

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, June 16th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Jam. 3:1-18)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Michael Clemmons
Serving Ray Tucker
..... Phil Pressnell
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading Meeting

Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Volume IX

June 16, 2002

No. 24



Beginning Today

Gospel Meeting

June 16-21

(Sunday – Friday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Monday – Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.

Bill Hall, Speaker
Rogersville, Alabama

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

What Kind of Race Are You Running?

David Posey

We know Christianity is a race and it must be run with endurance. But why do you run? The answer can make all the difference in the world.

We thought it was just another routine run to the rifle range, but it turned into a tortuous marathon. Seems a new company commander wanted to test our mettle and did it by forcing us to run the whole 8 miles. We did it in combat boots, with a full pack on our backs, and our M-1 rifles at “port arms” (held out in front of the body). The crisis came when, instead of turning toward the barracks at the normal place, the Captain made us run around the massive parade field at Fort Ord.

At that point, one-by-one, exhausted GIs fell out of the run and were summarily abused by the various drill sergeants scattered through the company. Fearing the abuse, I continued. Soon though, thoroughly spent, and feeling I couldn’t grab another breath of air, I slowed down and was about to crumple to the ground in a heap, not caring what the DI’s did to me – nothing could be as bad as this, I thought.

As I slowed down, my best friend at the time ran up to me and said, “David, you can’t quit; you’re a squad leader” (it got me out of guard duty). So now I had two compelling reasons not to drop out – fear and guilt. Somehow I summoned the strength to go on and, shortly after, the CO called a halt to the run. I had finished the race, but barely, and only because I feared the consequences of not finishing.

Compare that to the case of being asked to run in a marathon for the benefit of someone who, five years ago, risked his life to save the life of your daughter. You still get exhausted, you still “hit the wall” at some point and you still end up barely able to breathe. But you finish the race, because of the love you have for the man

who, virtually, gave his life for someone you love.

Now, in both of these situations, the race was run and completed. But who do you suppose would be more satisfied? Who ran a more confident race? Who felt better about the race itself?

The Bible says, “let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2). Paul says, “run in such a way that you may win” (1 Corinthians 9:24). Those who run the Christian race out of fear and constant guilt may still finish it. But they are not going to be very happy doing it – they will be like I was running around the parade ground at Fort Ord. But those who run the race because they are so full of gratitude for what God has done will not only finish the race, but will also be confident and satisfied. And that’s only right for, after all, we are “complete in Christ” (Colossians 2:10).

~via *Focus Magazine*, March 2000; Vol 4 No. 3.



Vacation Bible School

July 8-12 – 10:00 a.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Before God – Before Men

Bill Hall

“Take Heed that you do not your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:1).

True righteousness is primarily “God-conscious” rather than “man-conscious.” God is pleased as we sing His praises, or teach His truth, or lead in prayer, or help the needy, or give to support His work, if our purpose is to gain His approval and bring glory to His name. But woe to that person who sings for the purpose of displaying his beautiful voice. Woe to that person who seeks the praise of men as he leads in prayer. Woe to that preacher who “tickles the ears” of his listeners. Woe to that person who gives to be seen of men. When he gains their praises, he “has his reward in full”; none awaits him from the Father in heaven.

In keeping with this teaching, the Bible reveals God’s judgment of two different couples: one enjoying God’s approval, the other suffering His disapproval.

God disapproved of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). His disapproval was not because of the amount of their offering. They had brought a very liberal offering. They had even sold a possession in order to give, and while we do not know what portion they brought, they obviously brought what they thought would be sufficient to impress the apostles. But herein lies the key to their real problem: They were more conscious of men’s reaction to their benevolence than they were of God’s. Had they been conscious of God in what they did, and had they been seeking His approval, they would not have lied. But they did their righteousness “before men, to be seen by them”; and, in their concern for impressing men, they lied concerning the amount which they brought.

In contrast to Ananias and Sapphira, there

were Zacharias and Elizabeth, of whom it was said, “And they were both righteous before God” (Luke 1:6). While many, no doubt, observed their righteousness and, as a result, glorified the Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16), Zacharias and Elizabeth obviously were not as concerned for man’s approval as they were for God’s approval. It was God’s approval that they sought; it was His approval that they gained.

God blessed Zacharias and Elizabeth, choosing them to be the parents of John, the forerunner of Christ. He punished Ananias and Sapphira with immediate death, and, in keeping with Jesus’ statement of Matthew 6:1, they “have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”

Hypocrisy is loathsome to the Lord. For a person to appear outwardly religious and sincere, while inwardly he only desires the praise and approval of men is to be guilty of gross hypocrisy. Let us seek always to do our righteousness before God to be seen of Him. The glorious and eternal “reward of the Father” cannot be compared with the fickle and fleeting praise of men.

~via *Gospel Observer*, Avondale, Pennsylvania.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word* continues in NHC in Pulaski, room 230,...*Ashley Goode’s father, Robert Barringer*, continues in the CCU at ECM hospital in Florence..*Faye Hammond* fell yesterday and dislocated her

shoulder ..**Janice Glass** was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...**Tisha Thomas** is scheduled to have surgery this Wednesday ..**Margaret Weathers** had more tests done this past week for the dizziness she has been experiencing ..**My sister, Anita Willis** took her first chemo treatment on Friday of this week ... Remember **James McConnell's father, Albert McConnell**, following his 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..**Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray**, at home ..**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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The **Centerview church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with **Don Miller** speaking...The **New Georgia church** will be having a VBS this next each morning through Friday at 10:00 a.m. **Bill Hall** will be teaching the adult class... The **Parkway church** in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with different speakers.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Rogers:** **Mike, Tisha, Zachary and Jacob** are in Birmingham this weekend.

ANDERSON COMMUNICATOR: Be sure to pick up a copy of the Anderson Communicator this morning.

OUR MEETING: Remember our meeting that is beginning this morning and will continue through Friday evening with services each evening including tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Come and Study God's Word With Us.

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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