

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, November 20th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Rev. 22:12-21)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Larry White

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
Presiding Mark McIntyre
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Eddie L. Hammond
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Mark McCrary
..... Corey Goode
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Exo. 1:1-14)
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin
Lord's Supper
..... Mark McIntyre
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XII

November 20, 2005

No. 47

Blessed Assurance

Matthew H. Allen

How confident are we in our salvation? How comfortable are we in trusting God and that He has really forgiven us? Some carry a **huge** burden of guilt and never forgive themselves or feel God can't forgive them. Others feel their lives are meaningless. "How could God ever love me?" We are the greatest investment God ever made! Romans 8:35-39 teaches that nothing external of ourselves can separate us from Jesus' love. If our hearts belong to Jesus – **nothing** can remove us from His love.

We must not doubt God's ability to forgive. Christians have used their faith to take advantage of God's mercy & grace. When a person obeys the gospel, God says they are forgiven! Paul writes, even when we were dead in our transgressions, He made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Think of it: we, who were formerly alienated from God, are seated with Jesus! The sins of the past have been wiped away. And, it is from this point that we must get up & get going – moving in trust & confidence that God will do as He promises!

Consider John's writing. A main emphasis in the book is the Christian's assurance of forgiveness. His teaching in 1 John 1:7 emphasizes that we are to live our lives as close to God as possible. But, when we sin God is always ready to forgive us, and John outlines that in verses nine and ten. Verses nine and ten are statements of fact. If we are honest with ourselves and with God – and confess our sins – then we can experience the comfort of forgiveness that is only possible because of Jesus' death on the cross. God says he'll forgive us...do we doubt it?

Some believe they have to live in a perfect manner and if they don't, they'll just hope for the best at judgment. Where's the comfort in that? Does that sound like assurance? This is not an encouragement for people to live as they please, and then seek forgiveness afterward. Remember 1 John 1:7? If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. Forgiveness is contingent on our active obedience and service. One cannot hope for salvation while living a life for self going down his own paths. 1 John 3:21-24 teaches that God wants us to make truth the pattern of our conduct. He wants us to walk in the light and work to be pure!

Don't remain so guilt-ridden that you never experience comfort in Christ. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Why did Jesus become sin? So we might become righteous! God gives us the power to live differently, for Him! God's forgiveness creates a new reality for us! It has been said, Trusting in God's transforming forgiveness is one of the most liberating things we can do! God is transforming us into His likeness. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). This is a process that takes time! God wants to heal us from our sin and be converted from the old life to the new! Don't keep picking at the scab of the old wounds of sin. Experience the comfort that can be found by letting go & trusting in God's power to save!

There is great comfort & happiness to be found in Christ! Christians can go from guilt & hopelessness to being with Christ! Remember Paul's words: (He has) seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6). We can experience the comfort, peace, and joyous expectation because our sins have been washed

away. We have the awesome potential to live lives full of abundance! Do you have this comfort? Do you have the comfort knowing that Jesus is your advocate? (1 John 2:1) Do you have the comfort of knowing that Jesus is interceding on your behalf? (Romans 8:33-34)

Seek the comfort that is found only in Christ!
-via *New Living* Brownsburg, Indiana.



The Humanity of Jesus

Randy Harshbarger

It is more likely that the deity of Christ will be disputed by those seeking to undermine the credibility of the Bible, rather than the humanity of Christ. John declared that the Word became flesh (John 1:14). Therefore, Christ was a man who lived among men—whatever becoming flesh entails, that is what Jesus became. The humanity of Jesus has been the subject of discussion and debate historically; it is not an issue that has been discussed much in recent years by “Christendom.” This subject is discussed often by many New Testament Christians.

This issue is important because it relates to our salvation. The gap between God and man, the chasm of sin, can not be closed by man alone. He needs help. God took the initiative by sending His Son to die for the sin of the world. When God became flesh, humanity was given hope. Now there was one who understood. Now there was one who walked where man walked. Jesus' death on the cross made His humanity a necessity. This does not negate His deity; our salvation is as dependent upon one as the other. Jesus' role as mediator is possible because of His humanity.

Tempted as a man, He knows all about us; He understands; He cares.

In defense of Jesus' humanity it should be noted that He had a human body. His birth was a human birth as were other births in first century Palestine. The Synoptics indicate that Jesus had an earthly family. He lived as a human being; He had a physical nature. He experienced all the normal patterns of growth common to many young Jewish boys. As a human, Jesus was sometimes hungry. He experienced thirst. He was sometimes tired. Jesus suffered cruel torture and finally crucifixion on a Roman cross. The story of Jesus' death assures us that He was a human, being – one who was willing to die for our sins. His body was a human body, suitable for such a death.

Jesus demonstrated the full range of human emotions. He loved others. When His friend Lazarus died, Jesus wept. He had compassion for the poor and downtrodden. He was often joyous. His betrayal brought Him sorrow. He marveled at the faith of some folks and at the lack of faith in others. He attended worship in the synagogue on a regular basis. He prayed to His Father relying on strength and guidance from above.

He was thoroughly committed to His mission as the world's Savior. He felt a compulsion that drove Him inexorably toward Jerusalem. In the Garden of Gethsemane He struggled and was in stress. He cried from the cross about the apparent desertion of His Father.

As New Testament writers go about the business of presenting the life of Jesus, they recognize His humanity, but do not call attention to it in any undue way. The men who were closest to Him recognized that He was human. As He schooled them, they ate together, cried, and laughed together. Even after His resurrection He appealed to His fleshly body as proof of having come from the grave.

Jesus lived as a man among men. Yet, there is one thing He did not do. He did not sin. He did

not have to ask for forgiveness. In resisting temptation He qualified as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. Yes, we affirm the deity of Jesus. But let us never be guilty of denying His humanity.

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*; Nachogdoches, Texas.



Is Your Speech Right?

Harold Hancock

As a Christian you are encouraged to “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6), and to “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29). Are you speaking correctly?

Gracious speech is speech that is courteous and agreeable, not morose and melancholy. It is speech that shows unfeigned piety in the heart, manifests a kindly spirit, and is not vindictive or abusive. Speech that is not corrupt is speech that is not defiling nor injurious. It is speech that has no obscene allusions and no anecdotes of an obscene character. It is conversation that does not excite or inflame evil thoughts, evil feelings or evil passions. Speech seasoned with salt is speech that is beneficial— speech that instructs, counsels, and comforts. It is not insipid. It is thought provoking; it is truth spoken in love.

The right speech, as someone suggested, is “wisdom clothed in graciousness, giving it a wholesome taste.”

Speech seasoned with salt should make one thirsty for the Living Water (John 4:10)

-via *Good News*; Lufkin, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Henry and Helen Trousdale* were sick and unable to be at services this week ... *Signa Skipworth and C.L. Weathers cousin, Joel Snoddy*, is in the Huntsville Hospital following an accident last weekend ... *Daniel Clemmons* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday... *Eddie L. Hammond's mother, Fannie Hammond*, had back surgery on Wednesday and is at home ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, has been back in the Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville this week ... *Virginia and Mary Lovell's aunt, Tessie Mance*, has moved to rehabilitation at Mitchell-Hollingsworth... *Angie McCrary's aunt, Oscarene Newton*, is now at home following an extended stay in the hospital ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home... *Mattie Blanche Word's son, Billy Word* is at home now recovering from a fall... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, continues to deal with dialysis... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette. Her condition has declined... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

SONG SERVICE: Tonight will be the time for our regular schedule song service. *Mark McIntyre* will be directing the service. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present.

ELDERS MEETING: The elders will be meeting this afternoon at the building.

THE RECORD: *For the week of November 13th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 91
 Morning Worship 105
 Evening Worship 87

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 83

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

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 (256) 247-1451
 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 (931) 565-3799

Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
 Office-(256) 247-5539
 E-mail address: daco@hiwaay.net

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