

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, January 20th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Eph. 6:1-24)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Claus Martel
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Jerry Dickey
Serving Scottie Goode
..... James Albert McConnell
..... Ronnie Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Michael Clemmons
Bible Reading (Phil. 1:1-18)
..... Claus Martel
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
..... Jerry Dickey
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Volume IX

January 20, 2002

No. 3

"The Potter and His Vessels"

Richie Thetford

There is a song we sing from time to time entitled "Have Thine Own Way". The first stanza of the song says "Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me After Thy will, While I am waiting, Yielded and still." What a beautiful song this is and when we as God's creation fully realize and understand that we are simply God's vessels and that He is the Potter (our maker), then we can humble ourselves to the point of doing whatever service we have been molded to do for the Lord!

The Vessels of God

God is truly our Potter. We can read this in the book of Jeremiah 18 verses 1-12, and also in Romans 9:22 where Paul says "What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:" Here, Paul likens us to the vessels of God and that is truly what we are. Have you ever noticed a potter working with his clay, molding that clay into a fine vessel? There is a lot of time and patience that is involved in the potter's work. Likewise, God has spent much time and effort in the creation of His vessels, you and I. In the verses pointed out above in Jeremiah and in Romans we can read where God is long-suffering with His vessels and does the very best He can with them. It is through us (His vessels) that we can see the riches of God's glory. "And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory" (Romans 9:23).

There are all kinds of vessels out there. There are some vessels of wrath (Romans 9:22), and there are even dishonorable vessels. Paul says "Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same

lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (Romans 9:21). He echoes those same words in 2 Timothy 2:20. But we can see from Romans 9:21 that there are also vessels of honour and of mercy (verse 23).

We Are Individual Vessels Made By God

God has molded each one of us into a vessel. But he has given each of us a mind of our own to either respect our maker (The Potter), or reject Him. The choice is entirely left up to us. That is why it is so important for us to realize that had it not been for "The Potter," we would not even be here today. Therefore, knowing this, why is it that so many still choose not to honour the very one who allowed us this opportunity to live and enjoy our short time on this beautiful earth that He also created. We can become honorable vessels unto the Lord by heeding the call. Paul says in Romans 9:23-24 "And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?" One heeds the call of God by simply obeying His commandments (John 14:15).

Characteristics of An Honorable Vessel

The characteristics of an honorable vessel is that one is sanctified, fit for use, and prepared for all good works. This is what the apostle Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:21, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." One must purge themselves from evil and join himself with doing the things of honour, approved unto God almighty. Then when one proves himself to be a vessel of honour unto the Lord certain glory will result as Paul says in Romans 9:23. What is that glory? The same glory as Paul was sensing when he told Timothy "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8). When we prove ourselves a worthy vessel, one that is serving the

purpose that God designed for us to do, then we can enjoy a life eternal with God our Potter. But when we decide to do our own thing and rebel against our maker then our end is certain destruction (Romans 9:22). Why not let "The Potter" (God) have His own way with His vessels (you and me)?

~via *The Castleton Light*, Indianapolis, Indiana.



Do You Feel Insignificant?

Allen Dvorak

My family vacationed in the western part of our country several years ago, visiting the Grand Canyon and driving up the California coast. We visited the Sequoia National Park in California and saw the giant sequoia redwood trees. Near the particular tree named the General Sherman tree, there is a "slice," weighing several tons, from a sequoia that died. Sequoias not only grow to be enormous, they live for a very long time. While a tree is alive, its age can only be estimated; but once it dies and is cut crosswise, its age can be more accurately determined. According to the plaque fastened to this monstrous piece of wood, the tree from which the "slice" had been cut was approximately 2,400 years old when it died.

I don't know how long ago that tree died, but let's assume for the sake of ease that it died in 1990. It follows that this particular sequoia sprouted and began growing in approximately the year 410 B.C. As I looked at this tree "slice," I began to think of all the Biblical and secular history it had spanned during its lifetime. The Jews had recently rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem under Nehemiah's leadership when this tree was a seedling. By the time it had attained the average height for a Sequoia redwood (in about 80 years) Alexander the Great had already begun his conquest of the known world. It lived through (although on a

different continent) the entire inter-testamental period, the life of Jesus and the period of history covered by the book of Acts. It was thriving in America when Europe was plunged into the dark ages and still growing when Columbus set foot on the new world. It saw the beginning of our country and the struggles which have transpired in the United States. Who can say how many people were born, lived and died while this majestic giant stood quietly in the forest?

Sequoias live so long because they are well protected from the natural enemies of trees. Their root systems make them able to withstand long periods of drought. Their bark is actually fire-resistant, helping them to survive forest fires, and contains a chemical called tannin which repels insects and pests. But, despite all these natural advantages, even sequoias eventually die.

I felt very small and insignificant standing next to these giant trees. And yet, for all their beauty, great size and age, they are not the crown of God's creation. Man is. We are made in the image of God, given a soul which will not die, that is, pass out of existence (Genesis 1:26). God sent His Son to die on the cross, manifesting His great love, not for giant sequoias, but for sinful men. We do not live in this world even as long as the average sequoia, but God has made preparations for our future. Our destiny, however, will be determined by our short stay in this world. Where will your soul spend eternity?

~via *News and Notes*, Madison, Alabama.



Content To Answer

Robert F. Turner

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were called before the king and faced charges of refusing to worship the golden image he had erected, Nebuchadnezzar asked, "Who is that

god that shall deliver you out of my hands?" Things looked pretty dark.

But they replied, "We have no need to answer thee in this matter" (AS). The King James version reads, "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter" (Daniel 3:15-16). The thought seems to be, we will not choose our words carefully – concerned lest we offend; we will not try to "talk our way out of" this situation. And they added, "Our God is able to deliver us" (if it suits His purposes to do so) "but if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

Several years back, a preacher said John (the Immerser) "lost his head" because he "lost his head" – he was not tactful in his criticism of Herod. John had said, of Herod's marriage to his brother Philip's wife, "It is not lawful for thee to have her" (Matthew 14).

John was not "careful to answer," someone might say. Well, he certainly was not trying to "butter up" the king. On the other hand, John and the captive Jews of Daniel 3, were very careful to maintain their faith in God and to court His approval. John lost his head, and the three Hebrews were thrown into the fiery furnace, but each gained more than he lost. We "have no need" for any man's approval as we have need for God's approval.

Jesus said, "Fear not those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell" (Matthew 10:28).

We are not advocating crudeness! Daniel's brethren were respectful to the king; and love for souls will forbid our becoming a bully with the truth. Shouting, stomping pronouncements of damnation are often signs of weakness, while genuine strength is accompanied by humility. But genuine strength speaks truthfully, directly and clearly, regardless of temporal consequences – and because of inevitable eternal consequences.

~via *Focus Magazine*, Vol. 5 No. 3

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word's brother, Paul McCafferty*, continues in the ECM Hospital in Florence in ICU... *Jessie and Austin Tucker* have continued to suffer with the chicken pox this past week ...*Sheila Goode* had a cyst removed on Tuesday and all reports are good ...*Lou Ann Phillips* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Cindy Pressnell* was not feeling well and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Amber Hammond* has been sick and unable to be at services ..*Billy Wallen* has not been feeling well this week...*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 ..*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 *Allen and Shelia Moore and Roger Mosley and all the family* in the passing of Allen's mother and Roger's aunt, *Laurene Whitehead*, on Friday. Her funeral will be this afternoon.

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

Tonight is the time for our regular scheduled song service. Michael 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
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