

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.

Volume X

June 15, 2003

No. 24

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

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Men Priviledged To Serve:

Sunday, June 15th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (Psalm 109:1-20)

..... Curtis Mosley

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Presiding Michael Clemmons

Serving Mike Rogers

..... Aric Butler

..... Rodney McCrary

Closing Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 109:21-31)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Larry White

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

Closing Prayer

..... Jerry Best

Dumbing Down The Gospel

Jeff May

Not long ago, I listened to a preacher friend sadly speak of how he finds that more and more he is having to "dumb down the gospel". He meant he could no longer teach God's people the Bible without greatly simplifying it. Some things he could not teach them at all because they were nowhere near being able to understand. He had to "dumb it down". Educators say the same thing is happening in academic fields. If they tried to graduate some people at the level they were being taught some years ago, they would never wear a cap and gown!!

Sometime ago, I read an article showing Bible blunders from people in eighth grade through college. One student reported the first book of the Bible to be "Guinness" and told of how Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Another said Jacob stole his brother's birthmark. Then one said Pharaoh forced the slaves to make bread without straw. David fought with the Finkelsteins and Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines!! What a travesty!!

Simplifying the Bible is not always a bad thing. A skilled preacher of the gospel must be able to know where his students are and begin right there. I remember when I began preaching someone advised, "If you'll keep it down there where the calves can get it, the cows won't have any problem". Jesus was a master at taking lofty ideas and bringing it down where the "calves could get it". He even held back on some teaching with the apostles saying, "I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now" (John 16:12). Common sense and the Bible teaches us to give babies milk (1 Peter 2:2).

All are not to be babies. “Dumbing down” the Bible for those who have been Christians for many years is disappointing indeed!! Yet, it is not a new problem. Paul told some, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Preachers - teach effectively. Know where your students are. Simplify for the babes in Christ. Challenge all to the next level.

Students - apply yourselves. Desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. There is a big test coming one day and it will matter for eternity whether you pass or fail.

-via *The Noble Searcher*, Gardendale, Alabama.



A Sign of Devotion

Allen Dvorak

“Do we **have** to go to church?” Sometimes young children ask this question, indicating their preference to do something else. After all, “going to church” means that one has to sit still and be quiet during the worship service. Sometimes it is adults who ask this question. They either have already gone to worship on Sunday morning and are asking why it is necessary to go again on Sunday or Wednesday night or they don't care to “go to church” at all.

Many people take a cavalier attitude toward the assemblies of the church, despite the rebuke that the author of Hebrews levelled against those who were forsaking the assembling of themselves

together (Hebrews 10:24-25). Even a casual acquaintance with the New Testament epistles indicates that God intends for Christians to congregate together to worship and to edify one another. First century Christians met together on Sunday to take the Lord's supper and contribute of their means (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Failing to observe the Lord's supper because it is “inconvenient” to meet with the saints is a sin!

“But do I have to go to church twice on Sunday AND on Wednesday?” I don't know of any passage of Scripture which commands us to assemble twice on Sunday or on Wednesday night. Why, then, do many people attend on these occasions in addition to the Sunday morning assembly?

Some Christians attend every assembly of the church because they value the edification they receive. They enjoy studying the Bible because it is God writing to us about important things. They are reminded of the necessity of living righteously. As such Christians hear the word of God preached, their hope of eternal life is renewed; they understand the powerful motivation for godly living that hope provides. They savor the opportunity to be around people who, although imperfect, are striving to serve God and their fellow man. They like being part of a spiritual family where love and consideration is the rule.

Some Christians attend every assembly because it is another opportunity to show their devotion for the Creator and Redeemer. In much the same way that a son wishes to please his father and show his mother his love, these Christians gather to raise their voices in prayer and song, to manifest by their presence in the assembly of the church the fact that God is so important in their lives.

But do I **have** to go to church on Sunday and Wednesday nights? We could wrestle with that question, but the real issue is the attitude which prompts the question. Is a woman flattered by flowers when she knows that the man didn't want

to spend the money on them, but felt obligated to do so? The words "I love you" lose their power when used by one who speaks them out of obligation rather than sincerity. Is God honored by the worship of people who attend the assembly because they feel obligated rather than wanting to be present?

-via *Mining The Scriptures*, Madison, Alabama.



What It Leads To

Robert F. Turner

I hate to admit this, but a man once told me he did not like my sermons, and wanted me to change the subject and content of my preaching. I asked him to identify my errors, and he said I was preaching the truth, but he was afraid of "what it might lead to." (I was preaching on the work of the church, and congregational independence.) I replied that I realized one might make a "hobby" of truth and "beat to death" a subject (he did not accuse me of this), but that I could not see how **truth**, properly balanced, could lead to anything but that for which it was given, viz., to make men free from error and sin (John 8:32-32.)

On the other side of the coin, we frequently find timid souls who hibernate in inactivity, and equate doing nothing with soundness in the faith. They may acknowledge that the work proposed is in keeping with the scriptures, but if it calls for some unaccustomed activity – a change from the status quo – they fear "what it might lead to."

Life itself is a movement – we exist in a state of flux – and direction is influenced by every facet of life. Change (even in that which

is good) will affect attitudes and viewpoints, and could involve new temptations. *But Remaining at rest also affects attitudes and viewpoints, and could involve new temptations.* The monastic life is no guarantee of sinlessness. It may BE sin in itself.

No man steps twice in the same flowing stream. The stream is moving, and his second step is into water that was yet above him when the first step was taken. We may begin to do something in good faith, and with ample authority; and find later that circumstances are now such as to make the continuation of our work wrong. It takes a good man to face this, and let divine authority, rather than his own traditions, guide his life. Many will let tradition overrule the application of God's word to his life. **But fear of what may happen** (when no scriptural principle is violated, nor scriptural warning ignored) **makes for "false soundness."**

Truth never "leads to" error, and right is not the father of wrong. This is the point of James 1:13-18 and 1 John 3:6ff. We sin when we quit following God and follow Satan.

Although "times change" and new circumstances constantly arise, we have an unchanging standard, suited to all ages. We are faithful only when we ACT upon its teachings. The church is the "pillar", not the "pillow" of God's truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

-via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*, Montgomery, Alabama.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Henry Trousdale* is in the rehabilitation at Mitchell-Hollingsworth in Florence...*Mary Best* has been sick this past week and has still not been able to be out... *Luke McIntyre* was sick this past weekend and was unable to be at servcies... *Shelia Goode and Lou*

Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton, went to Birmingham for test this past week...*Billy Haraway* continues his treatment each week... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ...*Eddie Hammond's father, Berl Hammond*, is at home battling cancer ...*Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, has cancer and is being treated ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ...*Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* who is at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ...*Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ...*Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, who is at home..*Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, who is at home.

OUT OF TOWN: *Sissy Clemmons* has been in Florida this past week...*The Coxes Kerry, Tyler, Hutner and I* are away this week at a Cox family reunion in Amarillo, Texas.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication Group three to meet after our afternoon service. If you are in group three, plan to meet this evening.

VBS/GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *New Georgia church* is having a Vacation Bible School this week at 10:00 a.m. It will continue through Friday. The speakers in the adult class will be as follows: *Monday – Greg Chandler; Tuesday – Bob Waldron; Wednesday – Gary Patton; Thursday – Dwane Derrick; Friday – David Cox* .



Remember this evening is the time for our regular scheduled song service. Brian Word will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we sing songs of praise to God.

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

Deacons

Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
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