

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 24th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (1 Tim. 4:1-16)

..... Larry White

Prayer

..... Phil Pressnell

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding Mark McIntyre

Serving Daniel Clemmons

..... Scottie Goode

..... Phil Pressnell

Closing Prayer

..... Brian Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading (1 Tim. 5:1-25)

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

Closing Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Volume IX

March 24, 2002

No. 12

Christ Is Coming Again!

Cecil F. Cox

Sometimes we sing a song with these words written by A.A. Westbrook:

*O how sweet t'will be to meet the Lord,
When He comes in glory by and by;
What a song of praise will be outpoured,
When He comes in glory by and by.*

*We will have our robes all white as snow,
When He comes in glory by and by;
O be ready with the Lord to go,
When He comes in glory by and by.*

*I am ready for that happy day,
When He comes in glory by and by;
For with Him I hope to soar away,
When He comes in glory by and by.*

Then the chrous says,

*How sweet t'will be! How sweet t'will be,
When He comes in the sky!
What joy t'will be! What joy t'ill be!
When He comes in glory by and by.*

Yes, Jesus is coming again! Jesus promised that he would come again (John 14:3). The two men who stood by the apostles as Jesus ascended into heaven and are described as "in white apparel" told the apostles that Jesus would come again (Acts 1:10-11). But there is much speculation and false teaching concerning Christ's second coming. This being true, it is important that we know the facts of the second coming of Christ as presented in the word of God.

Fact 1. The Father alone knows the time of the Lord's return. Jesus made this clear in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour

knoweth no man, but my father only.” Therefore, the timetables of men as to when the Lord will return are nothing more than speculations and have no weight of truth in them.

Fact 2. Jesus is coming without warning. We hear people talking about “signs” of Christ’s coming. There are no more “signs” as to when Jesus will come than there are of a thief who is coming to rob and plunder. Jesus said, “Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up” (Matthew 24:42-43).

Fact 3. When Christ returns, it will not be secret. Revelation 1:7 says, “Every eye shall see him.” In Acts chapter one we learn that when Jesus ascended “a cloud received him out of their sight” (v. 10). They saw Him leave. Verse 11 says, “...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” It is evident, therefore, that the second coming of Christ will be visible.

Fact 4. When Christ returns, all the dead will be raised. “...all that are in the graves will hear his voice, and come forth...” (John 5:28).

Fact 5 When Christ returns, He will judge the world. The wicked will “go away into everlasting punishment but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:31, 32, 46).

Fact 6. When Christ returns, He will not touch the earth. Paul taught in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 that the saved would meet the Lord “in the air: and so we ever will be with the Lord.” The kingdom is now in existence (Colossians 1:13) and Christ is now reigning (Acts 2:33). Therefore, He is not coming to the earth to set up His kingdom as many believe.

Fact 7. When Christ returns, this earth and all the works will be dissolved...burned up (2 Peter 3:7-11).

Christ is going to come again, and these

things will come to pass. We must be ready when He comes. Jesus said, “Not everyone that saith into me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Are you ready for His return?

~via *The Bulletin*; Haleyville, Alabama.



God Is Faithful

Gary Henry

When we are tempted to worry about the uncertainties that are inherent in a changing world, it is reassuring to remember that the whole cosmos in which we live was created by a God who is eternal. He is “the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End ...who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8). The comforting thing about God's eternal nature is not merely that He exists eternally, but that His character is eternal. God is changelessly faithful.

What It Means That God Is Faithful. Unlike the false gods of paganism, who were thought to be fickle and whose capricious anger was thought unpredictable, the God who really made us and revealed Himself to us can be counted on to be the same always. “I am the Lord, I do not change” (Malachi 3:6), He has said. With God “there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17). We never have to worry that an alteration in God’s “mood” will result in a change in His personality or His principles.

But more than that, God’s eternal faithfulness also makes Him different from Satan, the liar (John 8:44). God’s word is unfailingly and infallibly true. God’s truthful character is immutable – He “cannot lie” (Titus 1:2; cf. Hebrews 6:17,18). Long ago, Isaiah prayed, “O Lord...Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth” (Isaiah 25:1). And when we say God's word is always “true,” we do not just mean it is

accurate. We mean also that, because it is true, it can be depended on. God is never treacherous. He never cheats. Every word He has ever spoken has been “a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance” (1 Timothy 1:15). God’s eternal truthfulness means that He is eternally trustworthy.

When He has spoken to mankind, God has often made promises. It is in regard to these promises that we see further what it means for God to be faithful. Faith has always meant taking God at His word when He promised something – and such faith has always proved to be well-founded. God has never failed to keep a promise. On the basis of that evidence, discerning people have long been willing to do as Sarah did, who “judged Him faithful who had promised” (Hebrews 11:11).

Another important thing about God’s eternal faithfulness is that the fulfilling of His purposes is no less certain than the keeping of His promises. The glorious conclusion to which God intends to bring His creation is unstoppable because His character is unchangeable. The Psalmist’s statement is true of everything God has ever purposed: “The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations” (Psalms 33:11). Through Isaiah, God declared, “I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’... Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it” (Isaiah 46:9-11). God has given us reason to be assured that though the world around us passes through change after troublesome change, He is still the eternal Sovereign whose purpose for His creation will not fail to be accomplished.

How Understanding God’s Faithfulness Helps Us. Learning the eternally changeless character of God is a wonderfully practical exercise. At the very least, it drives worry and fear from our lives. How can we doubt that we will be taken care of by a God who has always

shown Himself to be so faithfully concerned about His children? The Christian (who has not only the usual cares of daily living, but also faces additional suffering because he is a Christian) can endure whatever trials and tribulations may confront him. Knowing that God remains on His throne and that He is working toward a victorious consummation of all things imparts strength to the suffering saint – strength because the saint knows that the eternal Judge will ultimately vindicate what is just and right. Peter wrote, “Let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator” (1 Peter 4:19).

Moreover, a comprehension of God’s eternal nature helps the Christian deal with sin. Knowing that God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7,8), that He will not fail to do as He has said about punishing sin, surely ought to give us a more serious attitude about sin. And on the positive side, knowing the steadfastness of God’s help is the very thing needed for us to resist temptation. As Paul put it, “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Finally, an understanding of the unchangeableness and faithfulness of God is the thing that assures us of our salvation and motivates us to remain faithful to Him. The Hebrew writer appealed to his readers: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23). In the long run, that person will be “faithful until death” (Revelation 2:10 NKJV) who sees clearly that God will always be faithful to us. Giving credence to God’s eternal truthfulness, we take on a confidence in God’s trustworthiness that imparts a constancy to our allegiance to Him.

*Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not,
abide with me!*

~via **Brass Tacks**, Indianapolis, Indiana

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Glenda and Andrea Phillips* were involved in an automobile accident yesterday afternoon. Andrea was treated for her injuries and released while Glenda suffered some cracked ribs and a partially collapsed lung and was admitted to ECM in room 264... *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, came home on Tuesday from the hospital in Huntsville and continues taking his medication at home... *Angie McCrary* is scheduled to have surgery on Monday at Keller Hospital in Sheffield... *Jerry Best* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at services ... *Amber Hammond* has been sick this past week with pain and difficulty in breathing ... *Willie Ridgeway* has not been feeling well recently ... *Millinea Word* continues her recovery from Bronchitis ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home and not able to be out ... *Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty, and brother, Paul 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: This week is Communication group four's week to meet. If you are in group four, plan to participate with your group tonight.

PICTURES: Remember we are trying to finish the pictures for our Pictorial Directory as soon as possible. If you have not had your picture made yet please get with *Claus Martel* as soon as possible.

HOME PAGE: Remember the *Gospel Power* is being uploaded in .pdf format each Sunday afternoon on the church's website. This will be good since we have had numerous requests to receive the bulletin in foreign countries, but are unable to mail them on our permit. I hope that you will remember the website and tell others about it.

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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