

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, February 3rd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Phil. 3:17-4:9)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Michael Clemmons
Serving Ray Tucker
..... Mark McIntyre
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Phil. 4:10-23)
..... Jason White
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Volume IX

February 3, 2002

No. 5

To Live Is Christ

David A. Cox

In Philippians 1:21 Paul says, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." It is evident from what Paul says here that for the Christian, life is attractive and inviting even though it may be filled with many trials and tribulations. This may seem strange to many people, but for the faithful child of God it is not. Let us consider why Paul could make such a statement.

Why Life Is So Great As One Serves Christ

Many people do not see the Christian's life as great. They see life as filled with restrictions that suppress the so-called "joys" of life and that the Christian life still suffers trials, sickness, sorrow, etc. But to the Christian even though life is filled with the many problems it is still a life of hope, joy and peace. The Christian recognizes that what appears joyful in this life is fading and fleeting (Hebrews 10:25). As we think about Paul, his life was one that served self as a Jew and as a Jew, he could have much confidence. But it was not the enduring hope, joy and peace that is in Christ (Philippians 3:3-12). Paul viewed the Christian's life as worth living even though it was filled with many undesirable things. Paul recalls some of these things when writing to the Corinthians concerning his life, "...in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness" (2

Corinthians 11:23-27). As one looks at this they may wonder why Paul would speak with joy about living the life of a Christian. The matter of fact is that he did and even wrote this while being a prisoner (Philippians 1:13-14).

The reason why Paul possessed this attitude toward life is because his whole life was absorbed into serving Christ. His life was truly a life of devotion and sacrifice to Christ (Romans 12:1). Many people believe that happiness is only found in health and wealth, but actually there can be no real happiness apart from living the righteous life. Notice Paul's desire to live was only if he could continue to serve the Lord.

How can a life that seemed to be so filled with problems be a joyful thing to Paul? There seems to be two reasons for this:

1. He did not dwell in the past (Philippians 3:13). Many fail to see the joy of life when trying to re-live the past. Let us do as Paul did by not reliving the past.
2. He focused on Christ (Philippians 3:14). This is evident as we hear Paul say "To live is Christ". This shows that Christ was more than just a part of Paul's life, but that Christ was the center, the focus, the aim of his life.

As I think about what Paul said about hope, joy and happiness in Christ, it reminds me of what Dale Oldham wrote:

*Life was shattered and hope was gone
Crushing the load that I bore;
Then out of the depths I cried "O God,
Please give me something worth living for."
O the joy of sins forgiv'n
Nothing's the same as before;
My life overflows since Jesus came
And gave me something worth living for."
Something more than my yesterdays,
More than I had before,
Something more than wealth or fame –
He gave me something worth living for.*

May God help us to see the joy and hope that the Christian life is and may we live that life with all the joy, peace and happiness that comes from knowing the God we serve.

They Can't Live It

Bill Hall

Many who have never entered the Lord's service explain their hesitancy with the words, "I'm afraid I just can't live it." We usually try to quell their fears, but the truth is, they can't live it, for their concept of what it is they are trying to live is a completely false concept.

Consider the man whose wife became a Christian. He was sure she couldn't "live it." He watched her carefully, and sure enough, one day under considerable stress, she lost control, yelled at the children, and said some things a Christian ought not to say. "If she were a Christian," the man thought, "she wouldn't talk like that; I knew she couldn't live it." On another day the preacher came around, and in reaction to something someone said, he turned a bit red, although he otherwise controlled his temper. But the man saw the tinge of redness, and immediately he concluded, "That preacher can't live it either." He eventually observed faults in other Christians, and finally concluded that none of them could "live it," that the whole church was a bunch of hypocrites. Of course he never even tried, for he knew his weaknesses all too well. He knew he couldn't "live it."

Poor man! He thinks that the Christian life is a life of perfection; that all "Christians" fall into one of two categories: either they are perfect or they are hypocrites. He knows he can't live up to perfection, to the standards he has set for others, and is thinking with an almost self-righteous attitude, "One thing about it, Preacher, I'm not going to be a hypocrite."

But, there is pardon for the sincere Christian's imperfections. "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). And that Christian who sincerely strives to live for the Lord, and daily seeks His forgiveness, though he should have a thousand weaknesses, is no hypocrite.

There are hypocrites in the church, and we offer no defense in their behalf. But weaknesses do not necessarily imply hypocrisy.

Let the faithful Christian, then, not be intimidated by the constant charge of "hypocrites in the church." And let the sinner forget about living "it," if by "it" he means perfection, and let him come to Christ, through whom he can go to heaven.

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



Winter Quarter 2002 Begins

We began our winter quarter in our Bible classes this past week. We are looking forward to this quarter and the teachers for this quarter are as follows:

Nursery:

Donna Rose/
Tisha Thomas (Sunday morning)
Charlotte Dickey/
Betty White (Wednesday night)

Pre-school:

Marla Clemmons/
Wanda Tucker (Sunday morning)
Lisa Word/
Shelia Moore (Wednesday night)

Primary:

Kerry Cox (Sunday morning)
Cindy Pressnell (Wednesday night)

Intermediate:

Daniel Clemmons (Sunday morning)
Scottie Goode (Wednesday night)

Jr. High School:

Phil Pressnell (Sunday morning)
Ronnie Phillips (Wednesday night)

HighSchool:

Claus Martel (Sunday morning)
Claus Martel (Wednesday night)

Young Adult:

Michael Clemmons (Sunday morning)
Rocky Rose (Wednesday night)

Adult:

David Cox (Sunday morning)
David Cox (Wednesday night)

I want to express my appreciation to all of those who taught this past quarter for their work and dedication. We had a very good quarter. I am eagerly looking forward to this quarter and hope that all who can will be present and prepared for our periods of Bible study. There are classes for all ages. If you come and join us in a study together of God's Word, I know that you will be glad you did.

(D.A.C.)

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word's brother, Paul McCafferty*, is in the ECM Hospital in Florence in CCU..... *Marla Clemmons* was feeling better after being sick over the weekend and was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night .. *Mary Best* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night .. *James McConnell* was not feeling well and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night .. *Millinea Word* was sick and unable to be at services this past week .. *Savannah Sledge* came home from the hospital on Wednesday after a couple of days. She is doing well.. *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 Louman*, continues about the same at home ... *Millinea Word* is taking medica-

tion 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..

PICTURES: Beginning on March 3rd, **Claus Martel** will be making new pictures of everyone here for our pictorial directory. Remember to get with Claus to get your picture made.

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

OFF TO LECTURES: I will be leaving after services this morning to attend the lectures at Florida College. I am looking forward to attending the lectures again this year, but will miss being here and with my family.

SPEAKING TONIGHT: Tonight in my absence, **Marvin Taylor** will be here to preach. I appreciate Marvin's willingness to fill in for me and I know that you will profit from your studying together.

THE RECORD: *Averages for January 2002*

Sunday: Bible Classes 82
 Morning Worship 97
 Evening Worship 63

Wednesday: Bible Classes 62



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

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