

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, December 7th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Proverbs 7:1-15)
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Claus Martel
Lord's Supper Monroe Pressnell
Serving..... Larry White
..... Cutris Mosley
..... Jim Phillips
..... Aric Butler
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 7:16-27)
..... Mike Rogers
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Larry White
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Volume X

December 7, 2003

No. 49

Be Strong and of Good Courage

Jim Jonas

Israel had already failed at the threshold of Canaan once. The spies had indeed seen a land that flowed with milk and honey, but they also saw fortified cities and men unusually large in stature (Numbers 13:27-28). Their assessment: "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we ... We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight" (Numbers 13:31, 33).

Imagine! The Israelites had seen the land of Egypt, the greatest power of its day, reduced to ruin and Pharaoh's army overwhelmed by the sea. Canaan, on the other hand, lacked the political unity and cultural cohesiveness of Egypt. It was a loose association of autonomous city-states (cf. Genesis 15:18-21; Joshua 10:3-5). Yet before this primitive and inferior foe the Israelite spies had trembled and been shaken in their resolve.

Now, one of those original spies who did not succumb to fear is again standing on the border of Canaan. Having been overruled by the majority, swept away in the rapids of rebellion, having suffered a forty-year punishment not of his own making, Joshua is poised to lead the armies of God against His enemies.

What did the Canaanites represent? They represented the forces of ignorance and immorality. They were idolaters who rejected the knowledge of God in favor of soothsaying, superstition and astrology (cf. Leviticus 19:31; 20:1-6; Dueteronomy 18:9-12). They were perverted and grossly immoral (Leviticus 18:24-28). Joshua and Israel faced not only civil and/or military foes. Their battleground was not merely a piece of real estate. It was a war of ideology – of right and wrong, of good and evil. God's honor and character were to be

defended.

Thus God encourages the now-aged warrior and leader of Israel: “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage” (Joshua 1:5-6). Joshua had stood firm for the Lord in his earlier days of youthful vigor and vitality. Now was not the time to fear his age, to cower before the fortresses of Canaan, to measure the size of the sons of Anak. Neither was it the time to consider Israel’s weaknesses and shortcomings. It was time to fix his gaze firmly upon Jehovah, move forward with courage and resolve and entrust the outcome to God.

But God cautions Joshua: “Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:7-8).

We must make sure that in any conflict we are found on the side of truth and godly principle. Others may misconstrue our motives or assail our attitudes, but we must remember that we answer to God first. He is our toughest critic, and if we can examine ourselves in the light of His word and secure His grace and mercy, then we will be able to meet any foe with courage.

God further admonishes Joshua: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9). May He ever be with us.

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

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Overcoming Evil With Good

Allen Dvorak

Legalized abortion has been a powderkeg issue for more than thirty years in this country. There are strong emotions on both sides of the question of abortion; supporters argue that it is a matter of privacy and the control of a woman over her own body, while opponents view it as a moral issue and the taking of innocent human life.

Over the years, both supporters and opponents of abortion have let their views be known through a variety of means, not all of which have been peaceful. Public debates and demonstrations, advertising which publicizes one’s view, support of political candidates who favor the same view of abortion - all of these are legitimate ways of supporting or trying to change public policy.

Unfortunately, some are not satisfied with working within the legal and political system to change policy. As a result, abortion clinics have been bombed and sometimes doctors who perform abortions have been murdered.

The media has followed for some time stories which involve the bombing of abortion clinics in Birmingham and the fatal shooting of a doctor known for performing abortions. I suspect that those who commit these violent acts view themselves as heroes, men or women who destroy the capacity of others to perform abortions, willing to sacrifice their own lives to save the lives of babies.

They are not heroes; they are lawbreakers and, in some cases, murderers. I am totally against abortion. I believe that it is morally wrong to take innocent human life. I vote against candidates who support abortion.

I have participated in public demonstrations against abortion. I have both preached and written against abortion. But I fail to understand the logic behind shooting a doctor because he per-

forms abortions. I understand that the doctor is viewed by many as a murderer, but he is not guilty in the eyes of the law of the land. In that sense, the one who kills the doctor is taking an innocent human life to protest the taking of innocent human life. Does that not seem inconsistent with the principle which supposedly motivates the opposition to abortion, i.e., the sanctity of human life?

The Christian, of course, can argue that the doctor who performs abortions violates God's law and deserves to be punished. Every Christian must realize that while he/she is responsible to divine law, he/she is also responsible to human law and instructed to keep that law (Romans 13:1-7).

There is a fundamental principle involved in this matter, one whose application extends to many situations beyond that of the question of abortion. The Scriptures affirm that we cannot combat evil by doing evil (Romans 12:17-21; 38). At the same time that we condemn the vigilante who uses evil (breaking the law of the land) to combat evil (abortion), we should examine our own lives for the same fundamental fault. Have we ever reasoned, "I know that it was wrong for me to mistreat so-and-so, but he deserved it..."?

-via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.



Be Still

David Holder

Perhaps you've seen the cartoon that pictures a fellow behind a desk containing two piles of paper. You'd expect the piles to be labeled IN and OUT. Instead, the shortest pile is labeled In and the tallest IN OVER MY HEAD. If this applies to you, as it does to me at times, it's time to listen to these words I clipped out a while back: God hears your hurried prayers. But he yearns for you to give Him an uncluttered slice of you

time, free from the distractions of a busy day. It will seldom happen by accident. In fact, you may have to take the phone off the hook, turn off the TV, or rearrange your schedule. But what a small price to pay to "be still and know" God!

I did a little study on the word "still" in this quotation from Psalm 46:10. I discovered it is translated "let me alone" in Deuteronomy 9:14 and Judges 11:37. Samuel used this word when he told Saul to "Wait" to hear what the Lord said the night before (1 Samuel 15:16). God commanded the avenging angel to "relax" his hand from destruction (2 Samuel 24:16). The psalmist wrote, "Cease" from anger (Psalm 37:8).

To "be still" is to slow down or stop, to relax or be alone. This requires planned moments that are uncluttered and serene. Matthew notes two times that Jesus left the crowds to go to a secluded place (Matthew 14:13. 22-33).

All of us need moments of solitude. Few of us actually take the time to arrange them. If we do, we'll know God better and equip ourselves to serve Him more. Even when we're "in over our heads," we'll sort it out better if we'll "be still and know" God. Try it!

-via *Family Report*, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Willie Ridgeway* was admitted to ECM in Florence on Saturday due to not being able to breathe well ... *Jerry Best* is at home following his eye surgery Wednesday morning in Florence ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home ... *Lou Ann Phillips* is now doing better after spending a day in the hospital for some tests... *Amber Hammond* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Wynell Ridgeway* had her arteriogram on Monday and the decision was to treat her with medication... *Jean Ray* continues to be sick and is at home, but not able to be out... *Eddie Hammond's cousin*,

Ricky Davis, is not doing well at all in Ohio ... Remember **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home ... **Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty** who is at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ... **James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell**, continues at home... **Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, continues at home ... **Faye Hammond** continues at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... **Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray**, who is at home... **Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray**, who is staying with family.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication group one to meet. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group.

OUT OF TOWN: **James Word** has been in Georgia this past week.

HUBERT GOODE: We want to express our deepest sympathy to all the family of Hubert Goode. Hubert passed away Monday morning and his funeral was on Wednesday in Pulaski, Tennessee.

TAPES/CD's & DVD's: Remember the church here is now making video recordings of all the sermons preached here. You can receive a DVD of any sermon that you wish. The cassette tapes and CD's are still available as well if any one would like a copy.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Addison church** in Addison is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday night with services at 7:30 p.m. **Charles Sinyard of Cullman** will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: *Averages for November 2003*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 92
 Morning Worship 111
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 72

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 5:00 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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