

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, April 14th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Tit. 2:1-15)
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Scottie Goode
Serving.. James Albert McConnell
..... Eddie Hammond
..... Ronnie Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Tit. 3:1-15)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Best

Volume IX

April 14, 2002

No. 15

"Out of Death, Into Life"

Richie Thetford

There are two kinds of death that are mentioned in the Bible. The physical and the spiritual. "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). We know from this scripture that physical death will come to each of us, and we are not to fear the loss of our physical life but we are to fear the one who can cause both loss of physical and spiritual life. Let us concentrate on the spiritual. We all have a purpose here on this earth and that is to do our best in living the Christian life and helping others learn of Jesus so they also can enjoy the Christian life so that we and others will not have to taste the spiritual death. It was sin that caused spiritual death in the first place. Paul writes "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). See also Ephesians 2:1,5. Sin is lawlessness and when man sins he is not doing what God requires of him. If one stays in a sinful state and does not try to become right in the sight of God then he will suffer eternal spiritual death. Spiritual life is made possible through grace. "Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)" (Ephesians 2:5). In addition it is made possible through the mercy and love of God. "But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us" (Ephesians 2:4).

God does not desire for anyone to fall from His grace spiritually. He loved us so much that He gave His only begotten son that we can enjoy life eternal with Him if we keep his commandments (John 3:16; 14:15). Therefore we can see that Spiritual life is only made possible to us through God's son Jesus Christ "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came

that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10). See also Eph 2:5; Col 2:12). Since it is through God's son that we can receive this eternal spiritual life then we must hear and believe his word. John 5:24 says "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life". Therefore we understand that to gain eternal life through Jesus Christ we must believe in Him which means we must hear His word, believe His word, and obey His word as stated in John 5:24-25; Col 2:12-13. Once we do this we can enjoy some beautiful results which are: 1) Being the light as stated in Eph 5:14. 2) Being pardoned for all past sins - a relief to us that we can have total peace of mind knowing that we are in Christ (Col 2:13). 3) As a result we can know that we are walking with Him "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:4). See also Rom 6:11. 4) We love the brethren (1 John 3:14). 5) We do not come into judgment (John 5:24). 6) We sit in heavenly places (Eph 2:5-6). 7) We can present ourselves to God (Rom 6:13).

At the beginning of this article I said that there are two kinds of death - physical and spiritual. If one lives the Christian life as discussed above then there will only be one death and that will be the physical. We pass out of the physical death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you" (Rom 8:11). We can have the assurance as Christians that if we live our lives in accordance with God's word then we will pass from death (physically) into life eternal with God (Spiritually). Won't you strive to live the Christian life?

~via *The Castleton Light*; Indianapolis, Indiana.

Love and Marriage

Dee Bowman

Times change. In the 1950's Frank Sinatra sang what everybody – at least most everybody– believed.

“Love and marriage,
Love and marriage
Go together like a horse and carriage.
Dad was told by mother, you can't have one
Without the other.”

That lyric is the physical expression of a spiritual truth. Whatever happened to that concept? Is it no longer true or is it that it has been eroded in the wake of the loose morals of our culture? Is there no longer any need to have love as the basis for marriage and the bond which holds it in place after it is consummated? And does society make the rules for marriage?

God Put Love and Marriage Together. In the beginning, when he had made man and woman for one another He said, “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife.” Jesus said, “...what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (Matthew 19:9). Society is the result of marriage, not the cause of it. Marriage is a sacred vow between two people and God and it has nothing whatever to do with what society says about it. And it's based on love – love by the husband for his wife and love by the wife for her husband.

Divorce Is Sinful. Sin is somehow involved in every divorce. One party may be innocent, both parties may be guilty; but sin is a causative factor in every divorce. Society places no social stigma on divorce for any cause. Divorce is rampant, almost popular in some places. Society's “stars” have nearly all been divorced and remarried several times. Take Elizabeth Taylor for an example. She has had eight husbands. And yet people still adore, almost revere her. It's a sad testimony to our times that our culture has so

lost its connection to God that it looks the other way when it comes to God's marriage laws, when it "puts light for darkness and darkness for light" (Isaiah 5:20).

God's Marriage Laws Are As Old As Man. They antedate the church by many hundreds of years. There is no reason that I'm aware of to assume they have ever changed. True, Moses was lenient about them for a time, but Jesus said, "from the beginning it was not so." When a person commits adultery, it is adultery whether or not he ever heard of the church. Paul told the Corinthians that "neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you." They were idolaters because idolatry has always been wrong whether or not they had ever heard of the church. They were drunkards because drunkenness has always been sinful. And they were fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals whether or not they had ever heard of the church.

Society's Loose Views On Divorce and Remarriage Is The Cause of Many Different Problems. The family, the structural essence of society, has been fragmented by these loose views. Fathers have little to do with the family in today's world; they have lost their way and have neglected their role as spiritual head of the family. Mothers have left the home and are there, not as the maternal stabilizers of the home, but only long enough to put on new makeup so as to go out into the world and pursue careers of far less importance and value than that of motherhood or "keepers at home." Children, in many homes, govern the family. They decide what is to be watched, listened to, worn, where to go and when. In some homes mothers have become little more than taxi drivers so that the little people can participate in competitive sports—and at such an early age that by the time they are old enough to be proficient at some sport, they are burned out from too much competition.

Homes Are Not Homes In Many Places; They

Are Houses, Places Where People Stay For A While Each Day To Sleep and Eat. There is no hearth, no family gathering, no together time. Some families go for weeks at a time without any real connection, much less any family prayer, worship, or Bible reading. The fragmented family is one of the devil's most effective stratagems.

What to do? Well, it's actually so simple that it's apt to be overlooked. Get the family together. Read the Bible. Every family would do well to have at least one time each day where the whole family is together for at least an hour or so—and with the TV, stereo, or radio turned off. You might find out it's fun. You might get to know one another and thereby break down some of the barriers that have resulted from a lack of association. Family fun is some of the finest fun.

A family that worships together is less apt to have troubles. The common bond to God brings them closer together, forming mutual protection against inordinate outside influences. Their common worship binds them to a common goal and causes them to love one another even more. It just makes sense for the family to get together... It's God's plan for you to do so; it's the devil's plan for you not to. Which will you follow? And remember, "love and marriage, love and marriage..."

~via *The Gospel Observer*, Avondale, Pennsylvania

Gospel Meeting

June 16-21

Bill Hall, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207

Anderson, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Wynell Ridgeway* is now at home after spending several days in the hospital... *Claus Martel* has been sick this past week and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, continues at home taking his medication... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ...*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.

ACTIVITY FORMS: Remember we are needing every member to fill out a new activity form. Please be sure to fill one out and give it to one of the deacons so that we can know each area of work you are willing to do. They are located on the table in the vestibule.

HOME PAGE: Remember we are uploading the *Gospel Power* each week in .pdf format on Sunday afternoon on the church's website. The site is at: Anderson-church.org

GOSPEL MEETING The *Cartwright church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Warren Glass of Athens* will be the speaker...The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Bill Hall* is the speaker in this meeting.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: This week is Communication group two's week to meet. If you are in group two, plan to participate with your group tonight.

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: dacox@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