

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 Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 16th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Psalm 85)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Jerry Dickey
..... Aric Butler
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Psalm 86)
..... Larry White
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
..... Jerry Dickey
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume X

March 16, 2003

No. 11

God Is and He Cares

Earl Kimbrough

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows his handiwork, but the Bible alone reveals God's nature and character. It declares him to be infinite and eternal, without beginning or end. He is shown to be the ultimate source of all things, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and all that exists therein. The text proclaims three crucial facts about God and our relation to Him.

1. **God Is.** He really exists! There is a God, the Supreme Being, the supreme reality. His existence is subject to intelligent faith (Romans 1:19). The evidence for God's existence is so abundant that people are without excuse in denying Him (Psalm 19:1-4). It is the fool that says in his heart there is not God (Psalm 14:1). God not only exists now, but he has always existed and will continue to exist forever (Isaiah 57:15).

2. **God Cares.** He cares for his creatures and He blesses them in accord with their response to him. His role as a renderer of rewards is demonstrated from the beginning. By faith Enoch walked with God and God took him away to eternal blessing. Noah by faith found favor with him to the saving of his family and Abraham was rewarded with divine blessings for himself and his children, both physical and spiritual. The rewards that God bestows on the faithful are both temporal and eternal. One who does not believe that God is a rewarder has no basis to walk with him daily, to pray to him continually, and to worship him regularly.

3. **Man's Active Faith Is Essential.** One cannot please God

without active faith in Him and His perfect goodness. Apart from living faith, one cannot properly do what God requires in seeking Him (Matthew 6:33; 7:7,21; James 2:14-26). Where faith is lacking, there is no incentive to seek God. The fountain of all service to him is a firm belief that He is and that He genuinely cares. He is a loving rewarder of all who earnestly seek him. Isaiah encouraged ancient Israel to: "Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And he will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6).

David no doubt had the truth that God is and God cares in mind when he counseled Solomon concerning the Lord, saying: "If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him He will cast you off forever" (2 Chronicles 28:9)

~via *Biblical E-Sights* Vol. 3 No.. 5



Three Needs

Aude McKee

As you study the "Missionary Journeys" of the apostle Paul, you have to be impressed with a number of lessons that are needful in this present day. Here are some that come to mind.

First, We need more men like Paul--men who will preach the gospel, not out of consideration for money, but because "woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Men are needed who are willing to sacrifice that others might know the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:6). Articles are written occasionally that propose to tell us why we have a preacher shortage and what we can do to solve it. Usually a large number of things are listed, and among them is the fact that preachers are sometimes underpaid and have no retirement pro-

gram. We are not advocating that preachers should be kept on a starvation pay schedule, but if it takes a promise of more financial security to get more men to preach, those men who would be affected had better continue with their present plans! A preacher of many years ago is reported to have often told the young men around him, "Don't preach if you can help it." This is good advice. If a man can fail to preach the gospel of Christ and his conscience be clear, he had better not preach. One man preaching the gospel because he loves the Lord, the truth, and the souls of men is worth more to the cause of Christ than a host of men who preach for the money. The only real solution to our present-day preacher shortage is the development of more young men who look not at the material advantages or disadvantages of preaching, but are motivated by the need! Souls are going into eternity every day who are lost, and how shall those who remain "hear without a preacher?"

A second need that comes to mind as you study the work of men like Paul is more churches that are willing to make sacrifices to send men out to preach the word. "How shall they preach except they be sent" (Romans 10:15)? We need more churches like Antioch and Philippi who will "send once and again" to the necessities of men willing to preach the gospel of our Lord. We need more brethren whose vision extends beyond the confines of the area served by the local congregation.

A third need that is clearly evident is more people like Lydia and the Jailer (Acts 16). These were people who were willing to allow God's word to open their hearts that they might obey the commands of God's Son. We need more people who are not concerned about place, money, or the praise of men, but vitally concerned about serving God here and going to heaven when they die.

All of us can do something about meeting these needs, and when we do we will be the richer for it.

~via *The Lakeview Lamp* Hendersonville, Tennessee.

The Importance of Words

Gilbert Alexander

Words are the stuff language is made of. They are the vehicles of thought, the structural blocks of communication. They can turn away wrath or stir up anger (Proverbs 15:1). Deceitful words are sometimes smoother than butter (Psalms 55:21), deceiving the hearts of the simple (Romans 16:18). Careless and unguarded speech gets people into trouble. It is better to be a man of few words than to sin through a multitude of words (Proverbs 10:19, Ecclesiastes 5:2,3). Words of truth give light (Psalms 119:130), and the words of the wise are like goads and nails which urge obedience to God and fasten securely our hope and faith. Empty words are vain and, in some cases, profane. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer (Psalm 19:14).

God chose the words used in the Scriptures. He gave names to people and sometimes changed their names to convey a message. In expressing His will to us and giving His commandments to us, He used the words He chose because they conveyed the message He wanted to deliver. Jesus was so named because He is the Savior or Deliverer. He was called Christ because He is the Messiah, the anointed One. Every word in the Lord's commands is significant. "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation" tells us that we must express our faith with words and that such confession is a part of God's plan of salvation since it is unto salvation. When God commanded that people believe and be baptized, He coupled faith and baptism (immersion, not pouring or sprinkling) for salvation. Men have fought against this simple truth with every stratagem they can conceive, but God meant what He said. When teachers of God's word point out that the way of salvation is for all, everyone, whosoever and all men everywhere they are using words that God chose to declare who can be saved.

Since all words have meaning and significance, it is essential that we understand the meanings of words in order to understand the message and to know what to do (1 Corinthians 14:9-11). Teachers must use understandable words, and hearers must ask about things they did not hear well or did not understand, if teaching is to be accomplished. Even simple words like meet, let, prevent, hell and others may be confusing if one does not recognize that they have more than one meaning. The language of the Scriptures is not intended to be vague, but to be clear and direct in thought.

Finally, our words are important – even enough to justify or condemn us (Matthew 12:37). We must be careful about what we say and how we say it. We must use sound words that cannot be condemned (Titus 2:8). We must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). We must be swift to hear and slow to speak, to give proper thought as to whether to speak and what to say. Let us never underestimate the power and importance of words.

~via *Gospel Observer*, Deham Springs, Louisiana.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* is in room 670, at ECM hospital. He will undergo a round of chemo therapy and hopes to home the first part of this week ...*Marla Clemmons' grandmother, Mildred Blackburn*, is in the ECM hospital, room 655 ...*Jean Ray* has been sick recently and has not been able to be out...*Hubert Goode* had a stint placed in his throat on Friday in Huntsville...*Jerry and Mary Best* have both been sick this past week and were not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Sanda Martel* was sick and not able to be out Wednesday night ...*Faye Hammond* continues at home and continues her rehabilitation during the week...*Chase*

Williams was sick this past Wednesday night and not able to be at Bible study ... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, continues at home ... *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* who is at 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... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, who is at home.

OUT OF TOWN: *Signa Skipworth* and *Cathrine Parker* have been in North Carolina this week visiting with their sister, *Ann...* *Claus Martel* has been out of town with his work again this week.

SONG SERVICE: Tonight will be the time for regular scheduled song service. *Mark McIntyre* will be directing the service. I hope that everyone will plan to be present as we lift our voices in songs of praise to God.

SONG PRACTICE: We will be meeting this afternoon at 4:15 for our song practice. During this time our young boys will lead a song and we will sing some songs that we are not as familiar with.

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning *Hubert Goode* came forward and confessed unfaithfulness and asked for prayers. We appreciate the determination of Hubert to make his life right with God. Let us all encourage him as he will encourage us in our service to the Lord.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication group three to meet after our evening service. If you are in group three, plan to meet this evening.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Posey church* in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Lonnie Oldag* will be the speaker.

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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