

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, January 13th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Eph. 4:17-32)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Mark McIntyre
Serving Jerry Dickey
..... James Albert McConnell
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (Eph. 5:1-21)
..... Corey Goode
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Best

Volume IX

January 13, 2002

No. 2

The Reflection of Our Lives

David A. Cox

A mirror is a wonderful thing. It allows us to see our reflections so that we can make adjustments in our appearance as needed. The word of God is described by James as spiritual glass in which one may look and see the reflection of their soul (James 1:22-25). The mirror of the soul reveals the origin of our soul (Genesis 2:7), the ills and imperfections of the soul (Romans 3:10; 23; Isaiah 59:1-2); and the destiny of the soul (Matthew 25:31-46). Some may refuse to look in the mirror for the soul, but our eternal destiny depends on the reflection our soul gives from the word of God. With this in mind let's look at some ways the mirror of the soul must be used in order to give a proper reflection.

Frequently and Regularly. Imagine what each of us would look like if we never looked into a mirror and corrected our appearance. No one can keep up his personal appearance without frequent and a regular use of it. The same is true with the soul. We must frequently and regularly to examine our soul's appearance. The soul, being the eternal part of man, definitely is of greater importance than the body (Matthew 10:28). Should we not give greater attention to the soul than the body?

Skillfully. The Bible can meet the needs of every heart (2 Peter 1:3), but to do so the word of God must be used skillfully (2 Timothy 2:15). We must give ourselves wholly to a study and learning what the word of God teaches. This means that we must take what the Bible teaches without any preconceived ideas and prejudices. We will let the word of God stand alone and not look for support from the creeds and works of men. Learning from the "things which were written aforetime" (Romans 15:4) concerning the purpose of the law of Moses (Galatians 3:24-25;), and not

bringing the law of Moses into the dispensation of Christ (Galatians 3:13; Colossians 2:14).

Obediently. James teaches us that if we do not use the mirror of the soul obediently, all else will be in vain (James 1:22-24). Think about what one would say about an individual that would fail to make obvious corrections to his physical appearance when he looks into a mirror. But then think what must God think when one looks into the mirror of the soul and refuses to make the needed correction for his souls well being.

Let us understand that God expects our lives to be the constant reflection of His word. People ought to be able to see us, not necessarily as perfect people, but as people that are making corrections in our lives. And as time passes, a clearer and clearer reflection of the word of God. This will be done when we use the word of God frequently, regularly, skillfully and obediently. Then our lives will be a reflection of what God desires and expects (James 1:22-25).



The Power of Simplicity

Bill Hall

Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and “to the point” teaching. He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach some spiritual truth.

His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in

some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained was simple in nature. “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul spoke to them” (Acts 20:7). Even the poorest could worship, for all that was required of a material nature was a little bread and fruit of the vine. Those of little talent could worship, for God was listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1). There were no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There were no inter-church organizations or societies. Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for. The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter.

Why this simplicity? “That no flesh should glory in His presence” (1 Corinthians 1:29). The complex systems that men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the worldly-minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

We like the following quote from Ed Harrell: “How foolish we are to think that God will be

impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!" What He is seeking for is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that's simple.

~via *The Gospel Observer*, Avondale, Pennsylvania.



Pumkin Patch Christianity

Troy Nicholson

I recently received the following account given by someone about what it means to be a Christian: "It's like being a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all to see. It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."

The paragraph rightly points out that our salvation depends on both us and God. In spite of what some religious groups teach, we each must choose to obey God and live in such a way as to be saved. We must, as Paul says, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). We must choose to come to God. Also, God chooses us, and in a way that is similar to us choosing a pumpkin. When we choose a pumpkin, we normally look for one with certain characteristics – right size, good color, no defects, etc. Several passages speak of how God has predestined Christians (Ephesians 1:5; etc). That is, God "picks" those who gladly receive His word and adds them to the church (Acts 2:41, 47).

When we obey God, He washes all the

"dirt" off of us. He washes away our sins when we are buried in water (Acts 22:16). While we may have been filled with the seeds of hate, greed, and other sins, when we repent and obey Him we are washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We put off the old and put on the new (Ephesians 4:22-24).

A Christian has reason to adorn a smiling face. We see the gladness of the first Christians after receiving the word of God and being baptized (Acts 2:41, 46). We see the rejoicing of the eunuch and the jailer after they believed and were baptized (8:36-39; 16:30-34). We experience a room full of smiling faces every time lost souls express their belief in Jesus as the Christ and their desire to be baptized into Him.

Also, like the carved pumpkin, a Christian has a light within him. That light must shine for all to see (Matthew 5:14-15). Jesus says, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (:16). Just as the light shining within the pumpkin shows the work of the one who carved it, so does our light shining show God's work in us.

One area in which we may differ with the pumpkin illustration of Christianity is in choosing to leave the vine. Jesus calls Himself the vine, and we must abide in Him and depend on Him for our life, as a branch connected to the vine gets its life from the vine (John 15:5). Our rotting occurs when we are separated from the vine. Jesus says, "If anyone does not abide in Me (as the branch - TN), he is cast out as a branch and is withered" (:6). So let's stay on the vine and keep living.

~via *The Southport Sounder*, Indianapolis, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word's brother, Paul McCafferty*, continues in the ECM Hospital in Florence in ICU and not doing well ... *Emma, Ella and Ivy Wallen Wallen* have

been sick this past week...**Helen Trousdale** has been sick and unable to be at services this week...**Jessie and Austin Tucker** has been sick this past week with chicken pox...**Sheila Goode** is to have a cyst removed on Tuesday ...**Amber and Lakin Hammnd** have both ben sick and unable to be at services ...**Tyler Cox** was sick with strep throat and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...**Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey**, is in the Beverly Heath Care in Florence ...Remember **Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode**, as he is taking treatments in Athens... **Kerry Cox's grandfather, Coy Lowman**, continues about the same at home ... **Millinea Word** is taking medication treatments ... **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out ..**Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, and **Aldeen Noles** are in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ..**Sheila Moore's mother-in-law, Laurene Whitehead**, is in the Athens Convalescent Center ..**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 **Freda McConnell** and all the family in the passing of Freda's mother, **Tootsie Wray**, this past week. Her funeral was on Friday... Also we want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Sissy Clemmons** and **Ronnie Phillips** in the passing of their aunt, **Gertie Clemmons**, this past week in North Carolina The funeral will be on Monday.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for Communication group two to meet. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group.

Next Sunday evening, January 20th, will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Daniel Clemmons will be directing the service. Make your plans to be present as we sing songs of glory and praise to God.

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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