

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 27th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Phil. 2:1-18)
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Larry White
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Jerry Best
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Phil. 2:19-30)
..... Jason White
Prayer
..... Claus Martel
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume IX

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No. 4

Circumstances

Robert F. Turner

A slave convinced himself he would obey his master – if the master were “reasonable” in his demands and appreciative of his service. Peter said to obey even the “froward” master “for conscience toward God” “for this is acceptable with God” (1 Peter 2:18).

A wife said her husband was not a Christian, so why should she be subject to him? Peter said she should adorn herself “in the sight of God,” and she might win her husband by her chaste manner of life (1 Peter 3:1-6).

A child thought his parents didn’t understand him, so he couldn’t please them, no matter how he tried. But Paul said, “obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord” (Colossians 3:20).

A woman thought she couldn’t worship God in a city filled with people she had been taught to shun; but Jesus said that true worship was done in spirit and truth, regardless of the location (John 4:23-24).

We blame our failures on external circumstances – all would be well if only the surroundings were changed – when the problem is within. If we were changed, we would see our circumstances differently. We would look beyond the immediate and inconsequential surroundings to the One whose judgment is the final word. What does God want of me? What is His will for me? How can I best serve Him?

A church spends thousands of dollars for a “place” of worship, yet may do little to improve the actual “place of worship” – the

hearts of its members. Call it to their attention and they will have a business meeting – dim the lights – change the order of “service” – more externals!! It’s like seeking happiness in things of life, and doing nothing to change the heart that must use the things.

Genuine Christianity changes the slave, not the master; the wife, not her circumstances. A child of God is content “in whatsoever state” he may be (Philippians 4:11-13), for he can “do all things through Christ...” He knows there is a circumstance beyond immediate circumstances – the love of, and obligation to, the heavenly Father.-

~via *Plain Talk*, Burnett, Texas.



Fellowship With God

Evan Bennett

It is important for all of us to develop a strong relationship with God. He created us in His image and desires that we seek Him (see Acts 17); He is not far removed from us, but desires that we draw near to Him. Indeed, the greatest result of Christ’s sacrifice for us is that it removes the barrier of sin that kept us from drawing near to God (Romans 5:10).

Despite the importance of fellowship with the Father, many are confused as to how to build a strong relationship with Him. With our physical mindset it is very difficult to focus on spiritual concerns, which is required if we hope to approach God. For this reason, many remain frustrated in their attempts to grow spiritually as Christians. Many follow God and seek to do His will, but they never develop the relationship with Him that they both want and need.

If we want to understand how to develop a strong relationship with God, we would do well to examine the lives of those people who we

know were strong, faithful people of God. The Bible is filled with such people – Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Daniel, et. al. – but one person, I think, comes to everyone’s mind when thinking of God’s faithful people: David.

In the 63rd Psalm, David spoke of the joy of having fellowship with God. Speaking of the deeply personal relationship he had with the Father, David wrote, “O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirst for You; my flesh longs for You...” Despite his shortcomings, David had a deep and abiding relationship with the Father. God himself testified that David was a man after His own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). David, then, should be an example to us all when we seek to have a deeper relationship with God. His actions should be guides for us; his thoughts and motives should serve as a model. In the 63rd Psalm, where David spoke so beautifully of his relationship with God, we find clues for understanding how David developed this relationship. Studying these words should aid us all in drawing more closely to our Lord.

Praise

The first lesson we learn from David’s psalm is that our relationship with God must be built on praise of Him. In verses 3-5, David wrote, “Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with Joyful lips.”

David recognized the glory and majesty of God and gave Him praise for this. David knew God’s power and His mercy and was thankful for everything God provided. David satisfied his heart with the knowledge of God’s greatness; he soothed his mind with thoughts of God’s love.

If we are going to have a strong relationship with the Father, we must first recognize His majesty and glory. We cannot approach God proudly or arrogantly. Instead, we must, as Peter put it, “humble ourselves under the mighty

hand of God,” (1 Peter 5:6) and approach Him with lowliness of heart, recognizing His authority, and willing to do His will above all else. We must first recognize and praise His majesty if we hope to draw near to Him.

Meditation

The second thing needed for a strong relationship with God is a commitment to turn our minds to His ways. David wrote in verse 6, “When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.” David, in other words, made sure that his last thoughts of the day were on God. He gave his mind over to the things of God, meditating on His word day and night.

If we hope to have a strong, personal relationship with the Father, we must turn our minds to godly things. This is not an easy task; our minds, by nature, are feeble and cannot comprehend the true things of God. As God said in Isaiah 55:9, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

We must train our minds, then, to think on God’s things. We must give time to a study of His word and meditation on His things. The relationship we have with God must be spiritual, so we must give our minds over to spiritual concerns. It does not come naturally, but from training our hearts and minds to seek God.

David sought to meditate on God’s things to make His fellowship with the Father stronger and deeper. We, too, must seek to meditate on the thoughts and words of God if we hope to draw more closely to Him.

Follow Him

Finally, if we hope to have a stronger relationship with God, we must walk in His ways being led by Him. David wrote in verse 8, “My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.” David followed after God, as a child follows his father, in order to build a strong relationship with Him.

This is our requirement as well. As Chris-

tians, we have dedicated to following Christ (Luke 9:23). In doing this, we have committed ourselves to walk in God’s pathways. Like David, we must walk in the paths of God, being directed by Him into all that is good and holy.

This will not always be easy. Satan’s goal is to turn us away from the paths of God to walk in the ways of destruction. He will use all manner of temptation to draw us away from God, and we must steel our minds and our feet to walk in the way of God. This requires that we become stronger in the knowledge of the Lord, that we grow in faith, and that we take on the attributes of our Father.

Drawing close to God is not an easy task, but not because He is difficult to approach. No, the difficulty lies in us, in our willingness to do those things that are pleasing in His sight. God desires that all people draw near to Him. We must simply do those things that will allow us to: praise Him, meditate on His things, and walk in His paths.

~via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word’s brother, Paul McCafferty*, is back in the ICU at ECM Hospital in Florence after going to a room for a couple of days... *Jessie and Austin Tucker* are now better after being sick with the chicken pox ... *James McConnell* was sick and not able to be at services last week ... *Onzell Tucker* was unable to at services last weekend due to a bad knee... *Larry White* was not feeling well and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Michael Clemmons* was not able to be

out Wednesday night due to sickness, but is now doing better...**Sadie McIntyre** has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ..**Billy Wallen and Emma Wallen** were sick last week and unable to be at services, but are now doing better...**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..

CONFESSION: This past Wednesday night **Sam Noles** came forward confessing sin and asking for forgiveness. I appreciate Sam and his determination to do that which is right and to live a life that would please God. May the Lord grant Sam strength as he lives his life in service to Him.

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



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: dacob@hiwaay.net

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P.O. Box 66
Anderson, Alabama 35610

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