

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 4th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading (Proverbs 13:13-25)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

Serving..... Larry White

..... Jim Phillips

..... Ethan Pressnell

..... Mike Rogers

..... Mark McCrary

Closing Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 14:1-15)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

..... Larry White

Closing Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Volume XI

January 4, 2004

No. 1

"He Went About Doing Good"

Randy Harshbarger

Peter spoke these words to Cornelius about Jesus Christ: "even Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:38). The immediate and obvious application of Peter's statement, "He went about doing good," relates to the fact that Jesus, by miracles, healed the sick and delivered those who had been taken captive by Satan. That He should do this was a matter of prophecy (Isaiah 42:1; 61:1). When Jesus began His ministry, He read from the Isaiah passage, applying it to Himself and His work (Luke 4:16ff). The Spirit of God descended upon Jesus at His baptism (Matthew 3:16-17). Jesus fulfilled the program of work outlined for Him. He preached good tidings to the poor, provided release to those captive in sin, and restored sight to the blind. Peter's statement is a good summary of Jesus' life on earth: "He went about doing good."

We are not surprised to read about Jesus doing good. Can we not imagine the Savior, as He moves through a great throng of people, many of whom were diseased. The gentle touch of His hand was all it took for the leprosy to be gone. Or, simply saying the word, and the one tormented with palsy was made whole. Can we not imagine His tender sympathies as He heals Peter's mother-in-law? Can we not image the joy of those, once demon-possessed, but now made free by the power of His word? As Isaiah said, and as Matthew quotes: "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our diseases" (Matthew 8:17). Jesus was burdened as He viewed the vast multitudes who wandered aimlessly, as sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:35-38). He was burdened for their souls.

Jesus went about doing good. We are not surprised to read this. But what about us? What about you and me? Jesus left us an example

to follow; are we following Him (1 Peter 2:21)? Or, you say: “We can’t work miracles today, so we can’t do what Jesus did.” That is partially true; we cannot work miracles as did Jesus, but we can emulate His example of caring and service to others. Jesus told one young man, that in order to have treasures in heaven, he must sell what he had and then distribute it to the poor (Matthew 19:21). Is that same demand made of us today? Yes, if what we have gets in the way of our putting Jesus first. Many inspired instructions emphasize practical efforts that provide blessings to others (James 1:26-27; 1 John 3:16-17). If we do these things, we would be doing good.

Do you find it interesting that the Lord speaks about practical everyday things when He gathers all men before Him in judgment? A cup of water, some needed food, a visit, or some clothing--all combine to make us more like the Savior (Matthew 25:31-46). These are things the Lord mentions when that final review takes place. Can we see their importance? Will we strive to live as He lived? Will we grow as He grew? Will we think as He thought and obey as He obeyed? Will we forgive as He forgave and love as He loved? Will we give as He gave?

We are not surprised that Jesus went about doing good. May our lives be such that no one is surprised to see us walking in the footsteps of the Master. Wherever Jesus leads, may we follow Him, follow Him all the way. Wherever Jesus leads, let us follow Him every day.

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*, Nachcogdoches, Texas.

The Worship Service

Bubba Garner

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’”, wrote David in Psalm 122:1. It seems that we are losing our sense of delight and enthusiasm when it comes to worshipping with the people of God. What a grand opportunity that we have been afforded, yet we often dread its coming instead of rejoicing with what it brings. We owe it to ourselves and to the Lord to give Him the very best of what we have to offer on His day.

Be here. There is no way that you can benefit or be benefitted if you choose not to come. The purpose of worship is not only to praise and express gratitude to our God, it is to draw closer to one another as we draw closer to Him. By being here, you demonstrate your interest in spiritual things and your desire to please Him; showing up, however, is not the only thing required of you.

Be prepared. This speaks not only of the need to prepare your lesson for Bible class, but to prepare your mind. We go to great lengths to watch what we put into our body, but take no thought as to what our minds are exposed to. Let’s not pollute our senses or the house of God with such immoral and filthy thoughts that are prevalent in the world today. Rather, let’s come in His presence with prepared hearts and minds for worship.

Be reverent. Remember what you’re doing. This is not some sporting contest or entertainment event, this is a worship service. We are communing with the same God that spoke the world into existence, created man from the dust of the ground, and authorized the plan of salvation. Does He not deserve our upmost respect and admiration? “Let us show gratitude, by which we offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe” (Hebrews 12:28).

Gospel Meeting

March 28 - April 2

David Hartsell, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Be a participant. Nothing is more discouraging to the song leader than one who does not sing and to the preacher than one who does not listen. More importantly, the Lord is displeased with one who does not participate in the service. “I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart in the company of the upright and in the assembly” (Psalm 111:1). Acceptable worship means whole-hearted worship and making an effort to be an active participant in the activities of the service. Just because you are not the one leading the singing, saying the prayers, or doing the preaching does not mean your duties are relinquished. Be in tune with what is going on.

Worship is a commandment, worship is a blessing, and worship is a choice. You will get no more out of the service than what you put into it. Give the Lord your best today and receive the best of what worship can do for you.

-via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena Texas.



Against The Grain

Evan Lancaster

The English philosopher and author Arnold Toynbee once said, “It is doubtful if the majority has ever been right.” We can see an example of this idea at work in the Israelites as they came to the outskirts of the land of Canaan. The 13th and 14th chapters of the book of Numbers detail the story. Moses had sent twelve spies, the heads of each of the twelve tribes of Israel, into the land to check it out and bring back a report. When they returned, they showed the people the huge clusters of grapes found there, and told them about this land that flowed with milk and honey. It sounded like a good report at first. But notice the comments of ten of the spies in Numbers 13:31-33:

“But the men who had gone up with him [Caleb] said, We are not able to go up against

the people, for they are too strong for us. So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. There also we saw the Nephlim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephlim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

One thing must be noted here before we go on; God had promised them the land. He told them they would defeat and drive out everyone there and take the land with no problem. Yet ten of the spies forgot this promise. Only two spies Joshua and Caleb, remembered it. But when the Israelites heard the report of the ten spies, they began to weep and wail, saying that God had brought them out there to die. They even started to choose a new leader to lead them back to Egypt, where they had been held captive for 400 years! They paid no attention to the pleadings of Moses, Joshua and Caleb.

What do we learn from this? Hopefully we can see that going with the majority almost always leads to failure and disappointment. People have the natural tendency to find the negativity in everything. And when we follow along, we become narrow-minded, cynical and pessimistic just like the majority.

Fight this tendency!!! It’s not easy, but it is imperative. If we want to get to heaven, we must go against the grain. Jesus, in Matthew 7:13-14, said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” If we follow the majority, we will end up in hell. Only by fighting to rise above the mediocre majority can we be pleasing to God and get to heaven.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

Remember Our Evening Service at 5:00.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Hoyt Hammond* is in the ECM hospital in Florence and is to have more tests on Monday ... *Willie Ridgemay* continues to be sick and not able to be out... *Sheila Moore* is now at home after spending four days in the Athens h-Limestone hospital... *Jerry Best* continues his recovery at home from his eye surgery... *Lydia Clemmons* has been sick this past week with RSV... *Taylor Mosley* has been sick and not able to be at services ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home and is not able to be with us ... 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... *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home... *Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues 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... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, who is staying with family.

OUT OF TOWN: *June Calvert* has been out of town this week... *Eddie Hammond* is back home after working out of town last week.

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

THE RECORD: *For The Week of December 28th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 102
 Morning Worship 117
 Evening Worship 94

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 80

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.

Elders

Michael Clemmons (256) 247-0836
 Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391

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