

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

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Why We're Here

Dee Bowman

It's sure good to be here. Good to be with those who share our faith, who aspire to the same goal of heaven, who participate in the same praise, and who appreciate the same kind of biblical exhortation. It's just good to see each other today. Those are actually some of the reasons why we're here- to share faith, hope, and exhortation. We're here because it's good to be here, good to:

Draw near to God. The Psalmist said, in Psalm 73: 28, "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works." To draw near to God is to worship Him, to remember the death of His Son on the cross in the observance of the Lord's Supper, to hear admonitions from His word so that we may have a well-ordered life and a shining hope. To draw nigh to God is to trust Him, to understand that He is faithful in all He has assured, that we may have confidence in His promises and be bold in our service to Him.

Give thanks to God. In the 92nd Psalm, verses 1 and 2, David says "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High." It is good to give thanks, to offer up our praise to Him for all He has done for us. It's a great thing He has done just by making Himself known to us. "The only

begotten Son, he hath declared Him" (John 1:18). What a supreme joy to know God. What a great thing to be able to thank God for the multitude of blessings He has bestowed upon us. What a blessing it is to be able to thank Him for sending Jesus into the world to die for our sins. Not only does this assembly afford us the opportunity to thank Him in our prayers, but to praise His name in song. Giving thanks to God should be one of the great privileges of life. To ignore that privilege is unthinkable.

Be afflicted. In Psalm 119:71, the writer says, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." We're here to be taught about our weaknesses and our faults. We're here to be provoked to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). We're here to be admonished to do better, to leave off sin, to aspire to righteousness and purity. It's good to be here for that, good to know that others are struggling just as we are, to know that we have encouragement from one another regarding our constant course correcting process.

Walk uprightly. In Psalm 84:11, we're told, "...no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." We are Christians. We are the recipients of the love and grace of a loving Father, the provisions of a loving Savior, the word revealed by the Holy Spirit

which instructs us about walking a right course. What a joy to have that information available. What a privilege it is to know that “we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16). And how sad it is that some don’t take advantage of this great provision. We’re together so we can help one another know how to walk uprightly.

Why are we here? Simple. We’re here to honor God, to remember His Son, to study His word, and to enjoy one another. What a good thing it is to be here.

~via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.



That Necessary Faith

Allen Dvorak

The writer of Hebrews tells us of the necessity of faith for our relationship with God, stating that “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (11:6). But what exactly is faith? To say that faith is simply “belief,” while technically accurate, may leave the impression that the faith that pleases God is nothing more than intellectual acknowledgment of some truth. Is there more to faith than just mental assent that something is true? James wrote, “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble!” (2:19). Although the demons acknowledge the existence of God, something is missing from their “faith.”

One dictionary of Greek words defines faith as “firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing” and indicates that the word translated “faith” (*pistis*) in the New Testament is akin to another word whose meaning is “to persuade” (W. E. Vine). Faith is conviction about something or someone which is based on evidence, evidence which is capable of persuading or

convincing. Faith is distinguished from knowledge in that faith operates in the realm of the things unseen (the tangible or which belong to the future) while knowledge speaks of information gained by our empirical senses (hearing, sight, smell, etc.).

What evidence forms the basis for our faith in the existence of God, the deity of Jesus or the divine origin of the Bible? Do we believe because we feel better for having adopted this “faith”? Is our faith simply the result of the repeated affirmations of others without any objective evidence offered? Our faith, although based on indirect evidence, should not be groundless. The apostle Paul wrote, “So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17), affirming that the purpose of the word of God is to produce faith in men. The only sure foundation for a faith which is capable of sustaining us in times of difficulty is the word of God.

Another word frequently used to define faith is “trust.” Trust suggests more than simple acknowledgment of some truth; it implies the willingness to take risk based on one's conviction. Belief says, “I think that rope will hold my weight.” Trust goes beyond mere belief and causes me to swing on the rope, acting on the conviction that the rope is adequate to sustain my weight.

It is this aspect of faith that suggests the relationship between faith and obedience to the commands of God. Our obedience to the commands of our Lord stems not only from the acknowledgment that He has given us “exceedingly great and precious promises,” but also from our trust in His willingness and ability to save us from our sins and provide for our eternal well-being. Thus it should be no surprise that James affirms that obedience is the natural complement to faith (2:22). Faith which does not motivate one to obedience is dead and incomplete (2:20, 26). Remember the demons!

Sometimes the Scriptures appear to use the word “faith” in a comprehensive sense to desig-

nate the sum of man's obligations in the matter of forgiveness and salvation (e.g., John 3:16; Acts 16:31). Such usage of the word is understandable when we recognize that faith is at the foundation of all that is involved in pleasing God. When Paul wrote that we are saved by grace through faith, he was not denying the need for obedience, but emphasizing that which motivates us to obey the divine imperatives.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). The author of Hebrews here describes the function of faith and then illustrates in the remainder of the chapter how faith operated in the lives of Old Testament individuals. Eighteen verses begin with the praise “by faith,” emphasizing the motivation for the obedience which characterized these persons. God’s commands to these people involved things yet unseen (future) or hoped for.

Faith works with our hope (the combination of desire and expectation) by providing the reason for the expectation (“faith is the substance...”) of obtaining the object of our desire. How necessary is faith? The strength of our hope depends upon it (see Hebrews 11:6 again)! May your faith increase!

~via *Stonegate Bulletin Briefs*, Port Arthur, Texas.



Everything In Time

Evan Bennett

In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Solomon wrote of how there is a time for everything under the sun. Every purpose under heaven, from being born to dying, from war to peace, has a time, he wrote. Solomon understood that everything, both the joyous occasions and the heartbreaking losses, has a time in life. In other words,

none of us is immune to life’s undulations.

The challenge for us is to understand that life is full of times of struggle and triumph, defeat and victory. Solomon’s words call us to see that life will be sometimes blissful, sometimes tragic. When we comprehend this, we can gain perspective and see the beauty of life.

However, when events like those of recent weeks come our way, it is difficult to keep that perspective. In these times of destruction and loss, we are hard pressed to see life as Solomon saw it. When pain is real and immediate, it is difficult to focus our minds on anything but the wounds.

In times of such pain and loss, we must strive to remember that God is in control. We must be patient in waiting on Him, never giving up hope that He will work what is good. When faced with the difficult times of life, we must remember David’s words: “Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).

~via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *James McConnell’s mother, Della Mae McConnell*, is now home following her stay in the hospital ... *Jerry Dickey’s mother, Pat Dickey*, continues in the ECM hospital room 662...*Jerry Dickey’s father, David Dickey*, had two heart stints inserted on Monday and is now at home...*Angie McCrary’s sister, Peggy McGee*, came home from the hospital this past week ...*Tisha Rogers* was sick and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Rodney and Angie McCrary* were both not feeling well and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Mary Best’s nephew, Shannon Johnson*, underwent a treatment in Birmingham last

week... **Kerry Cox's grandfather, Coy Lowman**, was admitted to the hospital in Jasper this past week for fluid collecting on his lung and is expecting to move to Birmingham today... **Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton**, continues at home with his battle with cancer... Remember **Millinea Word** as she continues her treatments/medication... **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out... **Aldeen Noles** is in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg... **Shelia Moore's mother-in-law, Laurene Whitehead**, is in the Athens Convelesant Center... **Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home... **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty, Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

OUT OF TOWN: The Bests: Jerry and Mary continue on vacation and will return this week... **The Clemmons:** Michael and Sissy are going to be away for a few days this week on vacation... **The Thomas':** Ricky, Tisha, Ashley and Alyssa are away this weekend and will be spending a few days in the mountians this week... **The Rogers:** Mike, Tisha, Zackary and Jacob are in Nashville this weekend... **The Roses:** Rocky and Donna continue to be away on vacation... **Signa Skipworth** is back home after being away last week in the mountians.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Carriger church** in Limestone county will begin a gospel meeting on Friday and it will continue through next Sunday, Nov. 2nd. The speaker in this meeting will be **Dave Bradford** willk be the speaker. They will have services Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.... The **Jackson Heights church** in Columbia, Tennessee is to begin a meeting on Friday with **Frank Walton** doing the preaching. The meeting will continue through next Sunday with services on Friday and Saturday beginning at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Communication group four will meet tonight after the evening service. If you are in group four remember to meet with your group this evening.

Gospel POWER

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

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.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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