

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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No. 3

God Demands A Change

John M. Duvall

Since the beginning of time, God has had a standard by which man was to live. When men walked in a different path than was instructed by God, God demanded repentance and change. We see this demand in several passages of both the Old and the New Testament. In Jeremiah 18:8, God said, "If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them." Take notice that God said that He would not destroy the nation if they would "turn from their evil." This call to turn was a call to repent and change. Another example of repentance is seen in the life of king David (2 Samuel 12:12-17, 22-23). David had sinned by engaging in sexual relations with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. David then had Uriah killed in an attempt to cover his own sin. By so doing, David had given occasion for the other nations to blaspheme the Lord. After Nathan confronted David about his sin, David changed or turned from his sin. (Although David repented of his sin and his life was spared, he still had to face the consequences of his sins.)

In the New Testament, we find that God still demands that men turn away from their sin. 2 Peter 3:9 reads, "The Lord is not slack

concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." The Lord desires that all who are guilty of sin come to repentance. If a sinner will come to repentance, the Lord will forgive him of his sins. Turning away from sin to serve the Lord is essential to becoming a Christian, a child of God.

Consider the example of the Jews who had crucified Jesus. On the day of Pentecost, fifty days after the death of Jesus, Peter addressed the guilt of these Jews. In Acts 2:38, Peter preached, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." In Acts 3:19, Peter also preached, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,..."

The Greek word translated as repent is *metanoeo* which means "1) to change one's mind, i.e. to repent 2) to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins." (Thayer). Peter was teaching the Jews the need to turn away from their past sin of rejecting Jesus and to be converted to Jesus and His teachings. The Greek word

Greater Love

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translated as converted is epistrophe which means “1) transitively 1a) to turn to. . .1b) to cause to return, to bring back 2) intransitively 2a) to turn to one’s self...” (Thayer) The Jews were to turn to a life of believing in and obeying the teachings of Jesus. This change was to begin with the Jews repenting of their past sins and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38) Upon so doing, those who obeyed would be forgiven of their past sins.

As we study Acts chapter 2 through 4, we find that many of the Jews changed their hearts and their lives. In order to undergo this change, the Jews had to repent of their sins and be converted to Jesus Christ. In Acts 2:41, we see that 3000 people repented and were baptized. In Acts 4:4, we see that 5000 people believed and were converted to the Lord.

If you are not a Christian, then please take to heart the fact that God desires for you to come to repentance. Embrace the teachings of Jesus Christ by believing in Him (John 3:16), repenting of your past sinful life (Luke 13:3), confessing your belief in Him before men (Matthew 10:32), and obeying His command to be baptized (Mark 16:16). Upon so doing, your sins will be forgiven and washed away just as Ananias promised Saul when he said, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

If you are a Christian, but you have wandered away from a life of obedience, then follow the instructions Peter gave to Simon when he was told to repent of his wickedness and to pray that God would forgive him of his sin (Acts 8:22).

In order to serve the Lord, changes must be made. Make those changes today so that you will be saved.

~via **Truthfactor**; Lawton, Oklahoma.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Several years ago I read of an actual incident that has stayed with me. A little girl, a toddler, was dying. She had lost blood in surgery and needed it replaced desperately, but she had a rare type. While some was found, she needed more quickly. Testing the family it was found that her 6 year old brother had the same type. Her situation was explained to him. She had lost blood and would die soon unless it could be replaced. They were having trouble finding the blood she needed in time. Since he had the same kind of blood, if he would give it, it would save her life. Would he do that? The little boy thought only for a moment and with great seriousness and gravity consented.

The blood was taken, and to the relief of all, given to his little sister. Everyone’s attention turned to the toddler, waiting for assurance that her life was saved and that all would be well. After a little time, the little boy walked quietly up to his father and said, “Daddy, how long will it be?”

“How long will what be, son?”

“How long will it be till I die?”

Distracted, the father answered, “Oh, I have no idea. No one knows that. Why do you ask?”

In real confusion, the little boy continued, “But you said, without blood Katy would die soon; I gave her mine. And so I’m wondering how long it will be before I die.”

Sometimes children misunderstand things when we think everything is perfectly clear. Sometimes what they misunderstand is funny, but when they misunderstand something that seems so portentous to them, our hearts go out to them and we take them in our arms and explain and comfort. And when we see that they have acted courageously in some misunderstanding we marvel at their idealism. And

we love them tremendously for their bravery and nobility even though it was mistaken. And we admire them.

You can see where this is going. We admire the nobility in the little boy. We are moved by his love for his little sister. Well, someone did so love and sacrifice himself for us. It was not a misunderstanding. It was done purposefully; a death died, a life given in sacrifice for us that we might live. Jesus knowing that the time of his death was at hand, said, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this cause came I unto this hour...and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself. But this he said signifying by what manner of death he should die" (John 12:27, 32-33).

If we can admire, feel compassion for, and love the little boy for his noble "sacrifice," and cannot think the same way about Jesus, there is something wrong with our values. Or there is simply a lack of faith. Well, mark it down, Jesus lived. He died. And he died that we all might come to him. He was raised and ascended to heaven, and we have accounts of eyewitness to it all. In that this was God's plan, and Jesus freely fulfilled it, the natural response is described by the Holy Spirit, "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" (Romans 4:4).

The sacrifice of Christ wherein he died for us, taking the punishment for our sins, changes the very dynamic of life. If there is true decency in us we cannot ignore that proffered love. The noble heart is compelled to respond to it. We are compelled to seek something else from life, to seek that for which all this was done, the glory of God and our own eternal life. What does our response to Christ say about our quality, nature, and character?

~via *Wildercroft Announcements*, Riverdale, Maryland

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Tika White* has been sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night, but is now doing better...*Millinea Word* had the Kryphoplasty procedure done this past Tuesday afternoon and is at home doing well...*Marcia & Erin Cooper* have been sick this past week, but are doing some better...*Sissy Clemmons* was able to be back at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend...*Daniel Clemmons* is now doing better after being sick this past week and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Katy Goode* is doing better now after being sick this past week...*Sheila Goode & Lou Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton*, is to begin her chemo treatments this week in Birmingham...*Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, had surgery on his foot this past Thursday in Florence...*Rodney and Angie McCrary's nephew, Jarod McCrary*, is scheduled to have surgery on his eye on Monday in Huntsville...Remember *Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland*, is continuing her treatments for her cancer...Also remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home and not able to be out...Also remember *Gurtie Snoddy* who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home...*Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, is now home after being in the UAB Hospital last week...Remember *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunt*, and *Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty*, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

NELL BATES: It is with sadness that we report the death of our sister *Nell Bates*. Nell passed away this past Wednesday in Huntsville Hospital. Her funeral was Saturday in Athens. We all will miss Nell and her presence among us. We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Charles and Sandra Glass and to all the family* in Nell's passing.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Eddie & Amber Hammond and all the family* is the passing of Eddie's aunt,

Sarah Still, this past Monday.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for group three to meet. If you are in group three plan to meet with your group this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: The Pressnells: Monroe and Yvonne are away in Florida this week on vacation.

SINGING PRACTICE: This evening we will be meeting at 5:15 to let some of our young men lead some songs and to learn some new songs that we are not familiar with.

SONG SERVICE: Tonight is the time for our regularly scheduled song service at 6:00. If at all possible plan to be present as we sing songs of praise to God. *Claus Martel* will be directing the service.

WINTER QUARTER: We have begun our winter quarter in our Bible classes. We are looking forward to this quarter and the teachers for this quarter are as follows:

Nursery:

- LouAnn Phillips/*
- Brooke Phillips* (Sunday morning)
- Marla Clemmons/*
- Betty White* (Wednesday night)

Pre-school:

- Angie McCrary/*
- Sissy Clemmons* (Sunday morning)
- Sheila Goode/*
- Kerry Cox* (Wednesday night)

Primary:

- Cindy Pressnell* (Sunday morning)
- Suzette McIntyre* (Wednesday night)

Intermediate:

- Yvonne Pressnell* (Sunday morning)
- Sanda Martel* (Wednesday night)

High School:

- Rocky Rose* (Sunday morning)
- Rocky Rose* (Wednesday night)

Younger Adult:

- Scottie Goode* (Sunday morning)
- Scottie Goode* (Wednesday night)

Young Adult:

- David Cox* (Sunday morning)
- David Cox* (Wednesday night)

Adult:

- Monroe Pressnell* (Sunday morning)
- Monroe Pressnell* (Wednesday night)

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

Elders

- Michael Clemmons (256) 247-0836
- Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391
- Monroe Pressnell (256) 232-0780

Deacons

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