

# 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](http://Anderson-church.org)

**Men Privileged To Serve:**  
Sunday, May 5th

#### **Bible Classes**

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Heb. 7:1-10)  
..... Claus Martel  
Prayer  
..... Daniel Clemmons

#### **Morning Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons  
Serving ..... James McConnell  
..... Jerry Best  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Closing Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode

#### **Evening Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Claus Martel  
Bible Reading ..... (Heb. 7:11-28)  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Lord's Supper  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

Volume IX

May 5, 2002

No. 18

## **Honesty With Ourselves**

Gary Henry

"Know Thyself" was the inscription on the temple to Apollo at ancient Delphi. Knowing ourselves is always important, but nowhere is it more so than in relation to the gospel of Christ. The gospel requires repentance, and repentance requires a conscience that is in touch with our real situation. As the etymology of the word itself indicates, "conscience" has to do with self-knowledge. Related to the word "conscious," which literally means to "know with" ourselves, "conscience" is a form of self-awareness. It's the awareness that our conduct is either consistent or inconsistent with what we believe to be right. Obviously, conscience can't evaluate our actions very well if it doesn't get accurate information about what those actions really are.

The salvation that follows godly sorrow and repentance is impossible until a realistic, truthful knowledge of one's self has been produced. We obey God when we've apprehended not only the truth about the gospel, but also the truth about our own sins. We simply do not repent of sins that we're in denial of. So we must come to grips with the bad news before we can benefit from the good news. If we avoid the issue of honesty about ourselves, we forfeit the only possibility for grace. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved... And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed" (John 3:16-20).

In one sense, we each know ourselves better than anyone else

knows us. As individuals, we alone know all of our own thoughts, motives, and values. Our ideals and attitudes are things others know about only as we choose to reveal them, and one lifetime is just too short to reveal ourselves exhaustively to anyone else even if we should try. Hence, the information upon which others judge us is at best incomplete, and often it is inaccurate. Only we ourselves have full access to our heart's contents. As to "self," each of us knows things that no one else can ever know.

Nevertheless, it is also true that we are sometimes the very poorest judges of ourselves. We may have all the "raw materials" out of which we could make an accurate evaluation, but all too often we're simply unwilling to do that. It takes more honesty than most of us can muster to be absolutely objective and candid about our own character. In the physical realm, this lack of objectivity about self is why doctors don't diagnose their own ailments. They understand the need to consult another doctor who can look at the facts more objectively. In the spiritual realm, there is an even greater need for us to be helped in understanding ourselves (Psalm 19:12-14). When it comes to seeing our own faults and foibles, most of us have some serious blind spots. What is perfectly clear and plain to others who know us can be all but invisible to our own eyes.

Honesty about anything requires a love of truth. In order to be adequately honest with ourselves we must want to know the truth more than we want anything else, including the maintenance of a flattering self-image (Galatians 4:16). Someone has said that "life is one long struggle to think well of ourselves." No matter what wrong we've done, most of us exert enormous effort trying to find some mental perspective from which we can view our actions at least somewhat favorably. Consequently, life never makes a greater demand on our courage than when we have to accept some painful fact about the sinfulness of what we've done (Genesis 4:3-10). We shrink away from dealing with "hard" facts about our character. But God sees

these with crystal clarity -- and will one day take them into account in His judgment of us (Hebrews 4:12,13).

Would you like a healthy test of your honesty and love of truth? Try praying something like the following prayer from time to time: *Dear Father, help me to see myself as You do. Give me friends who love my soul in the long run more than they have to have my goodwill in the short run, friends who will not let me ignore or excuse my sins. Set me in the midst of circumstances that will make me see my true character. Bring out into the open sunshine of Your truth every fault that I have hidden from myself. Expose my secrets to others, if that's what it takes, and help me, in Your strength and love, to be glad for the honesty this forces upon me. Help me to accept even the most unwelcome truth about who I am, so that I can change my ways. Do this, O Lord, before it is too late.*

~via *Focus Magazine*, Vol. 4 No. 5



## Calvin's Predestination

Kipp Campbell

The Calvinistic concept of predestination is believed by many in the religious world. It all stems from the foundational beliefs of Calvinism (TULIP) in particular the belief that due to Adam's sin, man is so abhorrent, so vile, that he cannot save himself. Therefore the need for God to step in and work His magic arises. However, the teaching of predestination puts God at variance with His own word, the Bible. It takes the matter of choice out of the hands of the one deciding to obey the gospel or not because the decision has already have been made for us. God has already chosen those who will spend eternity in heaven or hell. We point out though, the New Testament is full of examples of people being exhorted to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:40; 10:44-48; 16:14-15, 31-33; 17:30-31). It was a decision that each person would have to make for

himself or her. We wish to look at five different areas in which predestination is at variance with the Bible.

**First, it makes God a respecter of persons.**

Paul said, "For there is no partiality with God" (Romans 2:11). It matters not to God how much money you make, what color of skin you have, or who your friends might be. What matters to Him is whether or not you follow Him. In fact, His desire is for everyone to be saved. Peter wrote, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

**Second, it makes God responsible for the loss of souls in Hell.** If God arbitrarily chooses who is saved and who is not, is He not then responsible for innocent people spending eternity in hell? A person could choose to do right, obey the Lord's commands and still spend eternity in hell. Does that seem fair? Paul said to Timothy, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4). God doesn't send people to hell. People will spend eternity in hell because they have chosen that path.

**Third, predestination destroys man's power to choose.** As we have already noted, the teaching of predestination says that the choice has already been made, even without our knowledge or consent! If my destiny is already decided, there is nothing I can do to change it. Which, again, goes against biblical teaching. Joshua encouraged the people of Israel to "choose for yourselves today whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). The people of Israel had a decision to make. They could continue serving the gods of the land or they could turn back to God and faithfully serve Him. Either way, the choice was theirs.

**Fourth, it negates the Great Commission.** Why should we continue to preach Jesus Christ

and His gospel to people that God has already decided will spend eternity in hell? It would be a waste of theirs and ours time. Yet, Jesus sent His disciples into the world to teach and preach His gospel so disciples could be made. If the Father had already decided who would be in heaven and hell, why did Jesus go to such lengths to prepare His apostles to take the gospel to the world?

**Fifth, predestination makes man an irresponsible being.** Under the Calvinistic system man is responsible for the transgressions he is born in (original sin). Ezekiel teaches though, that man is not held responsible for the sins that are committed by others (Ezekiel 18:18-20). We will all be judged by what we do, not others, do (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Predestination is an idea that has originated from man and is without biblical support. God has not and will not decide for us who will spend eternity in heaven or hell. That is a decision each and every person will have to make. It is God's desire for each person to be saved. The question is are you willing to commit to Him and His law?

~via *The Beacon*, Clarksville, Indiana

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## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Willie Ridgeway* was sick this past week and unable to be at services...*Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, was admitted to the ECM hospital the later part of the this week. He is in room 171...*Shelia Goode* was sick and unable to be at services Wednesday night...*Mycala White* was sick and unable to be out ... 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.

**LAST SUNDAY NIGHT:** It was good to have **Carlton McPeak** here last Sunday night to preach for us. We appreciate the work he has done in Georgia and we wish him the very best in the work that is before him.

**SUPPORT:** The elders have decided to assist **Wiley Deason** in his work that he will be doing in the Philippines in the next month. He will be going over with **Bob Buchanan** and working with the brethren over there and assisting them in some Vacation Bible Schools.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **Glenda and Andrea Phillips** and **Aric Butler** are away today in Blue Mountain, Mississppi for Andrea's graduation from college this afternoon.

**GOSPEL MEETING** The **Helton Drive church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. **Connie Adams of Brooks, Kentucky** will be the speaker. Services Monday through Friday will begin at 7:00 p.m...The **Pleasant Valley church** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Bob Waldron of Athens** will be the speaker in this meeting...**College Place church** in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with **Mark White of Florence** preaching. Services will be this afternoon at 4:00 and Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m.... The **Jackson Heights church** in Columbia, Tennessee is beginning a meeting this morning and will have services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. **Wilson Adams of White House, Tennessee** will be the speaker...The **Chapman Arces church** in Huntsville is also beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Greg Legg of Somerville, Alabama** will be the speaker.

**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.

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**Deacons**

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