

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, May 18th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 104:16-30)

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Presiding Michael Clemmons

Serving Ethan Pressnell

..... Jerry Best

..... Rodney McCrary

Closing Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 104:31-35)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

Closing Prayer

..... Jerry Best

Volume X

May 18, 2003

No. 20

Look At Bad News As Good News

W. Frank Walton

"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes"
(Psalm 119:71).

Nobody enjoys pain. Yet the psalmist has a positive attitude of faith that empowered him to cope with painful circumstances. He didn't sugarcoat reality but optimistically saw the positive good that came from facing his problems. The bad news of having to endure trouble gave him an opportunity for learning God's truth. We need to cultivate this attitude in these troublesome times. Things that are hard to bear can be profitable to remember.

The good news of the Bible is, despite this world's problems and man's failures, is the encouraging truth that God can bring good out of bad. "We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). If we love God supremely, pleasant or repugnant, His will is to bring His faithful children to Himself in heaven. There eternal joy and bliss await us. All tears and disappoints are forever forgotten (Revelation 21:3-7, 22:3-5)!

1. The Reality of Hell Can Awaken Us. How can hell be good news? John the Baptist preached about the final judgment of the Christ: "His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people" (Luke 3:17-18). The saved are kept like good wheat. The lost are separated and punished like burned, worthless chaff. The Bible clearly teaches the reality of hell's horrible punishment (Mark 9:43-48). The bad news of hell's reality is part of the gospel (the good news

of salvation from sin)!

If there were no sin, there could be no salvation (deliverance from sin). We truly appreciate the saving grace of God in light of the awful wrath of God's justice! Conviction of sin and realization of God's wrath can motivate the lost yet sensitive soul to seek out God's mercy in Christ (Acts 2:36-38, 8:20-24). Man must realize there is bad news without Christ in order to appreciate the good news of Christ.

2. **The Power of Christ Can Help Us.**

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Jesus encouraged his disheartened disciples, upset about His departure, with words of hope and comfort. Jesus our Lord is greater than any problem we face. We can make it, because He made it!

The world lies in darkness. Instead of cursing the darkness or feeling sorry for ourselves, we can be a light to others for the transforming power of the gospel (Philippians 2:14-16). Divine truth is stronger than error. The decline and decay of the world around us is a great opportunity for the light of Christ to shine through us. Those seeking souls around us, burdened with life's problems and sin's futility, will ask us why we have such an uplifting hope (1 Peter 3:15). People would be more interested in the gospel if we were more interesting. The lost can be won to Christ!

3. **The Opportunity For Faith To Strengthen**

Us. “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing’ (James 1:2-4). The prophet James tells us to not whine about our problems as a curse. We should see all sorts of vexing problems that try our soul as an opportunity to strengthen our faith! We only get stronger by exercising our faith muscles. Someone called problems as opportunities in work clothes. Rightly facing

our trials is simply applying what we say, we believe.

The bad news of our tribulation is God's quality control. He has a positive purpose for our long-term good. It tests the depth and strength of our faith. God allows Satan to try us. His hostile aim is to defeat us. God's refining aim for allowing our testing is so we might overcome them! How we respond to problems tells us something about ourselves. Our reaction is God's mirror into the condition of our soul. We become better, stronger and nearer to God by rightly facing trials. If there were no trials, there could be no triumphs (James 1:12)! With God's help, the bad news of worldly trials can become the good news of God's triumph in any believer. Faith is thereby proven genuine and God is glorified!

Now, don't you feel better already?

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 3 No.6



Grace To Help

Gary Henry

Although many people live quite pleasantly most of the time, no one gets all the way to the end of life without having to deal with its “rough edges” somewhere along the way. Into every life some rain must fall — and in some lives the rain falls pretty much all of the time. It can be hard to keep from giving in to despair.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, however, meets the suffering and sorrow of the world with a message of hope. And it is a message of hope precisely because it is a message of help. The writer of Hebrews said, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15,16).

Sin has alienated us from our God spiritually. But sin's effects have also pervaded the temporal world God created so that hardship and heartache are never very far away. Theoretically, God could snap His fingers and put the world back the way it was. Like an indulgent parent, He could arbitrarily shield us from the earthly consequences of sin. We can be thankful, though, that He has not dealt so superficially with the symptoms of the problem. He has chosen, at the Cross, to deal radically with the problem itself.

Those who are willing to accept on God's terms the solution He has worked out have the hope of a future life where all will be made right. Until then, we remain in a world ravaged by the mistakes that others, and we ourselves, continue to make. God has not promised that those who have been saved spiritually will have no further hardships temporally. He has made it possible, instead, for them to "find grace to help in time of need."

Paul wrote that he had learned an important truth concerning God's grace. Concerning his "thorn in the flesh," he said that he had pleaded with the Lord three times for it to be taken away. But God's answer was, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). My grace is sufficient for you! Do we really believe that? Have we come to terms with the fact that God's grace can sustain us through the loss of anything else? Indeed, do we accept the truth that if we lost everything else, God's goodness would be enough for us?

It may be, as has often been said, that we don't learn God is all we need until God is all we have. The abundance of so many other blessings often deludes us into thinking that we have to have those things. But we do not. There is not one thing, other than God, that we cannot do without! When a Christian says, "I could not bear the loss of _____," he is making a foolish and faithless statement. God's grace is sufficient. Anything else we can't part with is an idol. In fact, anyone else we can't part with is an idol (Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26). And if being stripped of

lesser blessings is what it takes to teach us that God is all we need, then we ought to be thankful for such deprivations. "Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9,10).

As recipients of God's grace, we can surely be thankful for the sufficiency of God's help. But it's important to remember that it is in Christ that that help is available. Those unwilling to accept the gospel's solution to the guilt of sin are ineligible to pray for help with the effects of sin, whether our own or the consequences of others' sins. If, regarding redemption in Christ, we remain on the outside looking in, then we stand outside the realm where the only help is available that will mean anything in the long run.

Christ has lived in this world, and He can sympathize with our plight. In Him there is grace to help in time of need. That grace is all we will ever truly need. But we can't despise the Source of the help without forfeiting the help itself. "The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear" (Isaiah 59:1). It is our sins that cut us off from God's help, often in the hour of our most desperate need. Think about that, my friend....before your trouble arises.

-via *Focus Magazine*, Vol. 2 No.12 .Dec. 1998.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* continues at home and has not been feeling as well this week... *Yvonne Pressnell* was not able to be out Wednesday due to not feeling well ... *Mary Best* has been sick this past week and unable to be at services ... *Tisha Roger* was sick and was not able to be at Bible study ... *Lisa Word* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study ... *Kerry Cox* was sick not able to be out Wednes-

day due to not feeling well...**Robyn Goode** was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night due to being sick ...**Hubert Goode** continues at home ...**Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray**, has been in the Beverly Health Care Rehabilitation in Florence, but is planning to be released... **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.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Pressnells: Phil, Cindy, Logan and Ethan** are back home after being in Mobile for the state golf tournament... **The Roses: Rocky, Donna and Christopher** are also back home after being away last week at the state golf tournament... **Judy and Chase Williams** are back after being in Memphis moving **Cori** last weekend... **June Calvert** has been away this past week on vacation... **Mark McIntyre** has been in Florida this week with work.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Aric Butler** in the passing of his aunt this past Sunday in Anniston.

NEW BABY: We rejoice with **The Grisbam's** are in the birth of their son, **Nathan Cole**, this past Tuesday. He weighed 8lbs. and 8ozs. He is now at home with his parents, **Petey and Dana** and his big brother, **Morgan** and big sister, **Callie**.

Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Sunday, May 25th following our evening service.
- Where?** At the home of Curtis & Jamie Mosley
- Subject?** Restoration History



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
- Larry White (256) 247-0988

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