

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 16th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (Isaiah 56:1-12)
..... Mike Rogers
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Rocky Rose
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Isaiah 57:1-10)
..... Stephen Stewart
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Volume XII

January 16, 2005

No. 3

John Mark: A Second Chance

Randy Harshbarger

“And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark” (Acts 12:25). According to 1 Peter 5:13, John Mark was the Apostle Peter’s son in the gospel. This description is akin to Paul’s words when he described his relationship to the younger preacher Timothy (1 Timothy 1:2, 18). This kind of relationship was rooted in the gospel. Too, there was great interest on the part of Peter in seeing that John Mark progressed in his service to the Lord. We easily understand the closeness of the two men—Peter and John Mark. Peter had been delivered from prison and was soon in the house of Mary, John Mark’s mother (Acts 12:12-16). Imagine the excitement and amazement of seeing Peter come from prison. The subsequent influence of Peter over this young man is appreciated by those who seek to encourage younger preachers or other young Christians in their walk with the Lord. And now, John Mark was embarking on a preaching trip with Barnabas, his uncle, and the recently converted persecutor of Christians, Saul of Tarsus (cf. Colossians 4:10 - cousin or nephew?).

“Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem” (Acts 13:13). Why did John Mark make the choice not to continue with Paul and Barnabas on this preaching trip? Did he resent the new prominence of Paul over Barnabas? Why does Luke now simply refer to Paul’s fellow-workers as “his companions.” Barnabas does not indicate any jealousy about this supposed elevation of one man over the other. Was John Mark afraid of robbers? If so, this fear was not without foundation. The inner regions of Asia

Minor, in particular Pamphylia, were treacherous terrain; and robbers were common fare along the road leading north from the sea to the mountainous Taurus range. Paul told the Corinthians that he sometimes experienced “dangers from robbers” (2 Corinthians 11:26). Was John Mark afraid of disease? Epaphroditus got sick when he was away from home—not a pleasant experience (Philippians 2:25). Maybe John Mark was homesick. Did he resent having to preach to the Gentiles?

We do not know why John Mark decided to leave the company of Paul and Barnabas and return to Jerusalem. All we really know is that he exercised the right to choose. That is the way God created him; that is the way God created each of us. Heredity and environment have something to do with our lives here on earth. Yet, they are not to be used or blamed for the poor choices we sometimes make. We are not deprived of choice. We are not preprogrammed robots. “Choose you this day...” are the familiar words of Joshua 24:15. We must choose something. The freedom to choose is a wonderful gift from God.

~via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*; Nachogdoches, Texas.



Simple Respect

Dee Bowman

The word “respect” has an interesting history. It was originally a Latin word which meant “to look back to.” For instance, if you see something that captures your attention, you’re apt to look back to it or try to see it more closely. Today the word means to have regard for something or someone, to show esteem, to value. We sometimes use the word to describe giving attention to something, to consider something carefully.

There are a number of areas where respect has been lost in this day and age. People are so caught up in the business of equality and personal

rights that they don’t give due respect to things that are actually very important. There are some things that are so important that it behooves us to give them special attention—due respect, if you please—and make sure that they are not forgotten. For instance:

We need to respect God and His word. It is astounding that in the midst of the best of times, numberless blessings, and wealth beyond imagining, we have no time for God. How many of us pray as we ought? How many of us read the word with any degree of regularity. Even preachers can get so tied up with trivial details, minutia, that they neglect the reading of God’s word. We’re too busy, folks. God should be in our thoughts at the beginning of our day, and the object of the prayer we make at the end of the day. His word should be not just our chore, but our pleasure. It is the only source of information we must have to answer our needs of the here, as well as the hereafter (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is foolish indeed to leave God out of our plans and to neglect His word.

We need to respect truth. The devil is very cunning and crafty. He can contrive little subtle things that are almost unnoticeable at the time, but which can eventually cause considerable damage to our spiritual character. One of the things he does with great frequency is cause us to make truth relative. That is, he causes us to rationalize regarding the truth. For instance, he causes us to say, “I’m different.” If we’re not careful, we’ll apply truth to others but when it comes to us, we have some reason why it doesn’t apply. After all, I have a good reason—“I’m different.” Truth is definitive. Its boundaries are clear-cut, cleanly delineated (look at the word—it is de-lined). That is, whatever it says to one, it says to all. It plays no favorites, has no personal preferences. Paul treats this very problem in Romans the second chapter. “And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?” And again, “Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?” (Ro-

mans 2:3; 21). It cuts both ways, folks.

Children need to respect their parents. I hear children talking to their parents in horrible ways in this day and age. Such language not only shows a disrespect for one's parents, it is a sin against God. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3). That is a commandment, young people. It says that you should honor your father and mother—that is, you should show a high regard for them, give them a special place. And you don't give them that kind of respect when you don't listen to them or when you react to their wishes with a sullen attitude. Respect for parents is one way you show your respect for God. It follows, then, that when you don't respect your parents like you should, you don't respect God. Think about that.

We need to have respect for age. I deplore hearing someone refer to their father as "the old man." It's disrespectful to them, to their age, to their station in life. There is an almost a feeling among us that it's a sin to be old. Youth is the thing. It receives the attention, the admiration of people. Youth is elevated, age is deplored. Ponce de Leon searched for the fountain of youth—nobody ever looks for the fountain of age. God abhors disrespect for the aged. They were accorded special regard during both the Patriarchal and Jewish ages. Moses gathered the Elders to help him in his work (Exodus 3:16). In Exodus 18, he took advice from his father-in-law, Jethro, a sure sign of respect for his age. In the New Testament, God gave the work of superintending the flock to elders, not youthful men. It is a sin against God to neglect the aged (1 Timothy 5:16). And to pay no attention to the elderly is the same as openly abusing them. Men who have lived long lives are valuable to us. One writer I know rather well said, "If we would take the time to hear them instead of seeking so enthusiastically to compete with them, we could profit

greatly. Their advice is based on the result of abrasives which have polished it to a lustre." (*The Godly Family In A Sick Society*, 1979 FC Lectures, p. 71).

We need to respect the worship services. The wise man said, "Keep thy foot when thou comest to the house of God and be more ready to hear than to offer the sacrifice of fools" (Ecclesiastes 5:1). It is a serious thing to offer worship to God. It is a serious thing to act like you're worshipping God when you're not (Matthew 6:5-6). Sham worship is a terrible sin. It dishonors God. It desecrates and dishonors who and what He is. For instance, when a person doesn't carefully examine himself and partake of the Lord's supper in a worthy manner, "he eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (1 Corinthians 11:29). That's serious business, folks. And it's the same for one who doesn't sing "with the spirit and the understanding" or merely goes through the motion of prayer, even reciting the proper phrases and saying the expected things, but without the involvement of his heart. It is a dangerous thing to engage in worship that goes no where. "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

Respect. Now, there's a word we'd all do well to remember.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Jack Tucker* is in the ECM hospital undergoing some tests ... *Tisha Rogers* had out patient surgery on Friday ... *Jean Ray* continues in the Glenwood rehabilitation in Florence and suffered another mini stroke this week... *Larry White* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night following a procedure to crush his kidney stone last week. He returned to the doctor on Friday ... *Willie Ridgeway* is now at home ...

M...*Myrtie Williams* is at home...*Ray Phillips* had some eye surgery on Thursday...*Lisa Word* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Erin Cooper* has been sick this past week and unable to be at services Wednesday night...*Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is home...*Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is taking oral chemo for her multiple myeloma...*Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, is taking kidney dialysis...*Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is at home now, and is doing well...*Curtis Cooper* is taking his chemo treatments...*Mattie Blanche Word* is at home...Remember *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home...*Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home...*Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for Communication group three to meet. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group this evening after our service.

OUT OF TOWN: *June Calvert* came home this week from Tennessee but is now on a trip to Texas.

ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING: This afternoon the elders and deacons will be meeting at 4:30 p.m.

SONG SERVICE: This evening at 6:00 will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. *Mark McIntyre* will be directing the service. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present.

THE RECORD: *For the week of January 9th*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 108
- Morning Worship 123
- Evening Worship 83

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 90

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight

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
- Monroe Pressnell (256) 232-0780

Deacons

- Jimmy Glass (256) 247-0571
- Mark McIntyre (256) 233-1953
- Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
- Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
- Larry White (256) 247-0988
- Brian Word (256) 229-5823

Evangelist & Editor

- David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
- Office-(256) 247-5539

E-mail address: dacox@hiwaay.net

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