

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, March 17th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (1 Tim. 1:1-20)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Claus Martel
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Scottie Goode
Serving Jerry Best
..... Eddie Hammond
..... Ronnie Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Daniel Clemmons

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (1 Tim. 2:1-15)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
Closing Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume IX

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No. 11

Playing By The Rules

Kipp Campbell

Knute Rockne, the famed coach of Notre Dame, once said, "You fellows must do what you're told if you wish to play on my team. If you are not willing, you need not begin. I care not what your record has been, you must observe the rules or you are disqualified. Should I find you violating the rules in one single instance, I will put you on the bench. Remember this, I can see farther ahead than you, and there is good reason for my insistence." Not many people will dispute the fact that Coach Rockne was one of the greatest football coaches of all time. This was shown not only through his coaching prowess, but also by his reasoning. He understood the importance of abiding by the rules— his rules! The same holds true for Christians today. If we expect to please God we must "play" by His rules. Notice with me two distinct individuals and their different attitudes concerning the rules of God.

In 2 Kings 5 we read of the man Naaman. Naaman was a captain in the army of the king of Aram and was also a leper. When it was told to him by Elisha what he needed to do in order to be fully restored, he went away angry. Naaman expected a lot more from this man of God than to just be told to dip in the dirty Jordan River seven times (vs. 11-12). In fact, he felt it should be more of a ceremony. He wanted Elisha to come out, wave his arms around and call on the name of the Lord – he wanted a show. All he needed to do, though, was dip in the river seven times and he would have been made whole! He chose, however, to get angry and ask a lot of questions.

In Genesis 22 we find a different person, but one who was still in the same situation as Naaman. God told Abraham to

sacrifice his only son (22:2). Abraham not only did what the Lord requested of him, but he got up early in the morning and began his journey (v. 3), showing that he was willing to do what God asked of him – no matter how extraordinary the circumstances might be. Abraham didn't cry, moan, complain, or ask questions. He understood how important it was to serve God and do His will. Abraham submitted himself to following the rules of God.

If people today expect to attain heaven we must, like Abraham, follow the rules of God in every aspect of our lives. Whether it be in the realm of salvation (being baptized for the remission of our sins – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38) or in living our lives for Him (James 2:24,26), we must submit ourselves to God's commands. Remember, there is good reason for God's insistence.

~via *The Clarksville Beacon*, Clarksville, Indiana.



Crucifixion

W. Frank Walton

“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:9-10).

It was unanimously considered the most horrible form of death. Among the Romans, the degradation was also a part of the infliction. The punishment, if applied to freemen, was only used in the case of the vilest criminals.

F. W. Farrar wrote, “The one to be crucified was stripped naked of all his clothes, and then followed the most awful moment of all. He was laid down upon the implement of torture. His arms were stretched along the cross-beams, and

at the center of the open palms the point of a huge iron nail was placed, which, by the blow of a mallet, was driven home into the wood. Then through either foot separately, or possibly through both together, as they were placed one over the other, another huge nail tore its way through the quivering flesh. Whether the sufferer was also bound to the cross we do not know; but, to prevent the hands and feet being torn away by the weight of the body, which could not rest upon nothing but four great wounds, there was, about the center of the cross, a wooden projection strong enough to support, at least in part, a human body, which soon became a weight of agony...

Then the ‘accursed tree’ with its living human burden was slowly heaved up and the end fixed firmly in a hole in the ground. The feet were but a little raised above the earth. The victim was in full reach of every hand that might choose to strike. A death by crucifixion seems to include all that pain and death can have of the horrible and ghastly — dizziness, cramp, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, traumatic fever, tetanus, publicity of shame, long continuance of torment, horror of anticipation, mortification of untended wounds, all intensified just up to the point at which they can be endured at all, but all stopping just short of the point which would give to the sufferer the relief of unconsciousness. The unnatural position made every movement painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish; the wounds, inflamed by exposure, gradually gangrened; the arteries, especially of the head and stomach, became swollen and oppressed with surcharged blood; and, while each variety of misery went on gradually increasing, there was added to them the intolerable pang of a burning and raging thirst. Such was the death to which Christ was doomed.” (Life of Christ, pp. 497-499).

So, why would God stand by and watch His Son be abused, spit upon, tortured and killed by calloused pagans and religious hypocrites? John says it is the supreme example of the Father's

love for sinners like us. How could Jesus take the humiliation, excruciating pain and shameful spiritual stigmatization as our sin bearer? He loves us, everyone, as if we are the only one (Ephesians 5:2). The saying is: love, not nails, held Jesus to the cross.

At the cross, God's hatred of sin and His amazing grace to the sinner is forever demonstrated. In the gospel plan of salvation, God's sacrificial part allowed him to punish sin and satisfy justice, while allowing His love to give fallen man a second chance to live by submissive faith (Romans 3:23-27).

No one has ever or will ever love me like that. The sacrificial love of every man by Christ, shown at the cross, is the positive drawing power of the gospel (John 12:32). Paul could never quite get over such unfathomable love: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20).

When we suffer or are sad or discouraged, look back to the cross and receive renewed motivation to live in obedience to the Savior. He gave His all for the likes of me. It is a joy and privilege to give my all for Him.

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 2 No. 4



Looking In The Wrong Places

Evan Bennett

People have been searching for the meaning of life since Adam, it seems, and their pursuit extends into our own day. Take a moment the next time you enter the bookstore to simply measure the shelving dedicated to books about spirituality, religion, and self-improvement. Thousands of forests and millions of trees have been given in the cause of explaining why we are here and how we should

live.

It is a sad fact that most of those trees died in vain; so many of those writers are simply wrong in their philosophy and advice. It is even sadder fact that so many spend their time chasing meaning in the books of men. Rather than looking to God's word, which gives us "all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him, (2 Peter 1:3), people continue to search vainly in the minds of self-help gurus and prosperity prophets for the meaning of their lives.

In this, they are like the people of Israel who sought refuge in their neighbors rather than returning to God. "Woe to the rebellious children," God proclaimed in Isaiah 30:1-2, "who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; who walk to go down to Egypt, and have not asked My advice, to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt."

When we turn to human wisdom to explain the purpose of our lives, we ignore God's counsel and seek advice from the wrong sources. Like Israel, we look in the wrong place for help, and because of this, we will meet our destruction. We should instead turn to the pages of God's word when we want to know the meaning of life. When we do, we will find that Solomon answered the question long ago: "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all," (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

~via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, is in the Huntsville East Hospital room 347... *Angie McCrary* is scheduled to have surgery next Monday, March 25th at Keller Hospital in Sheffield.. Jerry **Best** was sick and unable to be at services Wednesday night ...*Alyssa Thomas* has also been sick with a virus this past week and was unable to be out

Wednesday... Remember **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out ...**Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, and **brother, Paul McCafferty**, along with **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..

BAPTISM: We are rejoicing this week of the decision of **Ethan Pressnell** to put on his Lord in Baptism last Sunday night. Ethan is a fine young man and we want to encourage him as he encourages us in our lives as Christians. May the Lord bless Ethan with many years to serve Him faithfully.

SONG PRACTICE: Remember this evening at 5:15 we will be meeting to let our young boys practice leading singing and to learn some new songs that we are not familiar with. I hope that a good number can be present to encourage our young boys.

GOSPEL MEETING The **Parkway church** near Trinity is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00.p.m. **Jackie Richardson of Belgreen** will be the speaker...The **Eastside church** in Scottsboro is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. **Bob Waldron of Athens** will be the speaker in that meeting...The **River Bend church** in western Lauderdale county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Matt Oglesby of Lexington** will be the speaker in that meeting...The **Posey church** in Franklin County has a meeting beginning today and continuing through Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. **Gary Carter of Moulton** is the speaker.

ANDERSON COMMUNICATOR: Pick-up your copy today of *The Anderson Communicator* in the vestibule. This is a newsletter that will replace *The Anderson Reporter*, but is larger and will include more information. I hope that you will find it helpful and useful.

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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