


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, April 6th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Psalm 90)

..... Jimmy Glass

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Presiding Michael Clemmons

Serving Phil Pressnell

..... Ethan Pressnell

..... Curtis Mosley

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Psalm 91)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

Closing Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Volume X

April 6, 2003

No. 14

A Very Private War

Dee Bowman

Throughout History war has plagued mankind. In every generation there are "wars and rumors of wars." Wars are born out of conflicts between people. Sometimes they are national, sometimes civil, always personal. Like it or not, we are all at war. We fight wars against great odds sometimes. Sometimes the wars are more like skirmishes or border disputes. But they, too, are still wars. Internal struggles are some of the most intense forms of warfare.

We fight against ignorance. Not many of us know the true state of things-and even if we did, things change. So we strive to stay up. Ignorance has always been a bane to man's progress. And all of us have some of it. No man knows much, "except as he ought to know." Will Rogers had it right when he said, "We're all ignorant, just in different fields." Study is the offensive weapon against ignorance (1 Timothy 2:15). It's necessary that we know God and His way in order to combat the stratagems of the Devil. We can hardly win a single battle if we are "ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). And so we arm ourselves with the panoply of God so that we are ready to fight when the times comes (Ephesians 6: 10-18).

Pride is one of man's most pervasive enemies. It sneaks in when we are not looking- and sometimes even when we are. Sin started with it; it has ever been a problem for man. "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18), said the wise man. And yet we only fight it back; we never really conquer it. Ironically, the recurrence of pride is often worse than what we just fought back.

It's difficult to control pride. Humility is the answer (1 Peter 5:5); but humility is hard- hard to get it, even harder to maintain it.

Spies are part of warfare. They sneak in and gather information to aid in defeat. They work on the inside. Two of the most ubiquitous of these insiders are materialism and indifference. Materialism wears the mask of success. Indifference masquerades as leisure time earned by hard work. In both cases, they spy out ways to defeat you. Materialism occupies you so with what seemingly are legitimate battles- battles like “making a living”-that you have no time to spend on the real war- building character. Indifference, on the other had, lulls you into apathy and thereby promotes inattention to what is really important. Both these actions are so well disguised that they seem appropriate, when in fact, they are eating away at the fibre of your enthusiasm thereby blunting your interest in what should be of greater concern.

We can overcome the battles of life, but only as we trust completely in our leader (Romans 8:34-39); only if we are watchful and earnest (1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 5:8); and only if we hold out to the end (1 Corinthians 15:58).

One thing is sure, however. You have to get into the thick of the battle if you plan to have the victory. You can't win by just standing around watching.

~via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.



Died With Christ

Chuck Bartlett

While addressing the church at Colosse, Paul mentioned, “Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations... according to the commandments and doctrines of men?” (2:20-22).

The apostle makes a powerful point con-

cerning the new life in Christ. If people died with Christ it is to mean they leave a former lifestyle, to live anew. How one dies with Christ is told in Romans 6:3-4; it says, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death...”

It is good to inquire if someone has been baptized, but there is more to it than that. The brethren in Colosse needed to forsake their old ways, and abide in righteousness. In Romans 6, Paul goes on to instruct, “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (v. 6).

We see that our service after we are baptized is vital. Also, any attempt to live faithfully without dying with Christ, will prove futile. This makes sense, since it is impossible to live when there hasn't been a birth. Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

There is a danger in putting too much emphasis on baptism, since hearing the word, believing, repenting and confessing Christ is just as needful as baptism (Romans 10:14-17, John 8:24, Luke 13:3, Romans 10:9-10). But, the importance of being baptized is clear. Without putting to death our old man, we will always be a servant of sin (Romans 6:17). We can guard against serving sin after we have obeyed the gospel by rejecting the traditions and doctrines of men and “seeking those things which are above, where Christ sitteth” (Colossians 3:1).

To go down into the watery grave, thinking sin is already removed, is to remain sin-stained. There is no power in water; it is in the blood (1 John 1:7). Yet, if one denies the purpose of baptism (for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38, 22:16), one in turn denies the power of the blood of Christ.

Have you been baptized?

~via *Gospel Observer*, Ashland City, Kentucky.

Worship: A Time To Recharge Our Batteries

Ken Weliever

Recently, I read about a man who works in a customer service call center for a national pager operation. He deals with the usual complaints regarding poor pager operations. Among the “unusual calls”, the best came from a man who complained that he keeps being paged by someone named “Lucille.”

He was entrusted that he would have to call her and tell her to stop paging him “she don’t never leave no number, so I can’t call her back,” he said. After three such calls to the service center some one thought to ask how he knew it was Lucille if she didn’t leave a number. “She leaves her name” was the reply.

After establishing that customer had a numeric-only pager, the light bulb came on. How does she spell her name?” asked the service rep. The man said, “Lowcell.”

When things start to annoy and aggravate us, the problem may simply be that we need to get “recharge.” Overlooked schedules, “to do” lists soon take their toll on the human spirit.

Worship is an opportunity to charge up those spiritual low cells. It’s a time to remove and focus from the “things” of this world and turn our attention to God, His Word and his Son who died for us.

Worship refreshes. Worship Inspires. Worship relaxes. Yes, worship has the power to recharge our run down batteries.

We’re really glad you are here today. If you are a guest, please return soon. We sincerely hope you leave with new ower and strength. Watch out for “Lucille!” And “recharger” on a regular basis.

~via *New Living*, Brownsburg, Indana

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* continues taking his treatments each Friday for his cancer... *Onzell Tucker* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Sanda Martel* was sick this past week and was not able to be at our services during the week ... *Faye Hammond* continues at home and continues her rehabilitation during the week ... *Janice Glass’ grandmother, Emma Ray*, was moved to the Beverly Health Care Rehabilitation this past Friday... *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 Phillips: Ronnie and Lou Ann* have been out of town due to Lou Ann’s work this past week.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *June Calvert* in the passing of her cousin, *Mary McFall* this past week. Her funeral was Tuesday... We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Marla Clemmons* in the passing of her grandmother, *Mildred Blackburn* this past Wednesday. Her funeral was Friday in Florence ... We also want to extend our deepest sympathies to *Eddie Hammond* in the passing of his great-grandfather, *Elmer Balentine* this past week. His funeral will be this afternoon at Pine Hill west of Florence.

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE TIME: Tonight we will be moving our Sunday evening service time back to 6:00 p.m. due to the time change. Let’s all remember this and plan to present then.

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning, *June Calvert* came forward and confessed unfaithfulness and asked for prayers. We appreciate the determination of June to make her life right with God. Let us all encourage her as she will encourage us in our service to the Lord.

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

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *1st Street church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Rufus Clifford, III* will be the speaker...The *Helton Drive church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Underwood Heights church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will also continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Larry Hafley* will be speaker.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: This past week we were engaged in a gospel meeting here at Anderson. *Bob Harkrider* preached and we were taught some very good lessons from the word of God and I appreciate his work. We had very good attendance every night as we averaged 100 at our evening services. We had visitors come from far and near and we appreciate all who came. I know that the church at Anderson will benefit from the teaching that was done. I appreciate the work and the faithful support of many in this meeting. There are tapes and CD's of all the lessons that were preached. If you would like a copy or know of someone that would like a copy please let us know and we will be glad to get them for you.

THE RECORD: *Averages for March 2003*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 87
 Morning Worship 101
 Evening Worship 83

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 71

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 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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