

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, February 10th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Col. 1:15-29)
..... Eddie Hammond
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Scottie Goode
Serving.. James Albert McConnell
..... Jerry Best
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Col. 2:1-23)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
Closing Prayer
..... Phil Pressnell

Volume IX

February 10, 2002

No. 6

Why Are Our Homes In Trouble?

Carlton G. McPeak

The home is in deep trouble in our country. The number of people living together before marriage is on the increase. The divorce rate is constantly rising. There is an overwhelming number of children being born without both parents to raise them. What is the cause of such behavior? Why are our homes in such trouble?

This article is not designed to give us all the answers but to cause us to think about some of the immediate causes. What biblical principles can we employ to remove this situation?

For beginners we must convince ourselves that the family must begin with a male and a female who are committed to one another until one party dies (Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:39). When God made humanity He created them male and female. He did not create two males or two females. He created one male and one female and they were called "man and his wife" (Genesis 2:25). Only a "man and his wife" can create a child (Genesis 4:1), not two males or two females.

We must convince ourselves that a male and a female "living with each other" and not married to each other is immorality. Some might ask, what difference would it make if we are "legally married" or just living together? God says for us to be married (Matthew 19:4-6) and to obey the laws of the land (Romans 13:1). To not be married is to commit immorality, which is a sin, and such a sin without being repented of will prohibit one from going to heaven (Galatians 5:19-21). The Bible defines a "one night stand" with someone as immorality.

Next we must convince ourselves that it is the responsibility

of both the mother and the father of the child to raise that child. It is the responsibility of the parents (“fathers”) to bring up their children “in the discipline and instructions of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). How can this be if there is no father in the house? How can this be if both parents are females? Who will be the mother if both parents are male? Children are a gift from the Lord (Psalms 127:30). How could we be so careless with a gift from God by not giving it the care and protection and training it deserves? A mother and a father must be present in the home.

But just having a mother and a father in the house will not necessarily produce good children. The parents must convince themselves that they are the trainers of the children and whatever the child learns, more than likely the parents have taught them (Proverbs 22:6).

We must also convince ourselves that divorce is not the answer to the problems in marriage. The Lord said that He hated divorce

(Malachi 2:16). Jesus gave one exception for divorce and that was when there was adultery involved. The party who did not commit the adultery is allowed by the Lord to divorce their spouse and remarry with the adulterer being forced to remain single the rest of his/her life (Matthew 19:9). God wanted the parents to work out their differences and not have man separate what He “has joined together” (Matthew 19:6).

What is the solution to our home problem? Each person, whether they be male or female, must decide that they are going to find a spouse who is committed to making a marriage last until one of them dies. Each male or female is not going to have sexual relations with the opposite sex until they are married. If we will do what God designed from the very beginning (Mark 10:6,7) then the troubles in our homes will be solved. Are you convinced that God’s way will solve our troubles in our homes?

~via *The Daily-Citizen*, Dalton Georgia.



Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns

Sewell Hall

“Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them” (Hebrews 2:1, ASV).

The word drifting aptly describes the process of apostasy. It is seldom accomplished by giant leaps; rather it is the result of short steps. The steps appear to be only the slightest variation from the accepted truth and altogether innocent, but each one is used as justification for the next one until truth has been left completely, even by individuals who would never have dreamed it possible.

We have known of congregations where a piano was first allowed in the basement to teach children how to sing. But having learned with it, the children continued to need it in their Bible classes. Once this was allowed, someone

asked the difference in young folks and adults – the difference in Wednesday night and Sunday night. No logical difference could be shown so it was allowed at those times. Then someone had only to point out the inconsistency in using it Sunday night and refusing it Sunday morning, and from then on it was used at all services, a thing that would have been opposed when the piano was first moved into the basement.

A group of Americans preaching in Africa said they were strongly opposed to churches of Christ operating a hospital in the United States. But they thought churches could and should support a nurse in Nigeria to treat wounds and minor illnesses. But once the nurse was supported, a hospital was proposed. Anyone who objected would be asked, “If you can support a

nurse and clinic, why not a doctor and hospital?" No logical difference could be shown, so the hospital was built. Now often heard is a proposal for a Church of Christ Hospital in the United States. The argument: "If we can do it in Nigeria, why not here?" Granted that premise, no sound reason can be given. It all started with letting a church support a nurse.

A church we know has a kitchen. They defend it on the grounds that it costs the church nothing. The kitchen and equipment were in the building when it was purchased and they have a minimum electric and water bill each month, anyway. But a generation will arise that is accustomed to the kitchen. They will want to build a new building and they will want a kitchen. Their argument will be "We've always had a kitchen. If we could have it in the old building, why not in the new?" There will be no chance of keeping it out.

In our town, a kindergarten is beginning in the meetinghouse of one of the churches. In a news item, it is stated, "The kindergarten will be at the church, but will not be operated by the church." This will satisfy the minds of many who would object to the church operating or supporting a school of any kind.

But one of these days another step will be proposed. It may be opening a first grade. If someone objects, the question will be raised, "But what is the difference in a first grade and kindergarten?" There is no difference, so the opposition will be silenced and the way will be clear for second grade, third grade, etc., etc.

But some day the school will need to be subsidized. Those opposed to support of education will rise up to object. But someone will say, "It's true we haven't been contributing from the treasury, but we have been providing a place for the school and it has been using the name of the church. Now if we can contribute facilities and influence, why not money?" That question will be hard to answer, for there is no difference and the opposition will then be silenced.

From this, the next logical step will be to

send money to a college, for, after all, what is the difference between contributing to our own school and contributing to one operated by someone else? And it all began with a kindergarten, which "will be at the church, but will not be operated by the church."

Truly, "Mighty Oaks from little acorns grow." The mistake is ever allowing an acorn to get mixed with the seed of the kingdom. Every innovation, regardless of how small, must be rejected, not only for its own sake, but also for the sake of attendant corruptions that will surely follow in its train.

~via *The Graphic Evangelist* Athens, Alabama.



Grieving God

Billy Norris

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

In the Patriarchal Age sin grieved God. "Then the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thought of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart" (Genesis 6:5-6). In the Mosaic Age sin on the part of His chosen people grieved God... "I was crushed by their adulterous heart..." (Ezekiel 6:9). In our dispensation Christians are not giving opportunity to the devil, by walking as the Gentiles walk, by lying, stealing, using corrupt speech (Ephesians 4).

Rather than grieve God by our sins, we can bring joy to heaven. "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance...Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

~via *Gospel Guide*, Vol. 33 No. 2.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Signa Skipworth* was not able to be at services this past week due to her bout with fleabitis. She is now doing better ... **Sam Noles** has been not well this past week and will be having oral surgery on Wednesday... **Millinea Word's brother, Paul McCafferty**, was moved into room 173 at the ECM hospital in Florence this past Friday... **Ethan and Ella Wallen** were both sick this past weekend, but are now better ... **Billy Wallen's grandmother, Tex Hooie**, was taken to the Hospital in Florence on Saturday and is in CCU... **James Albert McConnell's cousin, Sue Fraizer**, is back in the ECM hospital in Florence room 272 following surgery .. **Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey**, is in the Beverly Heath Care in Florence ... Remember **Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode**, as he continues treatment... **Kerry Cox's grandfather, Coy Lowman**, continues 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..

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

THANK YOU: I want to express my appreciation to **Marvin Taylor** for preaching for me last Sunday night and to **Michael Clemmons** for teaching my Bible class on Wednesday evening while I was away attending the lectures at Florida College. The lectures were very good and I appreciate the opportunity to attend gain this year.

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

U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Bulk Rate
 Anderson, Alabama
 Non-Profit
 Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ
 P.O. Box 66
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested