

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 28th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (1 Jn. 3:1-24)
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Rocky Rose
Serving.. James Albert McConnell
..... Jerry Best
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (1 Jn. 4:1-21)
..... Ethan Pressnell
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume IX

July 28, 2002

No. 30

Spiritual Guard Duty

Warren E. Berkley

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love," (1 Corinthians 16:13,14).

While in the Army I was assigned to guard duty a few times and found it to be more than I had imagined. My pre-military perspective was, you get to carry a gun and walk back and forth with authority. I couldn't wait.

Not long after beginning basic training, I learned the truth about guard duty. It involved much more than just walking back and forth with a gun. First, you had to study Field Manual 22-6. You had to know the difference between general orders and special orders; interior and exterior posts. It is necessary to know the Challenge, the Password, the Chain of Command and relief procedure. All this instruction was vital to the discipline of the task and was far more complex and serious than I realized.

But one lieutenant explained the essence of the work: "the main thing about guard duty is using all your senses to know what is happening at your post." I was assigned guard duty at the motor pool one time and I remember the intensity of trying to watch and listen and be aware of everything in the area. There was a heightened state of alertness required by the task.

Every Christian is on spiritual guard duty. We are charged to be aware of what's happening around us, be alert to danger and prepared to respond.

I must guard my mind against error, selfishness, indifference and every beginning of sin. I must guard my association with people, alert to any pressure to engage in any evil. I must watch

my relationships for any opportunity to help people, to teach people and influence people in good things. I have the individual duty to guard against any approach of the enemy, any spiritual danger, any moral corruption or compromise.

We do not carry a rifle, but we are armed with “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” (Ephesians 6:17). We have no earthly lieutenant we are answerable to, but we are accountable to the “Captain of our salvation,” (Hebrews 2:10).

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world,” (1 Peter 5:8,9).

“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.” (1 Thessalonians 5:6-10).

Are you on guard duty?

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 2 No. 17.



The Darkness of Bitterness

Kent Heaton

When God created man, he made within him the capacity of expressing his emotion. Through these channels of feelings, character is either built or torn down. The Lord had warned Cain in Genesis 4 to guard his emotion he had toward his brother Abel. “And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord

said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” (4:5-7) From the beginning of time, God has required man to “rule over” his spirit and not allow emotions of bitterness and hatred to open the door to sin. The Bible records that Cain failed to control his anger and he killed his brother.

Bitterness is a bitter hatred for someone. This is a feeling of deep seeded emotion that brings nothing but the darkness of sin. Bitterness shuts the eye of compassion, the heart of love and the hand of fellowship. From bitterness rises the mind of hatred that is filled with anger at the mention of a person’s name or their presence. It is insidious in its nature because it will drain the joy from a person’s life and destroy their soul in damnation.

Paul writes in Ephesians 4:31-32, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.” When Christ came to die on the cross, we did not deserve it. In writing to the Romans, Paul had said, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us ... For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (5:8,10) We were sinners, we were enemies and yet Christ loved us enough – undeserving as we were - to reconcile us to the Father.

If we cannot reconcile ourselves to others, how does the love of God live in us? If we cannot forgive others for the small slights they have done to us, how can we expect God to forgive us? What has anyone done to you that is greater than what you have done to the Son of God? How can bitterness and hatred dwell in the heart of the child of God who has been saved by the unmerited favor of God? “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither

will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15).

Bitterness takes away the love of God from the heart. “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1 John 4:20). No one can stand before God looking for salvation when the heart has been darkened by the sin of bitterness and hatred. The heart must be cleansed of all bitterness and anger and filled with the loving, forgiving spirit of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:8). The wise man says that this kind of anger rest in the bosom of fools. (Ecclesiastes 7:9).

How do you purify a heart darkened by bitterness? Spend many hours learning how sinful you are and how much God loved you enough to forgive you and then go and do the same (Colossians 3:12-15). Know that bitterness will damn your soul to Hell if unrepentant (Galatians 5:19-21). Think on things that belong to God. Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.” Love one another (1 John 4:7-11). Remove bitterness from your life with all diligence. Walk in the light (Ephesians 4:8-14).

~via *The Gilchrist County Journal*, Trenton, Florida



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

The Anderson church of Christ website at:

www.Anderson-church.org

On the Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The *Gospel Power* in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.
Recent Meeting with Bill Hall on-line.
Harold Comer's lessons from July 7th.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Faye Hammond* is now at HeathSouth Rehabilitation in Huntsville ... *Leota Springer* spent couple of days in ECM hospital this past week due to some dizziness ... *Lou Helms* returned to the doctor in Huntsville concerning her test results and the treatment... *Sam Noles* received a good report from the tests he had done and learned that he does not have cancer... *Ashley Goode's father, Robert Barringer*, spent a few days in ECM hospital this past week, but is now at home ... Remember *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, continues at home taking his medication... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home... *Marcia Cooper* and *Brian Word's 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.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Marcia Cooper, Brian and James Word** and *all the family* in the passing of **Nola McCafferty** last night.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Butlers:** *Aric and Andrea* are back home from their honeymoon, but are in Mississippi this weekend for a wedding.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Elgin Hill church** in Elgin is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The services will begin Monday through Friday 7:00 p.m. **Leon Mauldin of Hanceville** will be the speaker in this meeting.

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

LEXINGTON MEETING: I thoroughly enjoyed being with the **Northside church** in Lexington, Alabama this past week in a gospel meeting. It was good to spend some time and to become acquainted with their new preacher, **Matt Oglesby** and his wife, **Haley**. I also appreciate the number of you from Anderson that attended and supported the meeting at Northside. Your presence was a great encouragement to me and I know to the brethren there as well.

Gospel Meeting

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2

Leon Mauldin, Speaker
Anderson church of Christ
Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

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
Larry White (256) 247-0988

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