

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, November 24th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Psalm 42)
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Mark McIntyre
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Ronnie Phillips
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (Psalm 43)
..... Ethan Pressnell
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume IX

November 24, 2002

No. 47

Finding Fulfillment In Life

W. Frank Walton

"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13).

God's people of Judah rejected the long-term spiritual fulfillment found only in the true and living God. They foolishly opted for the short-term supply of worldly pleasure and idolatry. A cistern was an underground receptacle for holding water. God was like an ever flowing stream of fresh water, while Judah's worldly pursuits were like leaky, unreliable cisterns that ran dry. This world cannot provide the ultimate satisfaction we seek. "God made the human machine to run on Himself" (C.S. Lewis).

In *To the Best of My Ability*, a history of the American Presidents, it is interesting reading about the personality and pursuits of men who take on the biggest job in the world. Concerning President Lyndon Johnson, we read: "Throughout his life, LBJ suffered from a painful sense of inadequacy and emptiness. As is common with people afflicted with such problems, he filled the holes in his ego with womanizing, overeating, excessive drinking, and work. He once said of his affinity for work, 'I never think about politics more than eighteen hours a day.' He had little choice. It was a need. Likewise, Johnson always needed to be top dog – to be the best, eclipsing all those around him. When people mentioned John Kennedy's womanizing, he would bang the table and shout, 'Why I had more women by accident than he ever had on purpose!' Even relatively minor triumphs were savored by his...[such as] the first U.S. Senator to have a telephone installed in his limousine" (pp. 258-259).

Despite being a tireless worker to achieve his ambitious domestic political goals, Lyndon Johnson was so unpopular due

the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War that he declined to run for reelection in 1968 and within 5 years died, a broken man. He is not remembered as a greatly successful U.S. President. Did you know that he was baptized in Texas, as a youth, in the church of Christ?

God made man for Himself. He “has set eternity in their heart” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We have an eternal dimension, with a spiritual God-shaped void that only the God of heaven can fill. It’s like trying to run a car on kerosene; it wasn’t designed to work right on such. Our highest yearnings and deepest desires find refreshing vitality in a right relationship with God (Acts 17:26-27).

Jeremiah tells God’s erring, worldly people where they can find true fulfillment: “Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,’ declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23-24). When we pursue God, He changes us and we find spiritual, ultimate fulfillment. This is the greatest pursuit and most satisfying purpose of life. Anything less will leave us empty.

~via *Biblical E-Sights* Vol. 2 No. 32



Knowing and Doing

Jon W. Quinn

It takes more to serve God faithfully than having correct ideals. It takes more to being a moral and spiritual man or woman of God than to simply know the right things. Those who love God are not those with high and morally correct ideals unless those ideals are put into action. We can know the right things to do and not do them. A man by the name of Edmund

Burke once said, “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.”

A person who truly loves God is dedicated to righteousness. The Bible says, “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good” (Romans 12:9). James has quite a bit to say about putting knowledge to action, and negatively, the wastefulness of knowing but not doing. Note these points:

1) We must do what the law of liberty tells us to do to be blessed. “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:22-25).

2) We will be judged by what we say and do. “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty” (James 2:12).

3) We are not justified by faith alone. “You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone” (James 2:24).

4) It is not enough to merely know the right thing to do. “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).

Talk is cheap. There is more to godliness than looking down on immorality. Discipleship is active and positive in that which is good.

~via *Expository Files*, Vol. 9. No. 11



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Do You Pray?

Bill Hall

The worshipper who would pray in the assembly must do more than bow his head and close his eyes. He must pray. "Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uniformed say 'Amen' at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?" (1 Corinthians 14:16). This verse suggests four requirements if one is to enter into a prayer.

1. **He must listen to the prayer.** One cannot legitimately say "Amen" at the conclusion of a prayer if he has not listened to the prayer. "Mind-wandering" is an ever-present problem. We sing, but we don't observe the words of the song. We bow our heads, but we don't listen to the prayer. We sit through the sermon, but our minds wander to things of an earthly nature. Consequently, we attend worship periods, but we don't worship as we ought. If one is to pray, with the congregation, he must listen to the prayer.

2. **He must understand the prayer.** When a man in the first century led a prayer in an unknown tongue, the worshipper could not say "Amen," for he could not understand the language in which the prayer was spoken. Neither could the worshipper say "Amen" today if the leader has not spoken loudly enough to be heard or if he has used words or phrases which the worshipper does not understand. Those who lead prayers in the assembly should be conscious of the needs of the whole congregation, speaking up where all can hear and using words which all can understand.

3. **He must agree with the prayer.** A number of years ago, while sitting beside an older preacher, I observed his saying "Yes" or "Yes, Lord" at the conclusion of each separate phrase of the prayer as it was being led. He spoke the words softly enough that I was probably the only one in the assembly who

could hear them, but I was impressed. Obviously, this brother was listening to every phrase, determining whether or not he agreed with the phrase, and was then softly speaking his agreement. He was not just sitting through a prayer; he was praying. Occasionally, we hear sentiments expressed in prayer with which we do not agree. To these sentiments we cannot say "Amen."

4. He must say "Amen." The word "Amen" means "so let it be." We long to hear the strong, resounding "Amen" at the close of prayers which we used to hear. We fear that the move away from this practice is just another step toward cold, lifeless formality in our worship periods. We are not contending, however, that one must say the word "Amen" audibly; but we are suggesting that at least in his mind he should say "Amen," thus making the prayer his own prayer. He has listened to the prayer; he has understood the prayer; he has agreed with the prayer; now he speaks to God his "Amen" or approval of the prayer as his prayer. In this manner, he unites with other worshipers in common prayer unto God.

~via *The New Georgia Bulletin*, Rogersville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Lou Helms* had the pollups removed from her throat this past Wednesday and is unable to talk for a week. She will go back to the doctor on Wednesday.. *Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going to Florence for rehabilitation a couple of days a week ... *Sanda Martel* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night. . *Lakin Hammond* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be

at services, but is doing better now... **Jerry Best** fell this past Wednesday and was not able to be at Bible study, but is doing better now... **Ronnie Phillips** was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night following his back surgery last week... **Shelia Goode** was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... **Sandra Glass** has been sick recently and has been unable to be at services... Remember **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home... **Marcia Cooper's 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.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication Group four to meet. If you are in Group four, plan to meet with your group this evening.


OUT OF TOWN: The McConnells: James and Freda have been out of town for the past few weeks. They are now at home.

ANDERSON COMMUNICATOR: Be sure to pick-up your copy today of the Anderson Communicator. They are on the table in the vestibule.

THE RECORD: Averages for 3rd Qtr. 2002

Sunday: Bible Classes 87
 Morning Worship 101
 Evening Worship 79

Wednesday: Bible Classes 74

Remember: 

What? Young Adult Home
 Bible Study

When? Sunday, November 24th
 following our evening service.

Where? At the home of
 Curtis and Jamie Mosley

Subject? God's People of Distinction

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 5:00 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
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