

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 8th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Psalm 15 & 16)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding James Word
Serving Ray Tucker
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Jerry Best
Closing Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Psalm 17)
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... James Word
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Volume IX

September 8, 2002

No. 36

"More Blessed To Give"

David A. Cox

There are only two occasions that are recorded in scripture of Paul making a direct quote from Jesus. One of the quotes is not even recorded in the gospels and is found when Paul is concluding his remarks to the Ephesians as he says, "remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). This has always been an interesting passage and one that we would do well to live with this principle.

We have no way of knowing when Jesus spoke these words or how Paul knew the quote, but we know that he reminded the Ephesian elders of these words and they were recorded by inspiration for our use and instruction. Let us notice what we learn from these words.

Exalted Teaching of Jesus

These words remind us of the exalted character and teaching of Jesus. This line of thinking is diametrically opposed to the thinking of the world. The world says "receiving or getting is better than giving." Jesus said that giving was "more blessed". The word more carries an idea of something higher, deeper and fuller than just mere happiness. The point is that in giving there is a more lasting satisfaction that comes to the one who gives than the one who receives. Jesus' own life taught and practiced the great blessed of giving (Matthew 20:28; Acts 10:38).

The Unselfishness In Life

The word "unselfish" describes the attitude of Christ and the attitude need to understand this truth He taught. The greatest hinderance in an individual giving is that of selfishness. "It is mine" philosophy. Jesus, however, did not see life in that way. He

saw life as a transitory thing to the exaltation and glory of what was after this life. Paul is reminding the brethren on this occasion that the Lord taught that giving was the better thing. While Paul was on this third journey, he was collecting benevolent help for the poor saints in Jerusalem. He wrote to the church at Corinth and he told them how the churches of Macedonia, even in deep poverty, had abounded in their giving. Not only had these brethren abounded in the financial help of the needy saints, “but first gave their own selves to the Lord” (2 Corinthians 8:5). Indeed, giving can be monetary, but we must also understand the blessedness of non monetary giving.; the giving of one’s self to God and His cause (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21).

The Principles of Life: Gain or Service

In this life there are two principle views of life: gain or service.

Gain of course can be used in a good way if one uses the blessing to give more to the work of the Lord and to help others. But in many cases, gain is the acquisition of things one wants, and not because of need. Gain in this mind-set caused Jesus to warn “a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). It is this view of gain that Paul reminded Timothy that “godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Timothy 6:6-7). If we have the right attitude toward gain it will cause one to view life more as service.

Service is the way we would definitely describe the life of Christ. Jesus said of His life that He , “came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). As Paul was speaking to the Ephesian elders, he was wanting to encourage them to follow the example of Christ in serving others. Paul had lived his life in emulating the example of Christ and he encouraged others to do the same (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:1). As we all strive for our life to be one of service let us remember the words of an old

song...

Are you dwelling in the sunlight?
Is your path with roses strewn?
Do you walk with buoyant gladness
In the steps that you have hewn?
Have you reached the top of Pisgah,
Climbling always firm and true?
Don’t forget that in the valley
There is some one needing you.

May we ever learn that seeking selfish gain will never equal the thrilling joy and peace of mind as that of giving and serving. May we ever remember the words of the Lord “It is more blessed to give than receive.”



Who To Trust?

Allen Dvorak

No matter what task you want to accomplish, there is someone who is willing to tell you how to do it. In fact, the chances are good that there are several someones who will offer advice, often conflicting. From lawn care to cancer treatment, from parenting techniques to trading in the stock market, we are overwhelmed with the amount of advice that is available.

Take bad advice about the care of your lawn and the worse that may happen is that you harvest a bumpercrop of crabgrass and dandelions in the fall. There are some areas of life, however, in which following bad advice can be extremely costly in terms of the seriousness and longevity of the consequences. Quite frankly, we want to “get it right” the first time with some things because we can’t easily undo mistakes. Parenting is like that, as is the marriage relationship. All parents make mistakes, just as all

spouses are imperfect (except my wife, of course!).

There's the rub. I want to get it right the first time, but to whom do I listen? Whose advice is best? Pick any topic and we don't lack for "authorities" on the subject. Unfortunately, the "authorities" often don't agree with one another and their opinions change like the direction of the wind! The gurus of parenting spend years writing and speaking about how it is not good to spank your child and the tide of popular opinion suddenly turns and corporal punishment is okay and even encouraged! In one best-seller, spouses are told that a little martial infidelity can "spice up" the marriage relationship; another popular author on marriage declares that sexual faithfulness is absolutely necessary for a lasting marriage. Whom are we to believe?

The sad truth is often we simply follow the counsel which most closely fits what we already believe; it may be bad advice, but we like it! We may know little about the one offering us guidance and thus discover to our dismay at some point in the future that we have been misled.

Where are you getting your information... about life? Paul wrote to Timothy, "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:14-15). Timothy could trust the information which he had received because he knew the trustworthy guide because it is the Word of God. It is not within the scope of this article to present evidence for the divine origin of the Bible, but the evidence exists and it is convincing. From marriage to parenting, from interpersonal relationships to eternal salvation from sin, the Scriptures are an accurate source of information. Best of all, the divine counsel doesn't change with the whims of men!

~via *Words of Life*, Pleasant Grove, Alabama.



Gospel Meeting

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2

Leon Mauldin, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ
Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Lou Helms* came home from ECM hospital late Thursday night after spending a day there...*Faye Hammond* came home on Friday from the Huntsville from her rehabilitation ...*Willie Ridgeway* is recovering from surgery on his foot last week ...*Cindy Pressnell's mother, Nancy Hagood*, is recovering at home from recent surgery to her foot...*Lakin Hammond* has been sick this past week with a high fever and was unable to be at services Wednesday night ...*Katy Goode* was not feeling well and not able to be at services Wednesday night...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 Two's week to meet. If you are in Group Two, plan to participate with the group tonight.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Butlers:* Aric and Andrea are away this morning visiting with family in Tennessee...*The Coxes:* Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I are away today as I begin a meeting with the Centerview church in Russellville.

GOSPEL MEETING/ SINGINGS:The *West Rogersville church* in Rogersville is having a week of singing school and singings. They will meet at 6:30 p.m. for instruction for song leaders and at 7:30 p.m. for congregational singing and instruction. *Tim Stevens of Kemp, Texas* will be the instructor...*The Centerview church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. They will have a singing at 2:30 this afternoon followed by a service at 4:00 p.m. Services Monday through Wednesday will be at 7:30 p.m. I will be the speaker in this meeting.

PREACHING TODAY: Due to my beginning a meeting today with the Centerview church, *Randall Hammock* will be preaching in my absence this morning and *Jonathan Keenon* will be preaching for me this evening. *Michael Clemmons* will be teaching my class this morning and Wednesday night as well. I appreciate these men filling in for me while I am away and I know that you will enjoy hearing them.

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning *Jamie Mosley* came forward asking for forgiveness and prayers. We appreciate Jamie's good heart and her desire to please God. May we all be a source of encouragement to Jamie and she to us in our walk through this life.



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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