

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 30th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Isaiah 59:9-15)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Claus Martel
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Stephen Stweart
..... Eddie Hammond
..... Mark McCrary
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading ... (Isaia:h 59:16-21)
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Claus Martel
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XII

January 30, 2005

No. 5

The Time For Teaching

John Gibson

A farmer removed an old beech tree which grew on his land. The woodcutter noticed on the bark some curious marks which looked like the letters J.L., roughly cut and below them some ornamental design. After the tree was cut and was being divided into lengths, he was startled to find on the hard dry wood at the core of the tree, the clearly cut letters J.L. on a dark background, and below them an anchor. Upon inquires, it was found that the letters were the initials of a sailor named John Leland. There were 37 rings between the letters and the bark of the tree. He inferred that the letters must have been cut in 1653, and his belief was confirmed when he learned that it was in that year that the sailor had spent some time in the area. The inscription had not only remained in the place where It was cut at the first, but as each year added to the growth of the tree, the letters still appeared on the surface, scarcely legible there, it is true, but perfectly clear at the core.

The same thing is true with human character. Many an old man, in spite of the rough usage of the world and the scar of time and trouble, bears upon his walk and manner of life marks which were put there in childhood.

When you read the second chapter of Exodus it is apparent that someone taught Moses to: have sympathy with the slave; despise injustice; know the folly of anger; and to defend the weak. I think I can see the loving influence of his mother behind all these acts.

When I look at Timothy, the companion of the apostle Paul, and see the faith and dedication, I am reminded of the teaching which had been done early in Timothy's life by his mother and

grandmother.

The training we receive in early life we will carry with us to the grave. It's important, therefore, that our children are taught the right things now. We must not neglect golden opportunities.

-via *Susquehanna Sentinial*; Merritta, Pennsylvania.



Remove Your Sandals

David Maxson

A shepherd was out tending his sheep when he saw an incredible thing: a bush on fire that did not burn up! As he came closer to investigate he heard a voice from the midst of the bush call him by name. The voice then said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5). That shepherd was Moses, and the voice from the bush was God's. In this extraordinary scene we learn a much-needed lesson about worship.

Worship is a holy occasion. When we worship God we leave the mundane and trivial to come before the one, true and living God! Indeed, when we approach the Creator, whether it be in public or private worship, we must understand the seriousness and gravity of the occasion. We are entering into holy space. We are treading on holy ground!

When Moses led his people back to the mountain where God appeared to him in the bush, the children of Israel trembled before God. When they stood at the foot of the mountain and felt it tremble, seeing the smoke ascend from it, and hearing the blast of the trumpet and the voice of God, they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us,

lest we die" (Exodus 20:19).

Do we understand what it is we are doing when we worship? Do we understand that we are involved in something that is even higher and holier than what occurred at Sinai? As children of God under the new covenant, we have come to "Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all" (Hebrews 12: 22-23). Considering the magnitude of these incredible facts, the Hebrew writer prayed that we might have grace, "by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:28-29).

Listen, dear readers, to what I tell you now: the Lord is not our buddy, and God is not our chum... He is God! God is God and we are nothing! We are blood-bought mortals given the privilege of approaching our Creator in worship! We are undeserving sinners given the right through our Savior's blood to stand before the King of kings and Lord of lords! We must never forget who we are and who He is when we come before His throne! So when we worship, may we get down on our knees and remove our sandals, for the place where we stand is holy ground!!!

-via *The Cababa Heights Bulletin*; Birmingham, Alabama.



Following Jesus

David Diestelkamp

The term "Christian" is used in the Bible to describe one who follows Christ. We often stress the need to follow Jesus without fully identifying the way in which He intended us to follow Him.

At first we are tempted to say, "Following is

following--simply do what He did." This oversimplification has opened doors to apparent inconsistencies over things like the Sabbath, Jewish feasts, circumcision, and miraculous abilities--all of which Jesus participated in, but Christians do not.

Following as Disciples

"And the disciples were called Christians" (Acts 11:26). Christians are followers of Jesus in the sense that they are disciples. Disciples are learners or pupils of a teacher. Vine's says, "A disciple was not only a pupil, but an adherent; hence they are spoken of as imitators of their teacher." Therefore we are Christians--followers of Christ--because we do what He has taught us, His disciples, to do--not because we do every act He ever did.

Jesus sent His apostles into all the world to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Learning and doing what Jesus has commanded is central to becoming and remaining a true disciple. "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed" (John 8:31). As disciples, following Jesus must focus on what Jesus taught (and what He caused His apostles and prophets to teach). As students of the Master Teacher we spend our lives trying to understand and apply His revealed will to our lives.

Following What Jesus Meant

The challenge of disciples is not that of simple memorization of Bible texts. True disciples are interested in what was originally meant by the Teacher. So disciples study the Scriptures for content and meaning. They have to take into consideration things like the original meaning of words, context, and figures of speech.

A superficial approach to following what Jesus said will have His disciples doing things like poking out their eyes and washing each other's

feet. The failure to perceive what Jesus meant when He taught is a failure to be His disciple. One cannot do what Jesus said if one does not understand what He meant.

Following "My" Jesus

Many people today have formed a non-Biblical concept they have developed about Jesus rather than following what Jesus Himself, the Teacher (John 20:16), revealed for His disciples. They say, "The Jesus I believe in," or "My Jesus," but then go on to attribute to Him words He never spoke, actions He never approved, and doctrines He never taught. They discount, ignore or twist anything from or about Christ that they don't like. They recreate Him to fit their own desires, perceived needs, and culture.

How is it possible that "doctrine" (that which is taught) has become separated in the minds of many from both the Teacher and the student (disciple)? Unfortunately, many will continue to see themselves as students (disciples) without studying, following a teacher who has no teaching (doctrine). Jesus Himself said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

Need we ask, "What if we don't?"

-via *Think*; Cortland, Illinois

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Myrtie Williams' great niece, Misty Fulks*, is in the Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville and is critically ill ... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence in CCU ... **The Mosleys:** *Curtis, Jamie, Taylor and Ava* have all been sick and unable to be services... *Corey Word* has been sick and not able to be at services... *Jean Ray* continues in the Glenwood rehabilitation in Florence ... *Dana, Nathan and Morgan Grisham* have all been sick and unable to be at services this past week

...*Angie McCrary* was sick and unable to be at services this past week ...*Willie Ridgeway* is now 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.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Ray Williams and all the family* in the passing of Ray's aunt, *Kathryn Neely*, this past Thursday. Her funeral was yesterday in Decatur...Also, we want to express our deepest sympathy to *Janice Glass* in the passing of her cousin, *Hilton Holden* this past Thursday.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: Today we are beginning our new quarter in our Bible classes. We have had a good quarter in classes the past quarter and I appreciate all of those who taught. I hope that all of us will make every effort to be at every period of Bible studies. It will be encouraging and strengthening to your faith.

NEXT SUNDAY: Next Sunday, February 6th, I will be away and *Warren Glass* will be here preaching in my absence.

SINGING: The *Westview church* in Athens will have a singing this afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the week of January 23rd*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 101
Morning Worship 119
Evening Worship 84

Wednesday:
Bible Classes 79

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
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