

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, March 23rd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Psalm 88)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Claus Martel
..... James Albert McConnell
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Psalm 89:1-15)
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Claus Martel
Closing Prayer
..... Jerry Best

Volume X

March 23, 2003

No. 12

Gospel Meeting

March 30- April 4
(Sunday – Friday)

Schedule of Services

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

Robert Harkrider, Speaker
Orlando, Florida

Anderson church of Christ
Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Was The Thief Saved Without Baptism?

Robert Harkrider

We actually know little about the salvation of the thief. Whether he knew anything of salvation from sin through Christ would be difficult to prove. In fact, whether or not he had earlier been baptized by John the Baptist and since that time fallen into sin would be of question (Matthew 3:1-6). Without quibbling over these incidentals, the salvation of the thief was miraculous and none can be saved that way now.

The New Testament teaches that while Christ was on earth He had the power to forgive sins, as He chose. To the man sick of palsy Jesus said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." Certain of the scribes questioned His power to do this, and Jesus replied, "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of palsy), Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house" (Matthew 9:1-6).

Christ had the power to forgive sins on whatever conditions He chose while on earth, but He had laid down conditions of salvation to take effect after His death which will last throughout all generations. The Hebrew writer gives an illustration which explains, "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth (Hebrews 9:16-17).

A man's last will and testament is not fixed until after his death. As long as he lives he sustains the right to change the gifts or even the beneficiaries. But after his death, the will is sealed and cannot be changed even by the courts of the land. So is the will of Christ; it became of force after His death.

To illustrate, consider a man who has two sons, and he stipulates in his will if each son is twenty-one years of age and married he shall receive his portion of the inheritance. But if shortly before his death the father finds some

reason to favor one of his sons, and he gives the inheritance to him before he is married, does not the father have the power (right) to do this? We can also understand that the other son will not receive of the father until he is both twenty-one and married even though his brother was granted such without marriage. After the death of the father the will becomes effective and cannot be altered.

Before His death Christ had the power to forgive sins of whomever he wanted and whatever conditions he desired. But after the death, burial and resurrection of Christ the Lord's will reads: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). Both conditions of the will must be obeyed if we "shall be saved." We cannot look to the thief to justify ourselves anymore than one brother could annul the father's will upon the of what had happened to the other son. (Read Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-5).

-via Gospel Guide Vol. 25 No.9



"In None Other Is There Salvation"

Dan Richardson

"And in none other is there salvation; for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). This story begins in Acts 3:1, when Peter and John heal a lame man "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (3:5) at the door of the temple. Attracting a multitude, Peter had opportunity to preach Jesus (3:11-26). They were seized and brought before the high court of the Jews for interrogation (4:1-7).

Peter's defense before the tribunal was to proclaim the power in Jesus' name, by which this lame was healed, but more importantly, by which all are saved from sin (4:8-12). From Peter's sermon (3:11-26), we note these facts pertaining to Jesus.

1) **He Is The Glorified Servant** (Acts 3:13-18). The Jews crucified Jesus, but the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – their God – glorified His Servant by raising Him from the dead. He was despised and rejected, bearing our griefs and afflictions which only we deserved because of our sin (Isaiah 53:3-9). His sacrifice was no accident, nor the result of man thwarting heaven's will, but it was accomplishing God's eternal purpose to redeem sinful man in His Son: "Yet it pleased Jehovah to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of Jehovah shall prosper in his hand" (Isaiah 53:10). Jesus was glorified because He accomplished what the Father sent Him to do - be a sacrifice for sin (John 17:4-5).

He Is The Prophet Like Moses (Acts 3:22-24). Through Jesus, God speaks to us today (Hebrews 1:2). His message can be known (John 8:32); Peter said, "to Him shall ye hearken" (Acts 3:22a). His word is complete, all-sufficient to accomplish its divine purpose; man must obey "in all things whatsoever he shall speak unto you" (Acts 3:22b; Isaiah 55:10-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). And, His gospel is authoritative – those who don't "hearken" will be destroyed (3:23). It is God's power to save the sinner (Romans 1:16; James. 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

He Is The Seed Of Abraham (Acts 3:25-26). God promised Abraham He would bless all nations in his "seed" (Genesis 22:18). The inspired apostle Paul would later explain this as having reference to the blessings for mankind in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:16) - blessings which are a) universal - for "all the families of the earth" (Acts 3:25a; Galatians 3:28); b) spiritual "in turning away every one of you from your

iniquities" (Acts 3:26); and c) conditional - because they were commanded to "repent...and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19; cf. Acts 2:38).

God's assurance to us of our salvation in Christ is founded in the truth of His resurrection from the dead (26). This fact is substantiated by 1) The miracle worked on the lame man, confirming the truthfulness of the sermon preached (cf. Mark 16:18, 20). 2) Eyewitness testimony (15). The apostles had seen the risen Savior (Acts 1:21-22). 3) The testimony of Old Testament scripture (Acts 3;24-25; cf. John 5:39). Truly, in none other is there salvation. Have you obeyed Him?

~via *Espository Files*, Vol. 10, No. 2

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* was released from the hospital on Friday after spending nearly 3 weeks at ECM...*Marla Clemmons' grandmother, Mildred Blackburn*, was released from the hospital this past week...*Jean Ray* has not been able to be out due to sickness, but is doing better and hopes to be back at services today...*Hubert Goode* has not been doing as well since having the stint put in throat last week...*Mary Best* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at services ...*Amber Hammond* has been sick this past week and has not able to be out ...*Faye Hammond* continues at home and continues her rehabilitation during the week...*Shelia Goode* 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: *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are out on town in Branson, Missouri... *Glenda Phillips* is also away in Branson.

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

OUR MEETING: Our spring gospel meeting will begin one week from today. I hope that everyone is making their plans to be present at every service. *Brother Robert Harkrider* will be preaching at all three services on Sunday and at 7:30 each evening during the week. Be sure to remember to tell others about the meeting and invite them to join us as we look to God's Word and its instruction to us. Remember the meeting in your prayers.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Collage Place church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Dee Bowman of Pasadena, Texas* will be the speaker.



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 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

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Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391

Deacons
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