

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, October 6th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Psalm 23)
..... Ethan Pressnell
Prayer
..... Calus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Rocky Rose
Serving Ronnie Phillips
..... Dnaiel Clemmons
..... James Albert McConnell
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Psalm 24)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Best

Volume IX

October 6, 2002

No. 40

"If Anyone Is In Christ"

Earl Kimbrough

Christian character develops from two divine factors: who Christ is and what God does in him. Christ is God's Son and God saves through him. Christian character also develops from two human factors: what one is and what he does in Christ. Paul gives the essential qualities of the latter. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Christian Is a "New Creation." One becomes a new creature in Christ when he puts him on in baptism (Galatians 3:26-27). Apart from baptism there is no fellowship with Christ and no spiritual life in him. What avails in Christ is a new creation (Galatians 6:15). In baptism, one is buried, quickened, and raised with Christ (Colossians 2:12-13). As a result, he has forgiveness of sin and spiritual completeness in Christ. Having obtained these blessings, the Christian now directs his interest toward the things of God. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting on the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1-3).

The Christian Sheds the "Old Things." The old life of sin ends when one is born again. It is then that "our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin (Romans 6:3-6). The doing away with the old life of sin is accomplished in obeying the gospel, but it obligates the Christian "to walk in newness of life." Christ puts away the old sins, but we must continue to put to death our "members which are on the earth" (Colossians 3:5-11). Since we died to the world and its sinful ways, we must put to death all

persistent lusts that may lead to sin. They belong to the life, not to the new creation.

Although we died to the old life of folly and sin, yet in Colossians 3:5, Paul tells us to put to death. Mortifying “the old man of sin” is imperfect and never finished. Burkitt says: “The old man has a strong heart, and is a long time dying, after it has received its deadly wound: Sin lives a dying life, and dies a lingering death.” So, as Wesley says, it must be “put to death...with a continued stroke.” Christian character demands a constant warfare against the relics of sinful flesh that remain unsubdued by the spirit. The holiest of God’s children, after entering the state of grace through the gospel, have a daily duty in Christ to put sin to death.

The Christian Conforms To “the New.”

As the Christian adjusts his life to God’s will, he puts away the things of the flesh and replaces them with things befitting God’s new and living way. When we become new creatures in Christ, he makes all things new. But we retain that newness by walking in the light (1 John 1:7). Paul names some virtues that “the elect of God” are to put on. These include “tender mercies,

kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, if anyone has a complaint against another.” Continuing, he says, “But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.” He further exhorts “lets the peace of God rule in your hearts.” It is to this peace that Christians are called “in one body.” And we now have a new guide: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” (Colossians 3:12-17).

Second Corinthians 5:17 outlines the character that Christians develop, which is described more fully in Colossians 2:9-3-17. The Christian, as a new creature, lives in a different world that the one he knew as a sinner. His whole purpose now is to live for Christ. He recognizes his union with Him and the means of maintaining it. He divests himself of the old man with his deeds and arrays himself in the man that is “renewed in knowledge of Him who created him (Colossians 3:9-10). Here is the new character of the Christian in action. Christ entreats everyone to become a new creation in him, to put off the old life of sin, and put on the new of righteousness.

~via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 33 No. 9



A Cup of Cold Water

Kent E. Heaton

Many people seek fame and fortune in great things. Jesus taught that greatness is found in small things. The hypocrite of Matthew 6:2 sought greatness by sounding a trumpet before him in the synagogue and in the streets to receive glory from men. This adoration is temporary and fleeting. The child of God finds greatness in the small things of life and the smallness of heart.

The Lord taught: “And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he

shall by no means lose his reward” (Matthew 10:42). What is a cup of cold water? It is not much of a gift but how important the giving is. To a tired man on a hot day, a cup of cold water is worth all its weight in gold. But the cup is not the significance as much as the thought of giving. The motive of heart borne from a love of God is what is precious in the sight of God.

“Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two

mites, which make a quadran. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood” (Mark 12:41-44). The disciples find a contrast of people when viewing the wealth of those who put in much to a poor widow who threw in two mites. “A mite was a small coin made of brass, the smallest in use among the Jews. The two mites made a farthing ... worth about one-third of a cent.” (C. E. W. Dorris)

Her love was not based upon two mites but upon her love for God. She felt what she gave and giving was a sincere expression of devotion to the Lord. The size of the gift was much smaller. What God saw was of more value. To give a cup of cold water or two mites is not done to be seen of men. God is the one who sees the small things that we may do. Those who serve God for the praise of men are serving men not God.

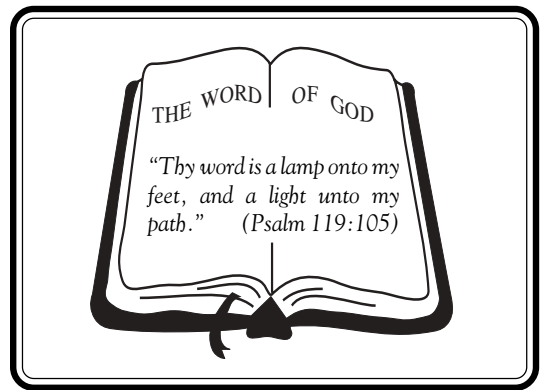
The judgment scene of Matthew 25 is a contrast of those who did small things and those who took no time for small things. To the ones on the right Jesus said, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me” (vs. 34-36). They did not understand why the Lord would say this. He responded that when they did it to the least of the brethren, they did it unto Him.

It may be the reason those on the left were cast away is because they considered such things small and trivial. They were condemned because they did not do it unto the least of the disciples. It was not the food or drink or visit that concerned the Lord. It was the heart of benevolence to care for someone – even with a cup of cold water. How often we look for the

large things to do when the small thing of the heart is what matters.

A single word, a touch, a phone call, a card – a moment in time. How valuable these things are to the lost souls who need the peace of God. God can do mighty things with small deeds. Who would have ever known about the small things that Dorcas had done save the Holy Spirit revealing unto us her message of kindness? (Acts 9:36-43) Naaman found relief from leprosy from a maiden from Israel. (2 Kings 5) Remember the cup of cold water.

~via *The Trenton Bulletin*, Trenton, Florida.



News & Notes

THE SICK: *Lou Helms* continues at home and is making progress in her recovery...*Faye Hammond* continues her rehabilitation at home ...*Brooke Phillips* is scheduled to have gall bladder surgery on Monday in Florence ...Remember *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, continues at home taking his medication... *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: *The Bests:* *Jerry and Mary* are back home after being out of town...***The Butlers:*** *Aric and Andrea* are away today on vacation in the mountains. They plan to return tomorrow ...***Sheila Moore*** continues on vacation and will be back this week...***Jim Phillips*** has been working in Birmingham this past week, but is now back home...***Corey Goode*** continues working in Wilsonville, Alabama.

OUR MEETING: Our meeting this past week with *Leon Mauldin* speaking was a very good meeting with excellent preaching. The attendance was good and had a good number of visitors from the area for which we are very thankful. Leon did a good job with the lessons he presented and we appreciate the the work he did. May the Lord continue to bless him with many more years to serve him.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: Meetings in progress this week that we need to remember and support if possible are the ***College Place church*** in Lawrenceburg. Sunday through Wednesday with *Tony Mauch* preaching. Services will begin each evening at 7:00...The ***River Bend church*** in western Lauderdale county is conducting a meeting through Friday with *Dwight McGee* preaching. Services Monday through Friday will begin at 7:00 p.m. ... The ***Posey church*** in Franklin County is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Danny Fuller* speaking. Services will be each evening at 7:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: *Averages for 3rd Qtr. 2002*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	87
	Morning Worship	101
	Evening Worship	79
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	74



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m. & Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

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

Evangelist & Editor

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

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Anderson church of Christ
P.O. Box 66
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