

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, April 21st

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Heb. 1:1-14)
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Claus Martel
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Heb. 2:1-18)
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode
Lord's Supper
..... Claus Martel
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Volume IX

April 21, 2002

No. 16

Why Do We Sin?!

Glen Young

I read this joke the other day. It caused me to think about our motives for doing the things we do. Read the following "funny story". After the story, you will find my thoughts on, **Why Do We Sin.**

The CIA had an opening for an assassin. They did the background checks, interviews, and testing then decided on three finalists, two men, and a woman.

As a deciding test, one of the men was taken to a large metal door and handed a gun. "We must know that you will follow your instructions, no matter what the circumstances. Inside of this room, you will find your wife sitting in a chair, Kill Her!"

The man said, "You can't be serious. I could never shoot my wife." The agent said, "Then you're not the right man for this job."

The second man was given the same instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about five minutes. Then the man came out with tears in his eyes. "I tried, but I can't kill my wife." The agent said, "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife and go home."

Finally, it was the woman's turn. She was given instructions to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, one shot after another. They heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls and then all was quiet.

In a few minutes, the door opened slowly and there stood the woman. She wiped the sweat from her brow, and said, "Someone loaded the gun with blanks. I had to beat him to death with the chair."

The two men in our story could not kill their wives because

they did not want them dead. However, the woman could kill her husband because she wanted her husband dead.

Some may feel that my analysis is too simple. Maybe she just wanted the job with the CIA because of the medical and retirement benefits. Whatever you think her motive, the fact is that she did what she did because the result was to her liking.

In his first epistle, John tells us, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:16). James informs us, "but each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is fullgrown, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15).

Thayer defines "lust" as "desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust." Jesus said the man who looked upon a woman to lust after her, commits adultery (Matthew 5:28). Paul said those who practice homosexuality burn in their lust toward those of the same sex (Romans 1:27). All sin begins from the heart of man. No one's will is over ridden thus making him sin. The Devil puts the temptation in our path, then men and women submit. They submit to sin because it is something they desire.

The next time you sin, do not excuse yourself by thinking you had no choice. Instead, deal with the desire in your heart that led you to sin. Your sins, my sins, everyone's sins occur because we allow our desires to control us when we are tempted.

~via *The Road Creek Bulletin*; Elkhorn City, Kentucky



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m. & Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Is Your Faith Your Faith?

Carlton G. McPeak

Why do you believe in spiritual things? Is it because of your preacher, or some bible class teacher? Or is a family member; your mother, father, grandmother, aunt, or uncle the reason you believe in spiritual things? Or, is it because of your own faith?

Jehoiada, the priest, learned that the queen, Athaliah, was going to kill all of her grandsons. Jehoiada told his wife Jehosheba, who was also the daughter of the queen, to get Joash, one of the grandsons, and place him in the temple along with his nurse. When Joash was seven years old his uncle, Jehoiada, anointed him as king. Joash's uncle had a great influence on his life even to the point that he repaired the century old temple.

After his uncle died, Joash was not influenced by the priests and prophets of God but rather began to listen to and was influenced by "the officials of Judah" (2 Chronicles 24:17). These officials "abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols" (2 Chronicles 24:18). This turned Joash away from God and so God replaced Joash with another king.

Why did Joash turn away from God? Did he not know that "the Asherim" was a false god? Of course he did! He had been taught all his life that the god of the Israelites was the true God. But, his acts of righteousness were based upon the faith of someone else. Joash did not have his own faith!

So, how can we avoid this pitfall (1 Corinthians 10:6)? The obvious answer is to have our own faith. But how do we get our own faith? Paul said, "faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). We must spend time reading the word of God. But just reading our Bible will not produce our own faith. Joash for sure read from the Law of Moses and heard the historical events of the

Israelites that would have produced a great deal of faith. So why did he “turn away from God”?

When we read, we must want to understand what the word of God is revealing to us. Paul to the Ephesians said, “when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ” (Ephesians 3:3,4). In order for us to understand the word of God we must spend time thinking about what is said and digesting the words on the page. Surely, Joash understood the words on the pages of the books of Moses. So why did he “turn away from God”?

Our understanding must become so much a part of us that it produces our own convictions about serving God. The Hebrew author told his readers, “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is rewarder of those who seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). Notice in this verse that the action word “believe” is used, implying that there is something man must do to be saved.

If we are going to be faithful to God all the days of our life, then we must have our own obedient faith. It cannot be that of our parents, bible class teacher, preacher, spouse or anyone else. When those who have influenced you spiritually die, will you have faith? You will if that faith is your faith.

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



Being With Jesus

Troy Nicholson

In Acts 4 we find the religious leaders disturbed by the preaching of Peter and John (:1-2). We also find them amazed: “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled” (:13). They come to a conclusion about these men: “They realized that they had been with Jesus.”

What an honor to be recognized as one

who had been with Jesus! Do people recognize us as being with Jesus? While it is true that we cannot be with Him in a physical sense like Peter and John, we can live in such a way that others can see we are with Him spiritually.

Do we demonstrate being with Jesus by our boldness for Him? Some people are more concerned about being “politically correct” than standing boldly with Jesus. We may find ourselves outnumbered if we speak out against homosexuality, unscriptural divorce and remarriage, religious error, and other such things; but His disciples in the first century let it be known that they stood with Him by standing against them (Romans 1:18-32; 7:1-2; 16:17; etc.).

Do we demonstrate being with Jesus by the things we flee? When we live our lives after the will of God, we no longer pursue the sinful pleasures of this world (1 Peter 4:1-3). This may not always sit well with those of the world. “In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you” (:4). Do others see us as running with the world or with Jesus? Do we engage in the same immoral behavior and imbibe the same ungodly entertainment, or do we demonstrate Christ living in us by avoiding such things?

Do we demonstrate being with Jesus by the things we do? Someone has asked the sobering question, “If you were tried for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” Jesus says, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Are we doing the good works that cause others to realize we are with Jesus?

Do we demonstrate being with Jesus by the peace we enjoy? Many people in the world, especially here in the United States, are in a state of paranoia following the recent terrorist attacks. Some seem to stay in such a state. If we are with Jesus, we will demonstrate it by the absence of anxiety the presence of peace in our lives (Philippians 4:6-7). As the saying goes,

“No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace.”

Jesus gives us two options: “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Matthew 12:30). Which do you demonstrate? Are you with Jesus?

~via *The Southport Sounder*, Indianapolis, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Sissy Clemmons* was sick this past week and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... Remember **James McConnell's father, Albert McConnell**, as he is taking treatments ... **Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode**, continues at home taking his medication **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home ... **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty, and brother, Paul McCafferty** and **Aldeen Noles** are in the SunBride 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *Signa Skipworth* is away this weekend visiting with her sister in the mountains.

GOSPEL MEETING The *Market Street church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Mark W. White of Florence* will be the speaker Services Monday through Friday will begin at 7:00 p.m....The *New Georgia church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Gary Patton of Decatur* is the speaker in this meeting.

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

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Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391

Deacons

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