

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, June 27th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Isaiah 10:1-11)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Brian Word

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Rocky Rose
Assisting Phil Pressnell
Serving Aric Butler
..... Jim Phillips
..... Stephen Stewart
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Isaiah 10:12-23)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XI

June 27, 2004

No. 26

Desensitized To Sin

Marc R. Hinds

You can't see your soul. And you certainly can't see it stained with sin. And so, the philosophy of life, "out of sight, out of mind," has been embraced by millions of people who have slowly but surely lost their taste for the spiritual. Rather than walking with God, "every man does what is right in his own eyes" (cf. Judges 17:6; 21:25). Like Judah of old, we have forgotten how to blush (Jeremiah 6:15; 8:12).

In his inimitable way, C. S. Lewis lists several reasons why we have grown more and more desensitized to the reality of sin. The following is a paraphrase from his Christian apologetic work, *The Problem of Pain* (New York: Touchstone, 1996, reprint from 1962; pages 52-60).

1. Comparison. When we compare ourselves with others, we are less likely to see ourselves as we really are. "I'm better than he is," we might think, not realizing that 1) even though we are better than someone else, that does not necessarily mean that we are above the bar of acceptability with God or 2) it may not really be true that we're better than someone else after all.

2. Sins of Society vs. Personal Sins. Just because the world is terribly sinful does not mean that we should overlook our own personal sins. We haven't murdered anyone, we're not addicted to drugs, we're not lying under oath. But yet, we have sinned as individuals. "Corporate guilt ... is not felt with the same force as personal guilt."

3. Time Cancels Sin. "The guilt of sin is washed out not by time

but by repentance and the blood of Christ ...” through baptism (Acts 2:38). The very fact that we have been immersed in the watery grave of baptism should forever remind of us of “the price of our forgiveness” which Jesus Christ selflessly paid for us. And thus, we should be forever humble.

4. **Safety In Numbers.** “Everybody else is a sinner.” It may be true that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), but that doesn’t make us okay. Immorality is never justified under any circumstances, including just because “everybody else is doing it.”

5. **Delicatessen Morality.** You can’t pick and choose which virtues cancel out your vices. God is the standard of all time. After all, what may have been considered a virtue in a past society may be considered a vice today.

6. **At the Core of Kindness.** Why are you nice to people? Is it because you truly want to be kind, or because you have no reason not to be kind? If someone has offended you or inconvenienced you and you are still kind to them, then you are truly kind. Kindness is one of several virtues: “You cannot be kind unless you have all the other virtues.” Paul tells us that “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, *kindness*, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). “Patience is a virtue!” we often say; so is kindness.

7. **Perfectly Perfect Perfection.** Just because we cannot be perfect (cf. 1 John 1:8), even as God is perfect, doesn’t mean that we should just give up trying to live righteous lives. The bar has been set and we have been commanded by the Lord Himself: “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

8. **“It’s Not My Fault!”** Even though we cannot live perfectly sinless lives, that doesn’t mean that it’s God’s fault that we’re all sinners. He made us free moral agents: we choose to sin. We are not totally depraved, as the doctrine of Calvinism purports. “I disbelieve that doctrine,

partly on the logical ground that if our depravity were total we should not know ourselves to be depraved, and partly because experience shows us much goodness in human nature.”

~via *The Stonegate Standard*; Port Arthur, Texas.



Dying to Self

Matthew Allen

It has been said, It is hard to die to the world. It is even harder to die to brethren and friends. But it is hardest to die to self! “What exactly does one mean when he stresses the need to die to self?” Put simply, the Christian must change his focus from being primarily upon self, – to that of serving God and others. Paul stressed the need for this: “in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self” which in the likeness of God has , been created in righteousness and holiness of I the truth. (Ephesians 4:22-24).

How can one die to self completely? It seems practically impossible! Eldred Stevens in his book, [The Sermon on the Mount](#), gives some suggestions on page 123. Here are just a few:

We must cease to make excuses. The moment that some defensive mechanism comes into play, recognize it, and ask yourself: Why am I letting this upset me?

We must engage in self examination. Reflect a moment on how self enters into everything you do. It concerns and control our actions, work, conduct, dress, appearance,... everything! We need to remember Paul’s writing in 1

Corinthians 9:27; “but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

We must realize how much misery is traced back to love of self. Recall your moments of unhappiness, irritability. Self is the main cause of unhappiness in this life!

Look at self in light of Jesus Christ. Notice Philippians 2: 5- 7 teaches that Christ “emptied” Himself. “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”

It is interesting to note that during the life of Christ, His words were not His (John 12:49); and His works were not His (John 14:10). Jesus’ words in Matthew 19:17 are food for thought in light of the subject we’re discussing: “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” In His personal ministry on earth – He was totally concerned with serving His Father! He is the perfect example to follow in subjecting our own interests to that of the will of the Father!

Consider His actions as He died on the cross. While suspended in air—spikes driven through His hands and feet – He prayed, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Peter’s statement in his first epistle is worthy of our consideration: “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed” (1 Peter 2:22-24).

Christ set into action the standard that we are to follow. How are we doing? We must make the commitment to die to self. This will involve work on our part on a daily basis. Only when we die to self will we be able to fully understand and practice what Jesus requires of us in Matthew 5: 38-42. Have you put the wishes of the Savior above your own? If not, why not?

—via *New Living* Brownsburg, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Sanda Martel* had back surgery on Tuesday and is at home doing well following surgery...*Shelia Goode* had a biopsy done this week and the report was good...*Jamie Mosley* has been told to stay off her feet as she nears the delivery of their child...*Stephen Stewart* was not feeling well and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Logan Pressnell* was feeling better Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend...*Lacey Smith* was sick this past week and not able to be at services last week...*Jerry Dickey’s mother, Pat Dickey*, is now in rehabilitation after spending several days at ECM hospital this past week ... *Sissy Clemmons and Ronnie Phillips’ mother, Lois Ann Corum*, had some test done this week, but has not heard the results ... *Helen Trousdale’s sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is taking chemo treatments about every three weeks...*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.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Pepper Road church** in Athens will be conducting a gospel meeting this week. The speaker will be *Paul Earnhart*. The **Russellville church** in Russellville will be having a gospel meeting this week with *Truman Smith* preaching... The **Elkton church** in Elkton Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with different speakers. The speakers will be as follows: *Sunday – Raymond Harville; Sunday evening – Johnny Richardson; Monday – Gary Carter; Tuesday – Jackie Richardson; Wednesday – George Hutto.*

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

OUT OF TOWN: *Andrea Butler and Glenda Phillips* have been out of town in Gulf Shores this past week... *Cori Williams* was back this week after being out of town... **The Coxes:** *Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I* will be away for several days on vacation.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of June 20th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 97
 Morning Worship 120
 Evening Worship 74

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 76

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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