

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 8th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Isaiah 21:1-10)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Brian Word

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Claus Martel
Assisting Larry White
Serving Mark McCrary
..... Stephen Stewart
..... Mike Rogers
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... M. Eddie Hammond

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Isaiah 21:11-17)
..... Curtis Mosley
Prayer
..... Aric Butler
Lord's Supper
..... Claus Martel
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Volume XI

August 8, 2004

No. 31

What Were You Dicussing On The Way?

Hal Hammons

"They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power; to make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom" (Psalm 145:11-12).

It's really difficult to believe when you read Mark 9:30-34. The disciples had just received yet more teaching from the Master regarding His pending death and resurrection. You would figure the disciples would talk about it some. After all, word of Jesus' death could hardly help but be an important topic of discussion, whatever it might really mean.

But they didn't talk about it -- at least, not very much. We know this from the question Jesus asks when they get to Capernaum: "What were you discussing on the way?" Although they did not answer, we get the impression that they didn't say, "Your words regarding your death." If the subject came up, it certainly didn't occupy their attention long. They had more important things to think about. Like "which of them was the greatest" (verse 34). "No time to discuss your problems, Lord," the attitude seems to be; "we're too busy settling all your Cabinet appointments for you."

Of course, if they had remembered Deuteronomy 6:6-8, they might have read a double meaning into Jesus' question. The Israelites of old were told to speak of God's commandments at every juncture of their lives, including "when you walk by the way." Every turn in life should be an opportunity to pass on the truth of God's word to others -- especially our children. We drive past a billboard advertising beer, and we remember to tell our children why they shouldn't drink (Proverbs 20:1). We drive past a movie theater, and we ask what kinds of movies are good for us to watch, and what

makes the bad kind bad (Romans 12:9). We hear vulgarity on the radio, and we remind them not take the Lord's name in vain (Ephesians 4:28).

What are we discussing on the way through our day? Are we discussing Jesus, or ourselves? Are we discussing His work, or our play? Are we applauding efforts in His cause, or quietly chuckling at efforts in Satan's cause?

What are we discussing on the way to church services? Are we discussing the things we do on the Lord's Day, or the things we have been doing the last six? Are we discussing the inspiring time we are spending with our brethren and our Lord, or where we are going to lunch when the preacher finally finishes? Are we discussing the songs of praise that make our hearts swell, or are we arguing over whose turn it is to pick the radio station we listen to in the car?

What are we discussing on the way to heaven? Are we discussing the place we are headed, or the place we are leaving? Are we discussing the people we will meet there, or the people we won't? Are we discussing how to best stay on the road, or are we contemplating looking for an "alternate route" that provides a smoother trip with better scenery?

What are we discussing on the way?

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 2 No. 16



Gospel Meeting

September 26-29

Jim Deason, Speaker
Anderson church of Christ
Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

The Resurrection

Zeke Flores

Usually when we talk about salvation, we often refer to the blood of Christ which made salvation possible. Peter reminds us that we should be "knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19). When the Bible refers to the blood of Jesus, it is actually referring to His death on the cross for that was when His blood was shed. (Romans 5:8-9, Colossians 1:20) The death of God's Son is a wonderful testimony of His love for us but the story does not end at His death.

The resurrection of the crucified Christ is perhaps the greatest confirmation the Father gave the world as to the Sonship of Jesus. Paul proclaims that Jesus was "declared the Son of God with power by His resurrection from the dead..." (Romans 1:4) Paul later states that the resurrection is a central truth in the gospel of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) and we can read that the resurrection of Jesus was part of the gospel preached from that first Pentecost onward. (See Acts 2:22-36, 3:13-15, 10:39-41, 17:2-3) But this teaching was not started first with the disciples of Jesus for He repeatedly taught that although He must die, He would rise again on the third day. (See John 2:18-21, Matthew 12:39-40, 16:21, 20:17-19, Mark 9:9) Taking no chances, His enemies did all they could to prevent any chance of that occurring, whether it be real or simulated (See Matthew 27:62-66).

Yet after all the preparation Jesus laid for His followers, they were crushed after His death and seemed not to remember that He taught them He would rise from the dead. During His arrest they were scattered and Peter followed the proceedings from a distance, even denying that he even knew Jesus, just as He predicted Peter would.

After His execution they cowered for fear behind closed doors (John 20:19). Dreams were shattered, hope ebbed, and confidence lagged. Then everything changed. They saw the risen Christ!

What effect did the fact of Christ's resurrection have on these men? In the book of Acts we see a distinctly different group of men. They spoke confidently about Jesus, proclaiming Him to be the Messiah. They spoke openly, freely about Him knowing that they had nothing to gain & everything, including their lives, to lose.

Former skeptics were suddenly converted to the cause. Saul, who persecuted the Christians became one! James, Jesus' brother, went from being an unbeliever to a pillar in the early church and even wrote an inspired letter that we count as Scripture! Secular history provides how one by one, these men were persecuted and most of them were killed for preaching Christ. **Why? They Had Seen The Living, Risen Jesus!**

What's all this mean for you and me? In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul lays out the simple truth that because of the fact of Jesus' resurrection, every believer has within him or her the certainty of resurrection from the dead as well. In fact, this awesome chapter has been called by some "the capstone on the arch of Christianity" and without the core belief that Jesus is alive, Paul concludes that our faith is worthless and futile. (1 Corinthians 15:12-19) Further, the inspired apostle offers that "if we have hoped in Christ for this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."

We experience a resurrection of sorts in this earthly life when we are baptized for the forgiveness of our sins and rise from the water to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 3:1). But this "resurrection" is but a glimpse and a shadow of the coming one that all Christians look for: A time when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth. (John 5:25-29) A time when the dead in Christ will rise first to meet the Lord in the air, and thus will always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

It is this hope which gives our lives meaning

and purpose. This hope helps us to endure suffering (1 Peter 3:13-18) and gives us the courage and strength to press onward in the face of adversity (Philippians 3:8-15). The certainty of our resurrection from the dead should ease our fears of death knowing that we will receive the final victory in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

Knowing the certainty of our hope, what effect should this have on us as we seek to live as disciples of Christ? Let the inspired apostle summarize it as he does at the conclusion of that great resurrection chapter: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Work harder, be more convinced in standing for right, be more zealous and more faithful knowing that the reward is coming!

-via *Rio Grande Valley Bulletin*, Belen, New Mexico

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Tucker* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Cheyenne Griffin* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Myrtie Williams* suffered a fall on Wednesday evening in her yard, but was not hurt ... *Hoyt Hammond* is at home and is unable to be out ... *Angie McCrary's mother, Edna Shook-*, has been having some tests done recently ... *Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is taking chemo treatments about every three weeks ... 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 *O'Neal church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Don Miller* is preaching...The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today with *Bob Waldron* preaching. The meeting will continue through Friday.

RESPONSE: Last Sunday morning, *Mandy Griffin* came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness and strength. We appreciate the good heart Mandy has and we want to remember her and encourage her as a young mother as she encourages us. May the Lord bless Mandy.

OUT OF TOWN: *Shelia and Robyn Goode* have been out of town this week.

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

THE RECORD: *For the week of August 1st*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 100
- Morning Worship 125
- Evening Worship 94

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 78



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

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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