

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, July 21st

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (1 Jn. 1:1-10)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Larry White
Serving Mark McIntyre
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Ronnie Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Michael Clemmons
Bible Reading (1 Jn. 2:1-17)
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Volume IX

July 21, 2002

No. 29

Why Do We Not Always Do Right?

Jacob Holman

As a kid, I remember studying all the stories about the Israelites, like the crossing of the Red Sea, the episode of the 12 spies and the worshipping of the golden calf. And I remember thinking, "Why did these people not get it? Didn't they remember how God brought them out of captivity and how much He had done for them? Why did they not always do right?"

As I've gotten older, I still ask the same questions, not only about those people of old, but about myself and my fellow Christians. We have all of God's revelation to mankind. We can read about the accomplishments and mistakes of people in the past. We can look at the life of Jesus and see how He lived. We can read God's word and know that if we trust and obey, we will please Him and have eternal life. But still, sometimes we don't do what we know to be right. Why is that?

James addresses this problem of knowing what is right, but not doing it. Consider two passages.

First, in James 1:2-24, he says, "*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for one he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.*" When we get up in the morning and see that our hair needs combing or that teeth need brushing, we take care of those things right away. Why is that always true of our spiritual lives? Why do we sometimes look into the mirror for the soul and not throw what's bad and replace it with what's good?

Second, in James 4:17, James says, "*Therefore, to one who*

knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.” In the context, James talks about following the world and its lusts, humbling ourselves in God’s sight, judging others as though we were God, and making future plans without including God. We know that “*friendship with the world is enmity with God,*” yet sometimes we follow the world. We understand that we must follow God’s plans for our lives instead of our own, yet sometimes we fail to seek His will.

Again, I ask, why is that? Why do we fail to do right when we know that right thing to do? Like the Israelites of old, we have the God-given right to choose and sometimes we choose to not do right! Sometimes we let selfishness get the best of us. Sometimes we are weak in our faith. Sometimes we lack the strength to overcome the devil’s lies. But ultimately I think we do wrong and fail to do right because we have forgotten, even if for a brief moment, who we are and where we’re going. We are Christians, God’s special people, and we are going to heaven! Let’s try to do better this week about abstaining from what we know to be wrong and practicing what we know to be right!

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



You Have Not

Joe Fitch

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures (James 4:2-f).

I identify with the have nots. With just two categories – have and have not – I know where I belong. Oh, I have a comfortable house. I have a closet full of clothes. I have a pantry filled with food. I have two cars. I have money in my pocket. I have a great family – including a host

of brothers and sisters in Christ. I have mercy, redemption, and all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). I have sure hope in this despair filled world. I have an “out of this world” inheritance as a joint heir with Jesus – as a son of God (Romans 8:17). Well, after a little thought, I do not qualify as a have not after all! I have! – abundantly have!

Still, there are real needs – not just fanciful wants. “You do not have” – but why do you have not? That is the big question.

You do not ask God. Man may have not because he will not work – and should go hungry (1 Thessalonians 3:10). Ignoring God, the great giver– “you do not ask” – may readily explain “you do not have.” Some pay no heed to “Ask, and it will be given to you”

(Matthew 7:7). They worry – they gripe, but they do not ask. God listens and responds to our requests. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:11). This assurance involves more than material goods. In trials, when you do not know what to do – when your wisdom fails, ask for wisdom “...of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him (James 1:5). If weakness threatens you, ask God “that He would grant you,... to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16). Request and answer are a matched pair. Ask and you will receive; ask not and you are likely to have not.

Some ask amiss – because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. A carnal, selfish, or even evil motive prompts this request. Expect no gift for such a request. God will not be a partner to what is evil nor will he help you destroy yourself spiritually. Why you ask absolutely influences whether you have or have not.

Some do not ask the elders. “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him” (James

5:14). They have not the elder's prayers. "The elders never showed up when I was sick." Did you call them? How are they to know you are sick – or that you want them to pray with you? You have not because you call not! Do elders ever refuse to come when called? You struggle with spiritual problems; you complain the elders never counsel or encourage you. Did you call them? Did you explain the problem and ask for their help? You have not the elders wisdom because you ask not. Reading minds is not a qualification for elders. Call them; talk to them – or you likely will not have the elders' help.

Some do not ask brethren. How can Christians have "compassion for one another; love as brothers" (1 Peter 3:8) unless they open up to each other like brothers. The Grecians in the Jerusalem church murmured because their widows were neglected (Acts 6:1-ff). Murmuring is surely not ideal, but at least they complained to the brethren who could help. Result? They fixed the problem. Speak up! Say what you need from brethren– whether physical or spiritual. Otherwise, brethren will never know your need – and can not supply it. Paul told Philemon exactly what he wanted him to do. "I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, ... I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, ...receive him as you would me" (Philemon 10,12,17). Paul told the Ephesians what he wanted – "...praying always for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel," (Ephesians 6:18-ff). Timothy, "Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come – and the books, especially the parchments" (2 Timothy 4:13). For Phoebe, Paul asked "receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you" (Romans 16:2). Tell the brethren what you want – what you need.

"*Nobody understands what I am going through!*" Well, tell them! "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another" (James 5:16). This is not "walk the aisle" nor is it

"restoring" an apostate. Surely it is not "go before the church." This is a mutual confessing – "confess ... to one to another." It is all brethren sharing struggles, problems, weaknesses, and failures with brethren. Implied is the request for help and understanding. Ask! See if brethren will not freely come to your aid. See if compassion will not freely flow. But if you ask not, you will surely have not.

~via *Bible Comment*, Coppell Texas

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Faye Hammond* continues in room 824 at Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville awaiting a room at HealthSouth Rehabilitation ... *Lou Helms* had a biopsy done on a spot on her lung and will be going for further tests this week in Huntsville... *Sam Noles* has been having test done recently... *Ashley Goode's father, Robert Barringer*, came home from the hospital on Monday ... *Shelia Goode* was sick and unable to be at services this past Wednesday ... Remember *James McConnell's father, Albert McConnell*, as he is finishing his treatments ... *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, continues at home taking his medication... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home... *Marcia Cooper* and *Brian Word's grandmother, Nola McCafferty*, and *uncle, 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.

OUT OF TOWN: We have several that are away this weekend: **The Clemmons:** *Michael and Sissy* are in Florida; **The McIntyres:** *Mark, Suzette, Sadie and Luke* are in Florida as well... **The Butlers:** *Arvic and Andrea* are away this week on

their honeymoon.

ADDRESS CHANGE: *Jim and Brooke Phillips* have moved and have a new address and phone. It is as follows:

P.O. Box 242
Rogersville, Alabama 35652
247-9735

NEWLY MARRIED: *Aric Butler* and *Andrea Phillips* were united in marriage yesterday afternoon. They are a fine young couple and we wish the very best for them a long and happy life together as husband and wife.

DEATH: This past Thursday afternoon, *Kerry Cox's uncle, James League*, passed away suddenly. The visitation and memorial service will be this afternoon in Birmingham.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Northside church* in Lexington is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The services will begin Monday through Friday 7:00p.m. I am looking forward to preaching in this meeting...The *Belgreen church* in Belgreen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:30 p.m. *Paul Sheehan* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Westview church* in Hartselle is beginning a meeting today

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

PREACHING TODAY: *Jacob Holman* of Florence who is nearing the end of his work with the *College View church* in Florence will be here preaching due to me being a meeting with the *Northside church* in Lexington. Jacob will be begin his work the first of August with the *North Jasper church* in Jasper, Alabama. I know that you will enjoy hearing Jacob again before he departs for Walker county.

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
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