

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, May 19th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Heb. 10:11-25)
..... Claus Martel
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Larry White
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Jame Albert McConnell
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Heb. 10:26-39)
..... Jason White
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Best

Volume IX

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No. 20

The Opportunity Costs of Life

Mark W. White

Being a finance and insurance major, I took several economics courses during my college career. While I have forgotten some of what I learned in these courses, there is one principle that has stuck in my head. That of "opportunity costs."

Basically, this concept says that when one chooses to do one thing, there is always a missed opportunity to do something else. And there is a cost that must be counted as to the value of pursuing one course of action over another. This concept is applicable, not just to economic endeavors, but to any other arena of life. In fact, we act on this idea every day of our lives, whether we are aware of it or not.

I am very much dealing with opportunity costs at this stage of my life! My personality is such that I would like to help every church and every Christian. But I know that isn't possible, and so I am really having to weigh the various opportunities that I'm being presented with to work with a local church. As with any work in life, there are pros and cons to churches, and there are opportunities that may only exist in one particular group of God's people or in one location.

How do we deal with the opportunity costs of life? Divine wisdom gives us a couple of answers to this question.

(1) Pray. Pray especially for wisdom. James said, "*But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him*" (James 1:5). Some decisions in life are easy. There may be a clear cut right or wrong answer. But many choices are not that cut and dried. There may be two or more roads we can take, and they are both or all morally

right. In these times, we need to turn to our Father and ask that He give us the wisdom that is from above (James 3:17).

(2) Count the costs. This is oftentimes easier said than done! It is very difficult, at least for me it is, to see what the effects of a life-changing decision will be. That's exactly why we need to pray for wisdom! Paul counted the cost when he decided to become a Christian. He said, "But whoever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ" (Philippians 3:7). I know that this was a decision between serving Satan or serving God. But even when we are faced with two choices that are both good in God's sight, we must ask, "Which choice will allow me to serve God the most?"

Each of us is faced with opportunities each day. It may be taking a new job, moving closer to family, or deciding where to go to college or what career to pursue. Each of us is presented with opportunities as to how to best serve God each day. It may be visiting an elderly person, studying with a friend who isn't a Christian or teaching your children. Since we only have 24 hours in a day, when we pursue one of these things, we necessarily shut the door on pursuing other opportunities. Let's realize that we can't do it all and determine to make the most of the opportunities God has given us today to do what we can for others and for Him!

~via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.

Gospel Meeting

June 16-21

Bill Hall, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ
Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Righteous But Ruined

Joe Fitch

Lot is remembered with the infamous city of Sodom. Yet Lot was not evil; the Bible names him "righteous Lot." God "...turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes,.. delivered righteous Lot" (2 Peter 2:6). Details of "righteous Lot" are impressive. He kept himself from the evil of Sodom. Lot did not buy into "when in Rome, do as the Romans." He did right while everyone else was doing wrong. Good for Lot!

More, Lot's attitude was right toward evil. He "...was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked" (1 Peter 3:7). He never got comfortable with abominations. "For that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds" (1 Peter 3:8). His resistance rose from "his righteous soul" – good character. He was a flower in a briar patch. Good for Lot!

Lot stood up for right – even when all the city opposed him. "...the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. ...they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door" (Genesis 19:4,9). He did not back down – not even if it cost him dearly – not even when he was protecting strangers. He had courage; he did the right thing. Good for Lot!

God accepted Lot – pronounced him "righteous" and "godly" (2 Peter 2:9). Righteous says he did right; godly says he respected God. Good marks for Lot – inspired, no less.

That sounds great. It is! "Righteous Lot" got all those important – vitally important things exactly right. But then, there is the rest of the story – his ruin. He got some very important things terribly wrong – not sinful, but bad – not evil, but foolish. His ruin was the result. "Does the Bible say I will go to hell if I do that?" Maybe not. Bad decisions are not

necessarily sinful, yet they may surely ruin your life — even without sending you to hell.

Lot chose Sodom's fertile plains — and in the bargain acquired Sodom's problems and enemies. Soon he was a captive. Chedorlaomer conquered Sodom, and "They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed" (Genesis 14:12). He lost everything — even his freedom by being in Sodom. Moving to Sodom was not a sin, but it surely meant ruin. Only Abram's rescue spared "righteous Lot" from a total disaster. "So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people" (Genesis 14:16).

Lot chose green grass and water without considering the evil environment. Was that choice a sin? No! Was it a good place to live? No! Was it hazardous to Lot and his family? Oh, yes! It was a good place for sheep; it was a terrible place for people — especially children. "Righteous Lot" surely learned the high cost of living there.

He entered Sodom as "rich Lot." I doubt he left rich. There was hardly time to move his livestock before the brimstone rained down. Where do you next find Lot? "...he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave" (Genesis 19:30). I think Sodom spelled financial ruin for "righteous Lot" — still righteous but ruined by a foolish, materialistic choice.

Though Lot vacated Sodom, his ruin was far from over. His family remained in smoldering Sodom. Before Lot was clear of the plains, he also lost his wife. Her heart and eyes "looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt" (Genesis 19:26) — a lingering payment for living in Sodom. The next scene shows Lot drunk (Genesis 19:33). Sad scene! — conduct unbecoming "righteous Lot." Bad decisions are not necessarily sinful, but they often lead eventually to sin and spiritual ruin. "Righteous Lot" is a case in point. The downward spiral continued; his ruin worse. He became a fornicator with his own daughters. "But it was their

plan. Their fault." Right! Yet that removed none of his shame — changed the incest not at all. Sodom's toll! Lot's stay in Sodom was paid in the currency of defiled integrity. Doubtless "righteous Lot" would have fared much better in the desert with Abram!

Don't travel with "righteous Lot" seeing only the alluring money without considering the cost to your marriage, children, or spirituality. Don't settle down with "righteous Lot" seeing the beautiful country without noticing the absence of spiritual support — no strong church. Don't join "righteous Lot" and tally all your prosperity without calculating all that you are losing. Don't end up with "righteous Lot" — righteous but all alone — righteous but broken hearted. Don't share a fool's choice with "righteous Lot" — along with the broken heart and bitter tears — and at the last, maybe lose your soul in the bargain.

~via *Bible Comment*, Coppell, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word* suffered a fall on Saturday morning and was taken to Maury Regional Medical Center in Columbia, Tennessee and is scheduled for surgery this morning...*Henry and Helen Trousdale* have both been sick this past week and have been unable to be at services...*Margaret Weathers* is to go to the doctor about the spells she has been having...*Angie McCrary's mother, Edna Shook*, received a good report from her Arteriogram on Monday...*Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, is in the Glenwood Rehabilitation this past week...*My sister, Anita Willis* is at home following her surgery for

breast cancer. The initial reports are good, she will begin taking treatments soon... 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 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.

OUR MEETING: Our gospel meeting is approaching quickly with brother **Bill Hall** preaching. It will be **June 16-21** and I hope that we are telling others and inviting them to join us in a week of Bible studies. There are some fliers on the table in the vestibule for you to take and pass along to those that you invite.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate **Corey Goode and Ashley Barringer** on their marriage on Saturday. It is truly a joy to see a fine young couple like Corey and Ashley pledge their love to one another for life. We are happy for them and we wish for them a long and happy life together as husband and wife. May the Lord richly bless them.

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

SONG PRACTICE: We will be meeting this afternoon at 5:15 for our song practice. Our young boys will lead some songs and we will sing some new songs that we are not familiar with. I hope that all who can will be present to encourage our young boys.

Tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Mark McIntyre will be directing the service. Make your plans to join as we sing songs of glory and praise to God.

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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