

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 6th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Isaiah 5:1-20)
..... Stephen Stewart
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Monroe Pressnell
Assisting Larry White
Serving Rodney McCrary
..... Aric Butler
..... Mark McCrary
..... Mike Rogers
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Isaiah 5:21-30)
..... Eddie Hammond
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Volume XI

June 6, 2004

No. 23

Men Looking For Their Lord

Rance Cannon

"Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps alight. And be like men who are waiting for their master..." (Luke 12:35-36)

The second coming of Christ is, I fear, something that many Christians have ceased to expect. And with it has gone a great inspiration for godliness. We have stood firm against those who have, by mathematical calculation, attempted to fix the date of His return. But at the same time our hearts have let slip the practical values of our not knowing the "time and seasons" (1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11).

Paul, in writing to the Thessalonians, says that they "turned from idols to serve the Living and True God, and to wait His Son from heaven" (I Thessalonians 1:9-10). Their immediate activity was in view of the ultimate issue. Consider for a moment the practical values of being men and women who are looking for their Lord.

Time will be lived in the expectation of eternity. A man who is expecting his Lord to return is one who is living moment by moment in the consciousness that the Lord could descend at any moment. He will then be careful in whatever activities he is thus engaged, that those things would welcome His return – it promotes godliness, and at the same time causes him to shun evil. He will be terrified at the thought of walking in darkness, lest his Lord appear and he be found lacking.

The text implies also that we are to be desirous of His return. "Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,..." (2 Peter 3:12) This hope, "Looking" suggests expectation to find. "Hastening" suggests desire. Many may be expecting the day of

Christ, but not all are desiring it. When this is true of us then many things are wrong.

It may be a consciousness that sin has not been forgiven. It may be that we have idols enthroned within our hearts that we are yet to relinquish. But when a soul is truly in synchronization with the will of God, there is then nothing that is more pleasing to that soul than to the thought that Jesus could appear at any moment. For instance, a man with this spirit will never be heard-to say, “I will be glad when Jesus comes again, but I sure do wish He would wait until.” It might be that we can finish that sentence. Put there what we will, it doesn’t matter how grand and noble it may be – it is an idol.

“I will be glad when Jesus comes again but I sure do wish He would wait until ... I finish school, get married, and have children, get promoted at my job.” Legitimate pursuits, but with an inordinate priority set upon them. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:34). If Jesus and His return isn’t at the heart of all of our desires then we should fear. Anything that we find to be loved and wanted above Him—something for which we would be willing if possible to delay His return-- we should reevaluate it in the light of Scripture and in the light of eternity. There is only one exception that I can think of where a man would be justified in wanting to delay the coming of Christ: “I wish that this person, or that person, could have a chance to hear the gospel before Jesus comes again.” Now your heart is with the Lord.

We should never be so engaged in this world that we wouldn’t be willing at any given moment to gladly lay it aside, if loosing it meant gaining His presence. May our prayer ever be, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

-via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia.

When The Fire Flickers

Robert F. Turner

Conversations with students and young preachers frequently reveal discouragement with what they find in many churches. “These people couldn’t care less — they are not on fire for the Lord’s work.”

My first thought is “How long have you cared – when did you catch fire?” The newly enthused likely fall into three groups: (1) new converts (perhaps starry-eyed, but we need their freshness as much as they need our experience); (2) new preachers, elders, deacons, teachers, etc. where new responsibility has awakened eyes to see brethren in a different light; and, (3) brethren shaken out of complacency by the influence of those “faithful few” who plug on regardless of what others do.

The new converts may “burn out” or line up with the majority, as many of them do; the new teacher may quit in frustration, and the young preacher “move on” looking for Utopia. But none will have served his Lord with honor. The cause of Christ depends on those who stay on fire, lighting others; whose flame is not the flaring rocket of a celebration, but the glow and warmth of the home hearth – feeding the family, welcoming strangers. These make the converts, shake the complacent, and with their help continue the work others quit in disgust.

One can be realistic without being a pessimist; can work with the status quo without accepting it as final. We must recognize our problems in order to work on them. Saying the church consists of imperfect people is another way of saying we have a job to do – on ourselves, and others.

The teacher must not quit because the pupils lack interest. It is his job to create interest in the subject matter. The zealous young preacher, with maturity enough to control himself and put his talents to work, is just what that dead church

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

needs. By example we can teach those new converts that all of us are but striving for perfection. There are yet “seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal” (Romans 11:4), and the Lord is counting on us to find them, and join hands with them, to salt and light the world in which we live.

-via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.



No Comparison

Patrick Farish

Hurting? Listen: “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to usward” (Romans 8:18).

Life involves suffering - “... All that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12); and beyond that suffering experienced because of the Way, there is the common-to-all-men suffering because of illness or injury, from family problems, or from financial reverse. Words cannot adequately communicate the misery and anguish of heart at the death of a loved one; or the pain brought about by a wayward mate, or a child gone astray - the overwhelming sense that this pain will never be eased, this hurt never be healed, this person never know serenity again. Romans 8:18 provides motivation to endure the suffering, here; in view of the recompense of reward, there.

And from the throes of our grief we should lift up our hearts to heaven, encouraged in spite of ourselves by God’s promise. “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to usward.”

Imagine that! As miserable as we may be now

in our sufferings, so overburdened that we think we can never rise again, that misery and those sufferings are **not worthy to be compared** with that which is in store. How beautiful heaven must be!

-via *Bible Viewpoints*; Houston, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Cindy Mosley* is at home following surgery on Monday in Decatur ... *Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is taking chemo treatments about every three weeks... *Sam Noles* is having changes made in his medication ... *Billy Wallen's grandmother, Alvis Hooie*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips' grandmother, Vera Simmons*, is now at home following her rahabilitation ... *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 MEETINGS/ VBS: The *Westview church* in Athens is beginning a vacation Bible school this week. *Tim Coffey* will be the speaker today at 3:00 and at each morning at 10:00 a.m. through Friday... The *Piney Grove church*, south of Tusculmbia, will begin a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services each evening at 7:00. *Paul Sheehan* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Northside church* in Lexington will be having their vacation Bible school

this week Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. The speakers in the adult class will be as follows: *Monday—David Deason; Tuesday—Troy Nicholson Wednesday—Lee Hyatt; Thursday—Matt Oglesby; Friday—Edwin Crozier...* The **Parkway church** in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 3:30 this afternoon and Monday through Friday at 7:30 p.m. The Lord willing I will be preaching in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Dickey's: Jerry, Charlotte, Justin and Brandon* are at the Gulf this week ... *Tyler Glass, Anthony and Ethan Wallen* are in Starvkville, Mississippi this week ... *Andrea Butler* is away in Blue Mountian, Mississippi ... *Jimmy Blackburn* is in Germany... *Eddie Hammond* is away working in Gulf Shores this week.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice over the decision of *Andrew & Marissa Gatlin* to join themselves to the church here. They recently married and have moved here. We look forward to working with them and I know that they will be an assest to the work here.

PREACHING TODAY: In my absence today due to me being in a gospel meeting at the **Parkway church** in Lawrence county, *Rocky Rose* and *Jimmy Glass* will be preaching for me. I appreciate them being willing to do this and I know that you will be glad to hear them...Also, I want to thank *Scottie Goode* for taking my class while I am away.

VACATION BIBIE SCHOOL: There are some fliers in the vestibule for our vacation bible school in July. Take some and give them to those you invite. Let us work diligently for a successful VBS this year.

THE RECORD: *For the week of May 30rth*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 95
 Morning Worship 110
 Evening Worship 92

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 90

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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