's grandmother, Vera Simmons*, was taken to the hospital on Tuesday, but was not admitted ...*Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, has surgery upcoming ... *Willie Ridgeway* was sick and had to leave Bible study Wednesday night ...*Myrtie Williams* continues to recover 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.

PREACHING TONIGHT: Tonight *Claus Martel and Mark McIntyre* 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 two to meet following our evening service. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group this evening.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of May 2nd*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 110
 Morning Worship 127
 Evening Worship 111

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 89

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00

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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