

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, September 22nd

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Psalm 20)

..... Ethan Pressnell

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... James Word

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding Phil Pressnell

Serving.. James Albert McConnell

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Ethan Pressnell

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Psalm 21)

..... Claus Martel

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

..... Phil Pressnell

Closing Prayer

..... Jerry Best

Volume IX

September 22, 2002

No. 38

Gospel Meeting

Sept. 29-Oct. 2

(Sunday – Wednesday)

Schedule of Services

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

Monday – Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.

Leon Mauldin, Speaker

Hanceville, Alabama

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Interruptions

Jason Moore

Interruptions are not only a part of life, they are necessary, albeit an unpleasant part.

The unpleasanties we can all enumerate. Whose supper hasn't been disrupted by an MCI sales call? Who hasn't been delayed in traffic or road construction (or flood, for that matter)? Who hasn't been engaged in conversation only to have some one cut them off just as they were making their point?

We could all add to the list of daily interruptions that try our patience. Case in point, I've had to stop to answer the phone four times in the course of writing this article so far. But there are some benefits to be derived from life's interruptions.

Interruptions sometimes will bring opportunities. A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves who, after stripping and wounding him, left him half dead. And "by chance," the Scripture says, there came down a certain priest, and likewise a Levite, and a certain Samaritan who was on a journey (Luke 10:30-33). Opportunities, like interruptions, often come "by chance." Perhaps that is because the circumstances which bring opportunities (the thievery, in this case) are "by chance."

Note that all three men who encountered the victim of the theft were interrupted. Two of the men even changed course. They passed by on the other side. The Levite even stopped to look on him, to rubberneck, before moving on. It is interesting however that the text says that only the Samaritan who stopped to be a neighbor had some place to go. He was on a journey (verse 33). Interruptions then can become opportunities depending upon our reaction to them.

Some interruptions may even be providential. Jesus and the disciples withdrew to a deserted place to rest, only to be interrupted by

the multitudes who followed Him there (Mark 6). Peter and John were stopped by a lame man at the Beautiful Gate as they were about to go into the temple (Acts 3). Paul's preaching efforts in Macedonia were interrupted first by the demon-possessed slave girl, then by her masters who saw Paul beaten and cast in prison (Acts 16).

All three of the occasions above, and numerous others which could be cited, provided audiences for the hearing of the gospel. So perhaps we should revise what we've said about interruptions being unplanned, chance ruptures of our schedules. For sometimes they're planned by God.

Interruptions teach us patience. Someone may interrupt you about something unimportant in your estimation, but it may be important to them. Have you not done the same? Could it not be that you'll need to call upon someone for help in the future and interrupt their schedule? Have you not interrupted another's conversation because you had something you thought so important to say? You may be the one in the stalled car holding up traffic tomorrow. Or the only job you may find someday to support your family may be as an MCI operator. So show some consideration for others in need.

Jesus had to deal with interruptions. Jesus had important work to do. But He had time for the children. "Suffer them to come to me," he said.

Jesus had places to go. He was leaving Jericho headed for the consummation of His work in Jerusalem when blind Bartimaeus cried for Him. The crowd tried to silence the blind beggar. But Jesus "stood still" and called for him (Mark 10:49).

Jesus had people to see. He was invited to dine with a certain Pharisee, Simon (Luke 7). The meal was interrupted by the woman, a sinner, who came and anointed his feet with her tears, and dried them with her hair. How would you feel to be singled out by someone of sordid reputation when in the company of some no-

table? The host was offended. Jesus was forgiving. Some of Jesus' greatest lessons and certainly greatest examples of conduct came when he was interrupted.

It occurs to me how often we must interrupt God. We call upon Him when we need help out of some fix into which we brought ourselves. We miss the point of the trial or the blessing or the opportunity that He has given us and use it for our own selfish devices rather than for His glory.

He speaks to us in His word and through His messengers and we cut Him off because we have other matters about which to think, other matters to attend, other opinions than His. We let sin come in and spoil our relations with Him. And yet He interrupts our lives only to help, to save.

May we let Him trouble us more, and may we turn life's interruptions into heaven's opportunities.

~via *Gospel Observer*, Ashland, Kentucky



“He Never Let On!”

Robert F. Turner

The musical “Oklahoma” has a character, Judd, who is eulogized in a mock funeral as one who was kind and gentle, and loved the whole human race; **“Only they never knew it – he never let on.”**

Poor Judd is not dead – he isn't even sick. There are thousands of his kind in the church. They love all people and long to see the whole world converted – the the world never discovers this burning desire. They never “let on,” even to a hair dresser.

They love the truth, according to public prayers and songs. But if they attend Bible study

at all, it is to give their opinion or experience, not to study the text. If a passage seems to run counter to their traditional concepts, they ignore it or “explain it away.”

They believe in salvation by grace — and if you push them hard enough they will admit it. They know that one may fall from grace – i.e. some one other than themselves. If they really believe that the Lord will reveal and judge the secrets of their lives and thought, “they never let on.” You would never guess it.

They “love the brotherhood” if not the brethren. They long for unity of all saints, and would do almost anything to see all issues properly settled — except meeting with those with whom they differ for an honorable and scriptural discussion of the issues which divide them.

This is not intended as a blanket indictment of all church members, for I know the salt of the earth is at work. Christians are concerned, and endeavor to teach their neighbors. Gospel preachers are demonstrating by sacrificial efforts, their love for souls. There are those who care more for peace with God, than for approval of the “the party.”

But this is a reminder that such love, concern and endeavor are not “done in a corner.” If people about you have never suspected that you are a Christian, there's a good chance that you have never “let on” with a fair sample of Christian living. Do not ask me to preach your funeral.

~via *Toward A Greater Faith*, Joneboro. Arkansas.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Lou Helms* continues at home and is making progress in her recovery...*Faye Hammond* continues her rehabilitation at home ...*Helen Trousdale* is doing better after being sick recently with a cold/flu ...*Sanda Martel* has also been sick with the cold/flu and is doing better...*Madia Haraway* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend... *Brooke Phillips* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Marla Clemmons* was not feeling well and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday... *Scottie Goode* is doing better after hurting his back this past week...*My sister, Anita Willis*, seems to be doing well after her surgery on Wednesday due to her cancer and the reports seem good ...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.

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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Phillips: Jim and Brooke* were out of town last Sunday in Starkville, Mississippi...**The Pressnells:** *Phil, Cindy, Ethan and Logan* were away last Sunday ...*Corey Goode* has been working in Wilsonville, Alabama this week and will be going back again this week.

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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