

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 23rd:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (Isaiah 58:1-5)

..... Eddie Hammond

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

Presiding Jerry Dickey

Assisting Jimmy Glass

Serving James McConnell

..... Mark McCrary

..... Chase Williams

..... Jim Phillips

Closing Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Isaiah 58:6-14)

..... Andrew Gatlin

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper

..... Jerry Dickey

..... Jimmy Glass

Closing Prayer

..... Brad Hammond

Volume XII

January 23, 2005

No. 4

Reaction To Sin

Allen Dvorak

The first king of Israel, Saul, was a person of impressive appearance. Tall and handsome, one would have thought that he would make the perfect king. His reign, however, demonstrated the truth that the condition of the heart is much more important than outward appearance.

Saul's failure as a king stemmed from his disobedience to divine instructions. The story of 1 Samuel 15 illustrates well this weakness of Saul. In the beginning of the chapter, Saul was commanded by God to completely destroy the Amalekites, both people and animals. The Amalekites had ambushed the people of Israel as they left Egypt, attacking the weak and stragglers and Saul was to be the instrument of God's punishment.

The chapter records that Saul and the army of Israel did indeed fight against Amalek, but they spared the life of Agag, king of the Amalekites, and the best of the animals. The reaction of Saul to the Lord's rebuke through Samuel is interesting. Saul greeted Samuel after the battle, proclaiming, "I have performed the commandment of the Lord" (vs. 13), but Samuel asked about the animals. Saul then tried a different tact; he claimed that the people had saved the best of the animals to sacrifice to the Lord. What could be a more noble motivation than sacrifice to the Lord?

Samuel reminded Saul of the Lord's commandment to "utterly destroy" the Amalekites. Saul reaffirmed HIS obedience, but finally admitted that the animals saved "by the people" for sacrifice should have been destroyed. Samuel, however, did not allow Saul, the leader of the people, to "pass the buck" and informed him that

obedience is better than sacrifice. At last Saul confessed that he had sinned, noting that he had feared the people and thus had allowed the king and the animals to be spared.

Of great interest to me is Saul's behavior after the confession of his sin. He pleaded with Samuel to go with him so that he could worship the Lord, evidently before the people. When Samuel refused, Saul seized and tore his garment. Samuel explained to Saul that in similar fashion the kingdom would be torn from him, but Saul still pleaded for Samuel to "honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel" (vs. 30). It appears that Saul was more concerned with how others would view him than consumed with remorse for his sin. Rebellion caused his sin; pride prevented him from properly reacting to his sin.

We all sin. How we react to the knowledge of our sin is crucial. Those who understand the true nature of sin, that it is an affront to our Creator, are moved to sorrow for their sin. Those who view sin as "no big thing" will seek to protect their reputation. Pride often will not permit them to admit their sin. Godly sorrow, however, moves men to repentance and humility permits the confession of sin (2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 John 1:9). What is your response to sin?

~via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama

Respecting Convictions

Robert F. Turner

Many years ago I sought to correct what I believed to be a fault in a brother's life, and he responded: "I do not live with your conscience, but with my own." In effect he was saying I should respect his convictions. In this case, I did respect his convictions; i.e., I believed him to have honest convictions — to be acting in good conscience. Because I respected his convictions, I did not expect him to change his conduct because I felt he was wrong. It was my hope that he would learn God's will more perfectly and, with this changed conviction, he would make the change in life which honesty demanded.

"Conviction" is not truth. It is "a strong persuasion or belief". The transitive verb "convince" is: "to bring ...to belief beyond doubt". But this is wholly subjective — it refers to what the person believes, and has no bearing whatsoever — on what God has said about the matter. We could respect one another's convictions, and both of us be in error. Divine truth is expressed in God's word (John 17:17) and must be approached objectively. This external source of truth is not altered by what man believes about it.

Sometimes folk claim to have "convictions" to escape the responsibilities of examination and Bible study. They ask you to "respect their convictions" — meaning, cease to reprove, rebuke, and exhort, (2 Timothy 4:2).

They may even expect you to act contrary to your own convictions "lest they be offended," or, they become angry because you too have convictions, and must act accordingly, even while you respect their convictions.

There are those who deal in "vain jangling; desiring to be teachers of the law: understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm." Paul warned Timothy about such, saying that

Gospel Meeting

March 27 – April 1

Randall Hammock, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

such evidenced neither pure heart, good conscience, nor sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:3-7). There was no reason to “respect their convictions” nor to believe they had honest convictions. From such turn away.

In the final analysis, respecting one’s convictions means respecting the man, treating him as a man of integrity, an honest man, of good conscience. When a man shows a desire to know truth and serve God; when he welcomes questions and assistance in Bible study, and makes God’s word — not “feelings” or popularity — his standard; when he alters his practice in keeping with his growing knowledge; we have reason to respect him.

It is a pleasure to study with such a man, and with a little effort, we might learn something from him.

-via *Plain Talk* Burnet, Texas



Me and My House

Phillip Mullins

Fathers and mothers, it is up to you to create the home environment that will be best for the growth and development of your children. It is in your hands to provide them with the proper foundation on which to start life.

With the frustrations that so often go with parenting, it is easy to think you have no control over your home. The truth is you do. The rules you lay down or don't lay down, the discipline or lack of it to back those rules, the goals you establish or don't establish, and the reactions you have to difficulties and crisis will determine the

type of atmosphere that will shape your child’s attitude and character.

What is the best possible direction to take to guarantee your children the best possible home environment? A home based on belief in and service to God. Joshua made the choice to have that kind of home for his family (Joshua 24:15). While physical, mental, and emotional development is very important, the foundation to the proper growth of a human being is spiritual development. A child needs to know where he came from, why he is here, and where he is going. He needs to know the source to turn to for help with this life’s dilemmas and problems. By introducing your children to God and teaching them, by word and example, to obey God, you supply your child with those very things.

Never mind how that God and His word are ridiculed by so many. Never mind how strong the forces of evil seem in this life. Put your confidence in God and put your family in the arms of God. If you do so, you would have fulfilled your duty as a parent and given your children the greatest gift that a parent can offer.

-via *Messages*; Kingsport, Tennessee

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Jack Tucker* had a pacemaker implanted this past Tuesday in Florence ... *Larry White* is doing better and was able to be at services after spending several days in the hospital with kidney stones ... *Corey Word* spent a few days in the Athens-Limestone hospital in Athens, but is now at home ... *Jean Ray* continues in the Glenwood rehabilitation in Florence

...*Signa Skipworth* has been unable to be at services due to a bout with pneumonia, but she is doing better now ...*Dana, Nathan and Morgan Grisham* have all been sick and unable to be at services this past week ...*Tisha Rogers* is doing better since her recent surgery ...*Jacob Rogers* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Helen Stewart* was sick and unable to be Bible study Wednesday night ...*Curtis and Jamie Mosley* were sick and unable to be Bible study Wednesday night ...*Willie Ridgeway* is at home ...*Myrtie Williams* is at home ...*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 four to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening after our service.

THE RECORD: *For the week of January 16th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 87
 Morning Worship 108
 Evening Worship 75

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 66



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 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

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