

# 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, August 25th

#### **Bible Classes**

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 8)  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

#### **Morning Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Jerry Dickey  
Serving.. James Albert McConnell  
..... Jerry Best  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Closing Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre

#### **Evening Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Claus Martel  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 9)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume IX

August 25, 2002

No. 34

## **"I Am Not Being Edified!"**

Glen Young

There are Christians whose actions declare they feel no need to assemble with the local church. They act as if they can grow spiritually without the contact inherent in the assembly of a local church.

The Hebrew writer adequately rebuts any notion that a Christian can be edified without participation with a local church. Please consider his words before we continue. "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Christians are commanded to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." They accomplish the exhorting of one another by assembling. A word we often use to describe this process is the word edify. Edify is defined as "To instruct especially so as to encourage intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement." *American Heritage Dictionary*, electronic version.

All can see that our assemblies are times of instruction for the purpose of improving the Christian's intellectual, moral, and spiritual life. Should any or all of these be missing, the assembly is of no value and loses the objective for which it exists.

A problem exists in our assemblies when we forget the basic principle of edification. This problem has caused assemblies to deteriorate into nothing more than entertainment fests. It becomes more important for the participants to go away happy and self-satisfied than intellectually stimulated, morally challenged, or spiritually enhanced.

The most egregious examples of the problem are seen in congregations who use contemporary songs and/or special group singers. These same congregations will at specific times perform plays or skits. Finally, yet importantly, the fun and frolic of fellowship meals and church sponsored athletic teams round out the funfest. The aforementioned are predicated upon the argument that the local church is doing nothing more than edifying itself.

Before those who abhor the practicing of the social gospel become too smug, consider the following. Often, those present at the service will commend the song leader, or the one who led prayer, or the preacher for their effort. They usually say something like, "I enjoyed your prayer (selection of songs, or sermon) very much."

All such commendations are welcome encouragement to those who receive them. Christians should always be ready to acknowledge faithful service with a word of encouragement. However, they also need to look within themselves and know why they chose to commend a particular prayer, or a particular selection of a song, or a particular sermon (preacher).

Christians are to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs for the express purpose of teaching and admonishing one another (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19). Too often, commendations are given to song leaders because of the way a song sounded, not because of the words it contained. Prayers should be commended because they came from the heart of a child as he talks with his Father. Likewise, sermons should be judged upon their content not upon the mannerisms of the preacher.

When singing emphasizes the sound rather than the message, it does not edify. When praying takes place to be heard, it displeases God and does not edify. When preaching emphasizes the messenger because of his tonal quality, inflection of voice, and emotional delivery, it does not edify.

Edification occurs when songs are chosen

that will (by their words) encourage moral strength, spiritual growth, and intellectual honesty. Edification occurs when those who lead public prayer talk to the Father, not the audience. Moreover, edification occurs when preachers move us to new intellectual heights, challenge us to a higher moral plain, and increase our spiritual awareness.

Our assemblies should be a time of edification not entertainment. When Christians seek to improve intellectually, morally, and spiritually, edification will occur. A failure to be edified may indicate the individual desires to be entertained rather than edified. The problem could be closer to home than we want to admit!

~via *The Road Creek Bulletin*, Elkhorn City, Kentucky



## *The Suffering of Christ*

Jim Jonas

"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind ..." (1 Peter 4:1).

Peter's first epistle addresses on the concept of suffering. Peter does not focus upon the circumstantial trauma inflicted by a world of sharp edges and hostile microbes. Rather, he addresses the undeserved injury deliberately inflicted upon good people by those who resent or misunderstand their goodness (cf. 1 Peter 2:12, 19-20; 3:16-17).

As he warns his readers about future trials (cf. 1 Peter 1:7; 4:17-19), Peter repeatedly recalls the suffering of the Lord. He says that "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps" (1 Peter 2:21). Though Jesus "committed no sin," He was reviled, threatened and ultimately executed (1 Peter 2:22-24). Yet He did not allow such treatment to undermine His spiritual in-

tegrity. He “did not revile in return ... He did not threaten” (1 Peter 2:23a). Oh, how tempting it must have been for Jesus to rise in righteous indignation and give the arrogant Pharisees a piece of His divine mind! “But He committed Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Peter 2:23b).

Reference to the suffering of Christ, which Peter himself witnessed, is woven throughout the book (cf. 1 Peter 3:18; 4:1; 4:13). Peter saw grace under fire. He saw Jesus heal the man whose ear Peter had cut off with the sword. He heard the Lord intercede on behalf of the disciples: “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way” (John 18:8). But Peter was more than an eyewitness of Jesus’ suffering; he was a contributor to it.

His vehement denial to the contrary, Peter fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus: “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me” (Luke 22:34). Which do you suppose hurt the Lord more: the denial of the Sanhedrin, or the denial of His dear companion, Peter? Which has hurt us more in life, the wounds of enemies or strangers, or the wounds of our friends?

Peter was deeply affected by the suffering of Christ, “the just for the unjust” (1 Peter 3:18). It solidified his convictions and reinforced his commitment to Jesus. And it should ours. Whatever we are asked to suffer for the Lord pales in comparison to what Jesus endured on our behalf. When ridiculed, penalized or otherwise mistreated for doing what is right, may we patiently endure it, as did Jesus.

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 2 No. 18



**Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m. & Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

## “Must I Be Baptized To Be Saved?”

Richie Thetford

To often we hear people say that they don’t “feel” that baptism is essential for salvation. However, we can clearly see in the Bible’s many passages that baptism is essential to our salvation. Those individuals that say “I don’t feel that it is necessary,” are often the ones that have never opened up the Word of God and taken the time to read what is required for their salvation. One of the greatest examples of proving that baptism is essential is found in the book of Acts, chapter eight. Here, starting in the 26th verse we can read about where an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying: “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” The Lord had a mission for Philip to do and sent His angel to inform Philip on what He wanted Philip to do. Philip met an Ethiopian Eunuch who had come to Jerusalem to worship (vs. 27). When Philip joined the chariot, he noticed that the Eunuch was reading from the book of Isaiah. The Eunuch did not really understand what he was reading and Philip began from the passage that was being read and “preached Jesus to him” (vs. 35).

The Eunuch understood enough to **know** that he needed to be baptized to be saved (vs. 36). At this point Philip said: “If you believe with all your heart, you may” The Eunuch answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (vs. 37). Then in verse 38 the action resulting from the Eunuch’s belief in Jesus was accomplished. It says: “And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” The Eunuch never “felt” saved until he was baptized! And the fact of the matter is, he was not saved until he was baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27). Have you been baptized into Christ? If not, you are not saved in accordance with New Testament teaching. Jesus is “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9). Have you obeyed Jesus?

~via *The Castleton Light*, Indianapolis Indiana.

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Faye Hammond* continues her rehabilitation in Huntsville ...*Lou Helms* continues at home recovering from her surgery...*Lou Ann Phillips* is home recovering from her back surgery on Thursday morning ...*Tisha Rogers* was sick and not able to be at services last week, but is now doing better...*Robyn Goode* was not feeling well and not able to be at services Wednesday night...Remember *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, continues at home... *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.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Old Mouton Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Bill Hall of Rogersville* will be the speaker in this meeting. Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 7:00p.m.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Signa Skipworth and all the family* in the sudden passing of her brother-in-law, *Jimmy Parker*, this past Tuesday. His funeral was Thursday morning...Also we want to express our deepest sympathy to *Ray Tucker and all the family* in the passing of his aunt, *Lucille Tucker*, this past Thursday. Her funeral was Saturday morning.

**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.

**ANDERSON COMMUNICATOR:** Be sure to pick-up a copy of *The Anderson Communicator* in the vestibule today.

## 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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