

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

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Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 4th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (2 Jn. 1-13)
..... Larry White
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Scottie Goode
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Corey Goode
..... Jason White
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (3 Jn. 1-14)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume IX

August 4, 2002

No. 31

What Do People See In You?

David Deason

Jeff Gordon, Michael Jordan, and Greg Maddox are just three of a list that could go on for days. These men are well known and well respected in their fields of expertise. When you turn on your television on Sunday afternoon and you see the cars racing around the track at Talladega, you know who drives the number 24 car. When you watch highlights of the Chicago Bull's glory days, they are filled with #23 flying through the air. When people look at these men, they are seen as talented men and champions. They use their gifts that God has blessed them with and they are not ashamed of whom they are when their race or game is finished.

Everyone has not been blessed with these talents of athleticism. Only a chosen few will stand out on the fields of competition as elite athletes. This select group will then have the opportunity to take their abilities to a new level. As they continue to work diligently, people will begin to see them as they see Jeff Gordon, Michael Jordan, or Greg Maddox.

The name "Christian" is offered to anyone and everyone who will "take up their cross and follow" Jesus. It is a great blessing to be called "children of God." This blessing carries with it a large responsibility. This responsibility cannot be taken lightly; rather one must feel the weight of the relationship that he or she has entered into.

In 1 Peter 2:9 says, "*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*" Peter emphasizes here that those who wear the name "Christian" are God's chosen people. Christians are called

to be different from the world. Those who choose to follow Christ must follow Him wholeheartedly, without turning back.

When people stand up and make that decision to serve God, their friends, co-workers, and family will notice a difference. In order for anyone to live the life of a Christian, changes and distinctions must occur. Sinful deeds that the world engages in must not have any place in our schedules. When those people who knew us prior to our obedience to the Lord see us, it is imperative that they see a new creature. We when are obedient to the Lord, we are now Christians. As such, we must live our lives so that people can see Christ living in us.

As a Christian, our decision process must change. Before we choose to speak or act in any situation, we must honestly search our hearts and pray that Christ can be seen in our all actions. In speaking about placing others personal interests above our own, Paul gives all Christians a high standard to live up to when he says, *“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5). As Christians, we must strive to think as Christ thought and act as He would act in **every** aspect of our lives. To do any less would be sin.

George L. Johnson wrote a song, which is a prayer that every Christian should keep on the tip of their tongue:

*“Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All his wonderful passion and purity,
May His spirit divine all my being refine,
Let the Beauty of Jesus be seen in me.
Is this your prayer?”*

Think about it, when you pass people at work or at school. What do they see? Do they see someone whose number one priority is going to Heaven?

What Do People See In You?

~via *Hueytown Church Bulletin*, Hueytown, Alabama.

His Grace Reaches Me

David Owen

The subject of grace can be found throughout the text of God’s word, and for good reason—it is the theme of the Bible. One such passage is Titus 3:1-7, where the apostle Paul discussed the grace God had shown to the Christians on the isle of Crete. Below are some thoughts that the text suggests about God’s mercy.

First, grace is unmerited favor. As a concise definition of grace, this serves well. More elaborate definitions have their place; but simply stated, grace is unmerited favor. It is undeserved on the part of the recipient. It is unearned and unearnable. Someone has correctly said, “grace is everything for nothing to those who don’t deserve anything.”

The Christians to whom Titus preached had no claim on God’s grace. They were foolish...disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending {their} life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another (v.3). In short, they were in a state of total demerit. Anything God might do to save them could not be in response to any merit they had (for they had none at that point) nor as a reward for anything they had done (they only deserved to be punished). His grace toward them was pure unmerited favor.

Who among us will be so bold as to say his/her life has been so meritorious that God owes a reward? We, like the Cretans, need to remember the unmeritorious deeds from which God has saved us.

Second, grace is not cheap. Grace is free to the recipient but costly to the donor. The only way one may say that grace is not very costly is if the particular benefit costs the donor very little. Grace cost our Lord an immense amount when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared (v.4). The appearance of God’s kindness was in the person of

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Jesus Christ. To use the word cheap in the same breath with the grace of God in salvation seems almost blasphemous. It cost our Lord Jesus His life. Some may insult grace, reject it, trample on it, or disgrace it, but that does not lower its infinite value.

Third, it is not easy to believe someone who offers grace. We rightly sing of God's grace as being "amazing." It is difficult to read Titus 3:5 and not sense a note of wonder in Paul's statement: He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

We all spend most of our time in a merit system, in which acceptance is based solely on performance. "Do this and you will be paid a commensurate wage." This kind of merit system permeates all of life and much of religion. Human works, however, are incapable of producing divine favor (Romans 4:1-4). We can do nothing that will make God indebted to us for salvation. Were that possible, we would have a reason to boast. Instead we must depend upon Him for mercy. As in the case of Abraham, God's mercy is bestowed on a conditional basis. The prerequisite of receiving it is faith. Paul said his apostleship was for the purpose of bringing about...the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake (Romans 1:5)

When all is said and done, it is still difficult to believe that someone will extend an unmerited favor to those who are so undeserving.

Fourth, grace that is received changes one's life and behavior. There had been a drastic change in the lives of the Cretan Christians. Formerly, they were foolish, disobedient, etc. (v.3). But after the appearance of His grace, they were justified by His grace...and made heirs...(v.7). Their bond to God personally was strong. They followed the Lord wherever He might lead, and they had new insight into the love of their Savior for them.

Our own response to God's grace must

produce such a change in our lives. A true appreciation for the fact that "His grace reaches even me" will do no less.

~via *Book, Chapter, Verse*, Brandon, Florida



Gospel Meeting

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2

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

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Faye Hammond* continues at HeathSouth Rehabilitation in Huntsville... *Leota Springer* was sick this past week and was unable to be at services, but is now better... *Lou Helms* is returned to the doctor to see the route of her treatment... *Aldeen Noles* suffered a broken hip last weekend and had surgery on Sunday. She went to the SunBridge nursing home on Wednesday and will be taking therapy... *Ashley Goode's father, Robert Barringer*, is in ECM hospital in CCU following emergency surgery late Friday night/early Saturday morning... *Lou Helms mother, Minnie Louise Thomas*, was dismissed from the Athens Hospital on Thursday after being there several days... 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are in Mississippi this weekend for a wedding...*The Phillips: Jim and Brooke* are on this weekend vacation... *Mark McIntyre* is in Mobile this weekend with his work.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Cartwright church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. They will have a singing today at 3:00 p.m. followed by a 4:00 p.m. service. Services Monday through Thursday will begin at 7:00 p.m. They will have different speakers as follows: Sunday– *Glen Keenon*; Monday – *David Cox*; Tuesday – *Lowell Sallee*; Wednesday – *Everett Conn*; Thursday – *Norm Webb, Jr.*...The *Eastside church* in Scottsboro is also beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Grant Caldwell of Sheffield* will be the speaker in this meeting.

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

THE RECORD: *Averages for July 2002*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 90
 Morning Worship 106
 Evening Worship 86

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 77

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
 Larry White (256) 247-0988

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