

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 Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 13th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Psalm 26)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Larry White
Serving Ray Tucker
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... James Albert McConnell
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Psalm 27)
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume IX

October 13, 2002

No. 41

The First Day of The Week

Jim Jonas

"On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb." (John 20:1)

Until the resurrection of Jesus, the first day of each week was of no particular religious significance. Under Mosaic law, it was the day when daily activity returned to normal after the Sabbath. But the resurrection of Jesus on the third day after His crucifixion (Friday-Sunday inclusive, by Jewish reckoning) made the first day of the week eternally significant.

The Pentecost after His death, fifty days after the Passover Sabbath (inclusive), would have fallen on the first day of the week. On this day, the promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled upon the apostles and, for the first time under Christ's rule from heaven, people were "delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). Thus, with Jesus' resurrection and the inauguration of His kingdom occurring on the first day of the week, it is little wonder this day became known as the "Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10).

And it is little wonder that Christians in Troas, with apostolic approval and participation, observed the Lord's memorial supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). According to the pattern we see develop in the New Testament, it is completely consistent for Paul to direct the Corinthian church to make their financial deposits for the saints in Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). This is the day, the Lord's Day, that they gathered to remember the Lord's death via the Lord's Supper (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:20).

Sadly, this weekly day has been weakly remembered. Sunday

in our society is our day, a day to sleep late, read the paper, enjoy a family dinner, watch football and rest for work on Monday. Even among many religious people, Sunday has become the religious day of the week, and the other six are lived without spiritual meaning.

Is Sunday and its spiritual activities a day eagerly anticipated in your life? Is it a special

day, the Lord's day, on which to honor Him and rejoice being in His presence with other saints? Or has it perhaps become habitual, a day of ceremony and ritual? Our lives belong to the Lord every day, but the first day of the week should have eternal significance for everyone who is a Christian.

~via *Biblical E-Sights*; Vol. 2 No. 26



Are There Three Persons In The Godhead?

Cecil F. Cox

In view of the clear-cut teaching of the Bible that there are three separate and distinct persons in the Godhead, it seems strange that anyone might conceive the idea of only one person in the Godhead. However, a movement exists which is built around the very contention. They are sometimes known as "Oneness Holiness" and "Jesus Only" people. I would not cast one iota of reflection upon their honesty, for no doubt many are just as honest and sincere as can be. However, we must recognize that honesty and sincerity alone does not make one right in his belief. Paul was honest and sincere and thought he should do many things contrary to the name of the Lord Jesus. But we know that his honesty and sincerity did not make what he believed and did pleasing to God. Being honest, he changed his ways when shown to be in error. It is commendable indeed when one so loves the truth. We pray that this will be true of all of us.

"I and My Father Are ONE." John 10:30

The above statement is quite often used as a proof-text in support of the doctrine that there is only person in the Godhead. But let us examine this teaching.

We might also observe that when Jesus prayed for all those who were to believe on Him,

He prayed to the Father "that they **all** might be **one**; as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee" (John 17:21). (Emphasis mine, cfc). Did Jesus mean by these words all who believe in Jesus would be "one person?" Certainly not! There are many passages which show that Christians are separate and distinct persons, even though Jesus prayed that they be "one". It was for the "unity" or "oneness" of his followers for which Jesus prayed. Are all true followers "one"? Yes, absolutely, for there "is one body" (Ephesians 4:4). Yet, Paul teaches us that there are "many members" (persons) (1 Corinthians 12:20). When a person becomes a Christian he becomes united with the Holy Spirit, Christ and the Father, but he continues to be a **person** and still possesses an individual personality. A thousand persons may become Christians. They would be united in the "**one body**" in answer to Christ's prayer, yet they would still maintain a thousand individual personalities, even though they are **one** in Christ and the Father.

But someone will say "does not this prove that there are many Gods?" We need to understand that the Bible speaks of the "Godhead" (Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9). What is the "Godhead" of which Paul speaks? The word translated here

indicates “the Divine presence of Godhood, the Personality of God” (W. E. Vines; Dictionary of New Testament Words, Vol. 1 p. 329). Compare this to “manhead” or “manhood.” There is only one “Man” (man hood, but there are millions of person in the “manhood.” There is one God (Godhood), but the Bible teaches that there are three persons in this Godhood or Godhead.

A man marries a wife, and they become “**one flesh**” (Matthew 19:5). Is there anyone who would deny Jesus’ statement that man and wife are **one**? And yet, would anyone be so absurd and say that they are “one person.” Surely not!

Christ and God are “one” in purpose, “one in intent, “one in essence, “one” in the eternal plan to save men. Yet they maintain individual personality. There is one God, manifested in three persons: God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Spirit. This harmonizes with what we read in Genesis 1:26, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:...” There is “one” God but the three persons we have mentioned are seen in the plural pronouns “us” and “our.”

When Jesus came to John to be baptized in Jordan, we find that Jesus “went straightway out of the water...he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17). Now, we all accept Matthew’s record as being inspired and therefore accurate, don’t we? It is now time to ask questions:

1. *If Jesus and The Holy Spirit are one person then what did Jesus see when he came out of the water? Was He looking in a mirror and seeing himself? The record says “He saw the Spirit of God in the form of a dove and lighting upon Him.” This is exactly what He saw. This being true, we see three distinct persons (1) The Father in heaven (2) The Spirit of God descending from heaven like a dove (3) Jesus, God the Son, coming out of the water. The doctrine that*

there is only “one person” in the Godhead does not harmonize with the holy scripture.

2. *If Jesus and the Father Are One Person, Then Who Spoke From Heaven? Was Jesus “throwing His voice”? What would be the purpose of such an act? Did someone actually speak from heaven as Matthew says? If so, then Jesus and the Father have individual and separate personalities. The voice came from **heaven**, but Jesus was on **earth** hearing the voice of the Father.*

Friends, the truth is so plain. There is truly one God, but He is manifested in **three persons**. The passage in Matthew chapter 3 is a perfect illustration of the fact. Here we see Jesus on the earth, the Holy Spirit descending as a dove and lighting upon Him, and the Father speaking from heaven all at **one and the same time**. The teaching of the “Jesus only” doctrine carried to its logical conclusions would make this the greatest “slight of hand” performance in history. God doesn’t deal in deceit and trickery. Why accept error when truth is so easy to believe? The truth alone will free you from the shackles of error and sin.

~via *Topics for Thought*, Haleyville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Lou Helms* continues recovering at home...*Faye Hammond* continues her rehabilitation at home ...*Brooke Phillips* had gall bladder surgery on Monday in Florence and is doing well ...*Melissa Martel* is scheduled to have knee surgery on Friday in Huntsville ...*Kerry Cox* was sick Wednesday night and was unable to be at Bible study ...Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ...*Marcia Cooper* and *Brian Word’s uncle, Paul McCafferty*, and *Aldeen Noles* are in 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *Corey Goode* continues working in Wilsonville, Alabama.

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning *Jean Ray* came forward confessing that she had not been faithful in her service to the Lord and asked for the prayers of the church on her behalf. We appreciate Jean and her desire to be right in the sight of God. May we all encourage her as she will encourage us in our spiritual journey through this life.

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE TIME: The elders are asking for any input considering the changing of the Sunday evening service meeting time from 6:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the winter months. Please let the elders know your thoughts concerning this time change and any adverse affects that it would cause.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Remember tonight will be the night for communication group 2 to meet follow our evening service. If you are in group two be sure to meet with you group tonight.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/SINGINGS: The *Brookhill church* in Killen will be engage in a singing school this week. They will meet Monday through Friday and have instruction for song leaders at 6:30 p.m. followed by congregational instruction at 7:30 with *R. J. Stevens* as the instructor...The *Piney Grove church* south of Tuscumbia is conducting a meeting through Wednesday with *Dwight McGee* preaching. Services Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m.



Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home
Bible Study
- When?** Sunday October 20th
after our evening service
- Where?** At the home of
David & Kerry Cox

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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