

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 9th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Psalm 82)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding Scottie Goode

..... Phil Pressnell

..... Ethan Pressnell

..... Corey Goode

Closing Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading (Psalm 83)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper

..... Scottie Goode

Closing Prayer

..... Curtis Mosley

Volume X

March 9, 2003

No. 10

Poison For The Mind

Bobby L. Graham

Society's choices of entertainment have never been kind to those seeking to honor God and live for Him, but there should be little doubt that the industry spawning current entertainment fad and fashion has sunken to new lows. In previous generations the ever-present teenage rebellion was met and countered with relatively higher standards by parents, educators, and entertainers in general. It is no longer the case!

It is regrettably true that while many parents today encourage the misbehaviors of the young by their "hands-off" approach to parenting, many educators do so by their offer of philosophical justification for the conduct and the moguls of the entertainment industry encourage anti-social behavior and mannerisms for the sake of "filthy lucre." Their ill-gotten gain will rise up to testify against their greed later in this life, as well as in final judgment (James 5:3).

The general situation of this infamous industry, typified by the award of a Peoples' Choice Award to the rapper Eminem, was recently the focus of a biting analysis of a column by Bill O'Reilly. Under the cover of "artistry," the money-hungry advance the cause of social and moral degradation (Proverbs 14:34), by selling mind poison and one-way tickets to misery, as charged by the columnist. The coarsening of America is the undesirable consequence of this endeavor. The abuse of women; the portrayal of American society as a deck stacked against the poor and minorities; immediate gratification on all levels; promotion of the "gangsta" attitude; encouragement of gutter language, tattoos, and body piercings; approval of obscenity and violence; and the selling and use of dope characterize this moral abyss that has developed around Hollywood.

Is this really the people's choice, or just the Peoples' Choice?

What can the godly do? They must continue to live their lives by divine standards (Romans 12:1-2), pray fervently to the Father to be used to bring better times (1 Timothy 2:1-7), let the light of Christ and the gospel shine in them (Matthew 5:13-16), and seek to teach the gospel to all (Rom. 1:16). It is still the hope of the world because it points people to Christ, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Letters to newspaper editors, church-sponsored teaching articles, and other righteous involvement might gain the attention of a few, but the personal interaction of Christians with individuals in the world will produce the most results. O'Reilly charged that Eminem is as dangerous to society as al Qaida, but we can be thankful that God's people have the only antidote to the moral and spiritual poison being spewed on the unsuspecting masses.

-via *StraitWay* Colmesneil, Texas.



Adhering To The New Testament

J. Mike Johnson

It is clear in the Old Testament that God's Word was intended to be adhered to and not deviated from it in any way (Deuteronomy 4:1-4, 5:32-33; Joshua 1:7; Numbers 22:18, 24:13; Proverbs 4:26-27, 30:5-6; Leviticus 18:4-5). The same concept is also found in the New Testament.

Jude (v. 3) told the early Christians that they should "...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." The meaning of the Greek word here means to fight or to contend strenuously in defense of. Vines defines it as, "to contend about a thing, as a combatant...to contend earnestly." The word "faith" that is used

here, that we are to contend earnestly for, is used in the objective sense. It refers to the system of faith, i.e., the sum of all that we are to obey and believe (note also Acts 6:7, 1 Timothy 4:1, Philippians 1:27). Thus, we are to firmly stand on God's Word; we are to defend the truth against attacks from false teachers, and obviously, we are to adhere to it ourselves. How do we do that? Do we accomplish this by teaching the doctrine that people can believe anything they want? Do we "contend earnestly for the faith" by adding to and taking away from God's Word? No, Jude 3 is obeyed by demanding of ourselves and others the necessity of following the pattern of the New Testament. We obey it by demanding Bible authority for all that is believed and practiced.

In Galatians 1, Paul said that he marveled that the Galatians were so "soon removed" unto "another gospel." He also pointed out that there were some who had troubled them and had "perverted" the gospel of Christ. Then (v. 8) he warned them, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." The word translated "accursed" (KJV) is the word "anathema." This is a very strong word and refers to being delivered to divine wrath or destruction. If the apostles, an angel, or "any man" (v. 9) preached a different gospel, Paul said, "let him be accursed (or anathema)." There is only one gospel, and this gospel cannot be changed. Authority from God's Word is essential for any belief or practice, and we have no right to pervert the teaching of God's Word.

Consider another warning found in 2 John 9-11. These verses say, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." It is very clear from these verses that we stand condemned if we

teach or practice anything that is contrary to God's Will. If we transgress and do not abide in the doctrine (or teaching) of Christ, then, simply put, "we do not have God." If we do "abide in" the doctrine of Christ, then we do have God. We also stand condemned if we bid "godspeed" to a false teacher. A person who teaches and practices false doctrine is not abiding in the doctrine of Christ, and he does not have God. Thus, it is extremely important to abide in the teaching of God's Word.

Revelation 22:18-19 says, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." It is clear that the writer has specific reference to the book of Revelation in these two verses. Would this principle apply only to the book of Revelation? Can we "add to" or "take away from" other books of the Bible? Certainly not! If we are not allowed to "add to" or "take away from" one book of the Bible, it would stand to reason that we cannot "add to" or "take away from" any book of the Bible, especially in light of the teaching of such passages as Galatians 1:6-10, Jude 3, and 2 John 9.

Consider the following example. The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper consists of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. To add potatoes as an element of the Lord's Supper would be wrong as that would be adding to God's Word; to take away the fruit of the vine from the Lord's Supper and just have the unleavened bread would be wrong as that would be "taking away from" the Scriptures.

How much can we "add to" or "take away from" God's Word and still be acceptable to God? Is just a "little" error acceptable? I Peter 4:11 says, "If any man speak, let him speak as the

oracles of God."

The Bible also teaches that the Word of God will be the standard by which we are judged when Christ returns (John 12:48). Christ will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:30-31), and we will be judged according to our deeds (2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 2:6). The facts should motivate us to abide by the teaching of God's Word.

The various New Testament passages show us that God's Word must be our authority today. It is essential that we have authority for all that we believe, teach, and practice. Can you prove what you believe and practice by the Word of God?

-via *Seeking Things Above* Huntsville, Alabama

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* is in ICU at ECM hospital. He entered the hospital with pneumonia and had some tests done and discovered that he has a couple of tumors. He will be undergoing further tests this week...*Ray Tucker* suffered an injury to his eye this past week...*Onzell Tucker* continues at home recovering from her surgery...*Willie Ridgeway* is now doing better after being sick this past week...*Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going for rehabilitation during the week...*Cindy Pressnell's mother, Nancy Hagood*, received a good report from the test she had done this past week...*Callie Grisham* has been sick this past week and not able to be at services...*Katy Goode* was sick and not able to be with us Sunday at our services, but is now doing better...*Ivy Wallen* was sick this past week and not able to be at services...*Lou Ann Phillips*

was sick this past week and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...**Kerry Cox** was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night, but is now doing better ..**Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray**, continues at home ... **Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis**, has cancer and is being treated ...**Marla Clemmons' grandmother, Mildred Blackburn**, continues at home... 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.

OUR MEETING: Our spring gospel meeting with Bob Harkrider is just 3 short weeks away. I hope that we all remember to tell others about it and pray for its success.

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

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Elkton church** in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Bill Hall of Rogersville** will be the speaker...The **Centerview church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Charles Littrell of Decatur** will be the speaker.

Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Next Sunday, March 16th following our evening service.
- Where?** At the home of Aric & Andrea Butler
- Subject?** People of Distinction



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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