

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 IX

March 10, 2002

No. 10

Anderson
church of Christ
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

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Anderson-church.org

Men Priviledged To Serve:

Sunday, March 10th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (2 Thess. 1:1-12)

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding Claus Martel

Serving Jerry Dickey

..... James Albert McConnell

..... Rodney McCrary

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (2 Thess.2:1-17)

..... Jason White

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Lord's Supper

..... Claus Martel

Closing Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Great Expectations

Steven C. Harper

I would guess that a good number of people who enter into a marriage union have some sort of high expectation about the union, with some having an idea that their spouse-to-be is going to be a "knight in shining armor" or a sort of "super woman" who will do everything they could ever imagine while not complaining about the lack of attention, not caring if they are shown any measure of gratitude, and all without seeking one acknowledgment of the hard work they have put into the relationship. Their view of the forthcoming marriage has only a positive outlook and little or no expectations of trouble or hardships. Any suggestion by friends or family that all will not be as rosy as they think is simply met with a contemptuous look or thought, followed by the naive response, "It will be different with us."

I truly hope that all who enter into a marriage union do so with high expectations, but also with realistic high expectations. To expect that your life will be nothing but positive events and the proverbial "bed of roses" just because you are getting married is not realistic. Marriage does not solve all problems and is not an impenetrable wall that blocks out all negative occurrences that one might experience in a lifetime. Yes, it is a union that is meant to join two people together as helps for one another, but that in itself implies that there will be occasions when one spouse is in need of the other's help. It is then that the words of the wise writer seem most fitting: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be

overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). Marriage is a union that is meant to be a relationship of two parties ready to help the other and always standing by when they are needed. It is supposed to be a relationship where two become “one flesh.”

It is commendable to enter into the marriage with great expectations, but I fear many have the wrong expectations or unrealistic expectations, and often it is because the expectations are based on one’s idea about what kind of spouse the other one should be or what one spouse thinks the other should be doing as their part of the relationship. I have seen far too often in troubled marriages that problems arise when one party (or both) expect too much of the other and very little of themselves. I have sat through “counseling” sessions in which one party could only list things the other one was doing wrong, and couldn’t think of even one thing they did wrong — and then were surprised that someone would say that maybe everything wasn’t all the fault of the other. All too often, it is painfully evident that one, or both, have entered into the union for purely selfish reasons.

I believe it would be beneficial to stop and consider what God intended the marriage union to be, and what kind of expectations we should have about marriage before one enters into this union that is supposed to be for life. If we know the way it should be and if we know what our responsibilities are in the relationship, it will go a long way in making it more enjoyable and peaceable and it will be less likely that one or both will be looking for a way out or looking for someone else to satisfy their expectations (unrealistic as they may be) when they become disillusioned. But, the expectations we should consider are not the ones we should have of our potential spouse, but of ourselves.

The Wife. (Eph. 5:22-24, 33) As much as some would like to have this passage removed due to its “politically incorrect” teaching, it remains as the unchangeable word of God on

the matter. God used the marriage pattern to show the relationship of the church and Christ, and He expected the wife to be in subjection to her husband “in everything” (v. 24) — not just when it is convenient or agreeable. Often, troubles arise because this is not the pattern in the marriage and the wife has either taken the headship upon herself, or the husband has abdicated his responsibilities. Either way, it is not what God has commanded and such marriages are out of sync with the way it should be.

Submissiveness may be the very thing that leads your husband to obey the gospel, without you ever saying a word (1 Peter 3:1), and one thing that goes a long way in being submissive is respect. One who has no respect for her husband will be less likely to place herself in subjection to that same man. Whether he has earned it or not (though he should), the wife is supposed to respect her husband (Eph. 5:33).

Paul further explained the part of the wife, telling Titus to urge the older women to teach the younger to “love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed” (Titus 2:4, 5). To say that this must be done would be an understatement!

The Husband. (Ephesians 5:23, 25, 28, 33) As much as some men want to read only that the “husband is the head of the wife,” the emphasis on this text is that the husbands should “love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church.” Three times is this commanded in this short text, emphasizing the husband’s most important duty in the marriage. This love is a sacrificial, unselfish love that does all for the well-being of the other and with no consideration of one’s own desires.

Husbands are further commanded to “dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7). Again, there is no option offered here; this is the

way that God intended. Husbands are to show honor and respect to their wives, just as their wives should show the same to them. He should treat his wife as a precious and delicate object, handling her with care and as the valuable person she is to him. This does not mean he should treat her as an object, as is implied in the command to show her honor.

Having now seen our responsibilities, we must now ask: Women, will you be able to fulfill your responsibilities? Men, will you be able to fulfill yours? The answers will reveal the nature of your future marriage!

~via *The Burns Park Beacon*, North Little Rock, Ark.



The Cumulative Effect

Frank Himmel

As I write, it is snowing. First it was only a few tiny flakes. Now they are bigger and more numerous. It has been mesmerizing to watch them gently fall, then disappear into the ground. Only now, after several hours, are they beginning to produce a thin white blanket.

One flake, or even a bunch of flakes, have little visible impact. Yet, enough of them over time accumulate into something significant. Is not much of life like that?

Our knowledge is an accumulation of lessons learned one at a time. Perhaps no one of them seems all that significant at the time, but enough of them added together become meaningful. How many specific sermons that you have heard through the years can you recall? Like few. Nevertheless, a steady diet of the gospel leaves you with “the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 3:15). That is why we all need to search the Scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11).

Our **character** is the accumulation of our thoughts, words and actions. Hopefully, most of these are good. We like to think so, anyway. We give ourselves plenty of credit for good deeds and tend to minimize the others. After all, they are only occasional and no big deal. Oh really? Temper tantrums, angry words, a little lust here, a little deceit there – it all adds up to an ugly picture. Sin is sin, whether frequent or not. And one of its characteristics is that it hardens (Hebrews 3:13), convincing us that it is no big deal, that we don’t have a problem. Be careful every step. Incline your ears. Watch your heart. Guard your mouth. Shield your eyes. Watch your feet (Proverbs 4:20-27).

Our work is an accumulation of what we do day by day. Jesus’ depiction of the judgment makes that clear. “For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me...to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:35-40). It is not occasional effort that God looks for, but “always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

What about our reputation – is it not an accumulation of these others? Whereas first impressions can be deceitful, and accumulation of time and experience with someone usually reveals his true colors. What your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and brethren think of you is based on what they have observed about your knowledge, character, and respectability. You must earn it. “A good name is more to be desired than great riches, favor is better than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1).

Pay attention to little things day by day. They add up to a lot.

~via *The Manslick Road Speaker*, Louisville, Ken.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, is now at home after spending several days in the hospital this past week... *Tisha Rogers* was not able to be at services Sunday due to her back problems, but was able to be present Wednesday night... *Margaret Weathers* was sick and unable to be at services this past Sunday but is doing better now... *Donna Rose* was not feeling well and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Sam Noles* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at services... *Millinea Word* continues to take medication for her bout with Bronchitis... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home and not able to be out... *Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty*, and *brother, Paul McCafferty*, along with *Aldeen Noles* are in the SunBridg 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..

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Cindy Pressnell and all the family* in the sudden passing of Cindy's father, *Richard Hagood*, this past Sunday morning. His funeral was Tuesday in Athens.

DEATH: This past Monday afternoon, Kerry's grandfather, *Coy Lowman*, passed away. His funeral was on Wednesday afternoon in Haleyville. We want to express our sincere appreciation for the concern and love you have demonstrated toward our family during this difficult time. I want to thank *Michael Clemmons* for teaching my class Wednesday night and to *Marcia Cooper* for teaching Kerry's class for her.

GOSPEL MEETING The *Centerview church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00.p.m. *Lonnie Oldag of Spruce Pine, Alabama* will be the speaker

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.

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