

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, January 5th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Psalm 60)

..... Wesley Phillips

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding Rocky Rose

..... Aric Butler

..... Curtis Mosley

..... Jimmy Glass

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Psalm 61)

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Larry White

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Volume X

January 5, 2003

No. 1

Be Not Dismayed

Earl Kimbrough

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

The Lord addresses the words of Isaiah 41:8-20 to Israel as they faced the time of Babylonian Captivity. But the promise he gave in verse ten in essence was repeated many times to his people in old times. It remains as comforting and reassuring to Christians today as it was to the faithful in the time of Moses, Samuel, and Isaiah. The Lord said:

1. "**Fear Not, for I am with you.**" Fear is a common emotion of mankind. Many things can cause us to be afraid—violent weather, crime, war, critical sickness, brushes with death, economic depression, and tragic accidents, to name a few. Christians face the same dangers that cause the rest of humanity to fear, plus the persecution and affliction they may suffer as Christians. But Christians have less reason to fear these things than others. They hear the tender voice of God saying "fear not" while giving them the greatest reason not to: "for I am with you."

2. "**Be not dismayed, for I am your God.**" Dismay is a kind of fear that results in anxiety, discouragement, and apprehension. It indicates a loss of faith and courage in facing some difficulty, real or supposed, with which one does not know how to deal. We sometimes find ourselves facing such things with such depressing uneasiness that we hardly know what to pray for in regard to it. But here again, the words of God speak softly to our hearts saying there is no reason to be dismayed "for I am your God." We may not see the end but God does. We do not need to know the solution to our problems

beforehand. It is enough to simply know that the Lord is our God (cf. Psalm 23). That says it all!

3. **“I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you.”** The Lord does not promise to deliver us from the things that may cause fear or dismay, but he removes fear by promising the strength to deal with the problems. He also promises in his providence to help us. We are encouraged to come boldly to the throne of grace that we may “obtain mercy and find grace in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

If we surrender our lives to the Lord without fear or dismay, trusting him for the promised strength and aid, then he says: “I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” With the assurance God gives in these words, what cause do we have to fear or be dismayed?

-via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 2 No. 34.



What Is True Conversion?

David Thacker

Rusty Miller, in the Abundant Life Publication, stated, “If one is to set about building a Church, he must find those who are so willing.” Amen! For a Church to be what God intended each member must be converted or else the Lord’s work will never reach its full potential. Churches often fail to grow and to succeed in the Lord’s work because its members are not truly converted to its mission, and to the Lord. Some mistakenly think that to attend services on Sunday morning is all there is to being a Christian, but that is not so when we look at the lives of members of New Testament churches. One good example is that of Thessalonica. Upon close inspection of this congregation and her members, we can ascertain what true conversion is.

Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul as he describes the Church at Thessalonica in (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10) “For they themselves re-

port about us what kind of reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

One of the first things that we see in a person who has truly been converted is that they turn from sin. Paul recalls how those in Thessalonica turned from idols, which is at least half of the definition of repentance (turning from sin) and a part of true New Testament conversion. It cannot be denied that in the early church, repentance was required (Acts 2:37-38). If we would please God today, we must be willing to change, seeking to eliminate sin from our lives.

Next, we see how they turned to God. It was not enough that they stopped sinning. They knew they also had to turn to God, letting Him have the rule in their lives. This is the walk of the Christian, the one that seeks to please God in all that we do (2 Corinthians 5:9). This walk is not sinless, but we strive for it to be. Our striving to be sinless is characterized by the godly sorrow that brings us to repentance when we do sin. Turning to God means that we no longer operate from a selfish, willful rebellion against God’s will, but we make ourselves open to follow His instruction.

Another thing we notice about those true converts at Thessalonica is that they waited for the second coming of Christ. The Church eagerly awaited the return of Jesus. Those who are truly converted want to see Jesus and they live for, and wait for, His coming. Being prepared for the Lord’s return is the most important thing for them. They know that the ultimate result of their turning from sin and turning to God, to do His will, is that at the Lord’s coming they will live eternally with God.

In connection with the Thessalonians’ desire to see the Lord, they also wanted to avoid the wrath of God which is to come. In this respect, we have before us a coin with two sides. On the one side, we have the joy of being rewarded with a

home in heaven at Christ's return, and on the other side; there is comfort in knowing that we are safe from God's wrath. At Christ's return, God's wrath will be poured out upon those who do not know Him and have not obeyed Him (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Those who live in open rebellion of God will suffer his wrath and it is described by Paul as "destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power." But thanks be to God, the truly converted Christian and servant of God will escape this destruction and wrath.

I hope that you can say, "I am truly converted." If you are not truly converted, what is keeping you from being so? What on earth is worth facing the wrath of God?

-via *The Road Creek Bulletin*, Elkhorn City, Kentucky.



"Keep The Door of My Lips"

Frank Himmel

"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips!" (Psalms 141:3). David's prayer was a wise one. Most of us would have to admit that many of our problems come as a result of guarding our lips. Along with David let us pray:

Lord, help me not speak until I have all the facts.

How many times have people been hurt because someone said things before they had the facts to back up their words?

Lord, help me not to speak in anger. Have you ever said something when you were angry, then later you would have given anything if you could take it back?

Lord, help me not to be unkind. Sometimes, people excuse brutal, harsh words by saying they are just being honest and frank. Can you be honest without being unkind? "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt" (Colossians 3 :6).

Lord, help me to speak the truth. People lie for many reasons: attempting to get out of trouble, to excuse themselves from what they do not want to do, to make money, to make others look bad, and so on. No reason is acceptable. "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord (Psalm 12:22).

Lord, help me to know when I have said enough. Perhaps I have.

-via *The Manslick Road Speaker*, Louisville, Kentucky



A Test for A Social Drinker

Mark W. White

Social drinking has always had its proponents, even in the church. Behavior which Peter described as typical of the ungodly (licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revelry, carousing and idolatry, 1 Peter 4:3) are sometimes observed among Christians. Sadly, some Christians will defend these things and will even try to encourage other Christians to join them in their sins. If you or someone you know is a social drinker, would you be willing to sign the following statement?

- ☛ I do not believe drinking harms my influence or reputation.
- ☛ I believe I could teach someone to become a Christian with a drink in my hand.
- ☛ My interest in the church and spiritual things has not diminished since I started drinking.
- ☛ I am more generous in my giving to the Lord since I began to drink.
- ☛ Drinking is good for my marriage; we have a more stable relationship since alcohol became a part of my life.
- ☛ I believe drinking exhibits a good influence for my children; I have no objection to them following my example.

Surely no wise Christian would try to defend such an evil. People of good sense know the truth of the Bible statement. "Wine is a mocker, strong

drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1)

- via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Jean Ray* has continued to be unable to be out due to sickness ...*Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home in Florence...*Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going for rehabilitation during the week...*Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, returned home this week from her time in rehabilitation in Florence following her recent stroke...*Taylor Mosley* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at services ...*Eddie Hammond* was sick this past Wednesday night and was unable to be at services ...*Scottie Goodes's father, Hubert Goode*, is to go to have some tests done on Friday of this week in Huntsville to see about the problems with his not being able to eat...*Marcia Cooper and Bryan Word's aunt, Colista Shelton*, is now at home following her surgery last week.... *Janice Glass' uncle, Fred Masonia*, had surgery Friday to removed a growth and is in ICU at ECM...*Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, received a very good report from her tests concerning the bone cancer. It was benign... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, has cancer and is being treated... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home...*Marcia Cooper's 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.

THE RECORD: *Averages for 4th Qrt. 2002*

Sunday: Bible Classes 86
Morning Worship 102
Evening Worship 73
Wednesday: Bible Classes 71

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
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