

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, August 1st

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Bible Reading (Isaiah 19:1-10)

..... Stephen Stewart

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Lord's Supper

Presiding Michael Clemmons

Assisting Aric Butler

Serving James McConnell

..... Curtis Mosley

..... Daniel Clemmons

..... Eddie Hammond

Closing Prayer

..... M. Eddie Hammond

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading (Isaiah 19:11-25)

..... Andrew Gatlin

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

..... Aric Butler

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Volume XI

August 1, 2004

No. 30

"The Conversion of Cornelius"

Randy Harshbarger

The conversion of Cornelius is interesting and important for several reasons. And the case of Cornelius has become the seed bed for much false teaching about the Holy Spirit, baptism, and the operation of the Spirit in the matter of conversion. It is true, as James D. Bates said: "... unless we study the word of God with honest hearts and diligent minds we may be misled ourselves and we may mislead others" (The Case of Cornelius, preface).

Most people after reading of Cornelius' credentials would probably conclude that he really did not need to be converted. To say that someone was a centurion was to say that he was an outstanding leader of other men. As leader of a band or cohort, Cornelius had responsibility for at least 100 Roman soldiers. Yet, all men, military included, need the salvation that only the Lord can provide. This military man was also exhibited humility of heart and life. Cornelius was a devout man, who feared God (cf. Acts 2:10; 8:2). Does this mean that he was a proselyte to Judaism and had imbibed the monotheism and ethics of the Jews? Perhaps not, since some in Jerusalem protested Peter's actions (Acts 11:1-3). Still, it is possible that Cornelius had been favorably influenced by his contact with the Jews. We can appreciate the religious tone of Cornelius' life.

Yes, this generous, praying man, who wielded a good influence over his household was lost; not because of these things, but in spite of all these things (Acts 11:14). The fact that he enjoyed a sterling reputation among the Jews (something that was not often true, given the relationship between the Jews and Romans), and even received a vision from the Lord, did not eliminate his need to hear the saving gospel. It is true that a good moral life and a good attitude provide fertile soil for the reception of the gospel; it is also true, that goodness

alone does not and cannot save. Many folks today, who could never measure up to Cornelius, still do not believe they need to be saved. They believe they are already saved. Moral goodness alone cannot save; only the blood of Jesus can free one from sin.

Clearly, Cornelius wanted to hear further instructions from the Lord. "Forthwith therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore we are all here present in the sight of God, to hear all things that have been commanded thee of the Lord" (Acts 10:33). Cornelius wanted to hear a message from God; he recognized that he was in the presence of God. He wanted to hear all the things the Lord wanted him to hear. What a wonderful audience it was, that Peter faced. They were eager to learn and to do God's will.

No man, not even Cornelius can save himself. Our sin means we have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Good moral people need to hear the same command issued by Peter to Cornelius: "...he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:35). None are good enough to merit their salvation. Any claim to self-righteousness says that Christ is unnecessary. The desire to hear God's word says that we have sinned and that we need the Lord. We may discharge our obligations to other men; until we meet the higher obligations we owe to God, we cannot be saved. Cornelius says: "Be receptive and obey." Will we do it?

-via *The Stallings Road Bulletin*, Nachogdoches, Texas.

We Are Simply Christians

Gene Taylor

Many people are growing disenchanted with present religious forms which originated in the middle ages and have become meaningless. There is displeasure with denominational structures and dogma. Some, because of such views, have even decided that "Christianity" is not relevant today. We believe they have made the decision because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the Scriptures to be able to distinguish between the gospel of Christ and what men over the centuries have attempted to add to it.

If some of these things have troubled you and you have felt a yearning to return to the simple, uncomplicated religion of Christ, stripping away all the nonessential elements of religion and simply abiding by the truths of Christ, truths which transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that it can and has been done.

The Bible, God's Word to man, presents Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He was foreshadowed and predicted in the Old Testament which God used to govern His people until Christ should come and establish the New Testament (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Galatians 3:19,23,24). That New Testament reveals the religion of Christ. By studying it we learn all there is to know of the way of Christ.

We learn that among the followers of Christ there existed no denominational organizations whatever. All began at a later time. In the New Testament we see people hearing the gospel and obeying the conditions of God's grace. Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord's people, the church (Acts 2:36-47). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders (Acts 14:23) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make laws and be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shep-

Gospel Meeting

September 26-29

Jim Deason, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207

Anderson, Alabama

herds would a flock (Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1-3). The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven, where their Head, Jesus Christ, was and is (Ephesians 1:22,23).

Their worship was something to watch. On the first day of the week (Sunday), for instance, they would eat the Lord's Supper and hear preaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29), they would sing (Ephesians 5:19), they would all pray with various ones leading (1 Corinthians 14:15, 16), and they would share in their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). We find no contributions being collected on any other day than the first day of the week and no hierarchy taxing them or telling them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as they individually purposed in their own hearts (2 Corinthians 9:6,7). In all this they were all necessarily involved for each saved person was a priest (Revelation 1:5,6). No one could perform his service or worship for another.

They lived godly lives. They cared for the poor. They taught others. They sent our preachers to teach others in far communities. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. Without organized machinery, the gospel was preached to the whole of civilization in a short time (Colossians 1:23). These disciples of Christ were known as Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not materialistic or sensual. They did not seek to impress men with pious ceremony, rather, they sought to impress God with the only thing that has ever impressed Him, contrite obedience (2 Samuel 15:22). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel, for they knew it was God's power to save (Romans 1:16), and any other appeal was beneath them.

Many sigh, "Oh, if only such could be today." But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it neither necessity nor relevance but only

a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored, and their number is increasing. How many have taken a stand? Who knows! They are related and connected only in Christ and not in some organization with machinery to keep a tally. We will not try to number them. What is important, though, is that a group of such people meet within minutes of where you live.

They are just Christians. They worship and serve God in the same way the early disciples did. Christ is their only Head, and the Scriptures their only guide. They are not members of any human organization, they are simply a congregation, or church, of Christ. They, in turn, would like to share Christ with you and with all the world.

You too can be just a Christian and serve God without belonging to any denomination, bound by denominational laws or obligations. If such freedom appeals to you, please contact us.

-via *Reflections On Truth*, Tallahassee, Florida

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Wynell Rigdeway* is at home following an arteriogram on Friday. The results were good ... *Christopher Rose* received an injury to his eye on Thursday from some flying debris from on mower... *Helen Trousdale* is doing better now after being sick this past week ... *Signa Skipworth* had cataract surgery on Wednesday and is doing well ... *Hoyt Hammond* is at home and not able to be on his feet much due to swelling ... *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, is now at home from rehabilitation ... *Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal*

Newton, is taking chemo treatments about every three weeks... *Glenda Phillips' husband, Ray Phillips* had cataract surgery on Thursday... *Myrtie Williams* received a good report from her doctor on Thursday ...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 *New Hope church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today. and it will continue through Friday with services at at 7:30 p.m. *David Hartsell* is preaching.

OUT OF TOWN: *The White: Eric, Tika, Ragen and Mycala* were out of town last weekend...*Madia Haraway* is visiting her family in Illinois... *June Calvert* is now abck at home after being away on a trip.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: Today we are beginning a new quarter in our Bible classes. I know the teachers have all diligently prepared for this quarter and I hope that we will all make every effort to be at all of our Bible study periods. If you have not been a part of these in the past, why not start now.

COMMUNICATION GROUP: Tonight will be the night for communication group one to meet. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening.

THE RECORD: *For the week of July 25th*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 99
- Morning Worship 118
- Evening Worship 89

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 98

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

Evangelist & Editor

- David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
- Office-(256) 247-5539

E-mail address: dacox@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage
Paid
Bulk Rate
Anderson, Alabama
Non-Profit
Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ
P.O. Box 66
Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested