

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 9th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (Isaiah 54:9-17)

..... Brad Hammond

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Larry White

Lord's Supper

Presiding Scottie Goode

Assisting Mark McIntyre

Serving Ethan Pressnell

..... Stephen Stewart

..... Chase Williams

..... James McConnell

Closing Prayer

..... Phil Pressnell

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading (Isaiah 55:1-7)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper

..... Scottie Goode

..... Mark McIntyre

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Volume XII

January 9, 2005

No. 2

When The Going Gets Tough

David A. Cox

Life has its good, happy and easy moments, but there are times in life when life get tough. When that happens what are you to do? Do you think that when times get hard and rough that you should take a detour? Many times people do. They just seem to think that since times are hard that everyone can understand if they take a break for a while. However, the scriptures do not teach such. As a matter of fact it teaches just the opposite.

The Example of Job

If anyone ever had a tough period of life, it was Job. Job was a man of integrity. God even asked Satan if he had noticed the faithfulness of Job (Job 1:8). Satan responds by accusing God of blessing Job with so much prosperity and ease of life that he had no reason to be unfaithful. Satan proposes that if the life of Job was cursed (made hard and rough) that he would turn away from faithfully serving God. So God told Satan to do as he desired, but not to harm Job physically. So Job's life was plagued with many hardships and tragedies. Job lost all his livestock, and a windstorm demolished the house where his children were and they died (Job 1:13-19). When Job's life took such a tough turn, did he take a break in his service to God or did his life take a different direction? No!! In Job 1:22 we read, "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job in the midst of such calamities and anguish did not sin, but rather he worshipped, and blessed God (Job. 1:20-21).

How Can One Do As Job?

It is a matter of faith and trust in God and his promises. We must remember that God "will not suffer us to tempted above that ye are able to bear" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Remember the truth that Paul

reminded the Romans “If God be for us, who can be against us” (Romans 8:31). We must understand that God does not want to see us fail. He does not want to see us turn our backs on Him when the going gets tough. We are able to bear or overcome temptation. God has promised us. He is there for us and instead of taking a break or turning away from Him we must look for the way of escape to overcome the trials. Be assured of two things:

1. Satan loves those who quit.
2. God loves those who hold on.

We must remember that and the words of the song that says, “Heaven will surely be worth it all.” This is what Paul affirmed to the Romans when he wrote, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). So when times get tough...hold on...look for the way of escape...put your faith and trust in God. For without God, what else is there?



Timothy and Epaphroditus

Chuck Durham

The great love of Jesus Christ that would compel Him to leave the glories of heaven and be made flesh staggers rationality. How utterly improbable that He would lower himself to take the nature of the creature. The King of the universe, now the slave of all. God, the Word, the Creator—dying! That God would submit to death, let alone the degradation of the cross, presses the boundaries of the absurd. Who can believe such a report? It never entered our minds that God would save us at such awful cost to Himself. We are swept away by the sheer magnanimity of His love. What rock-hard hearts can stand unmoved

as we are caught up in the story? For He did this for me—and for you. This is gospel preaching that stirs and moves and changes. This is a mountain-top experience.

But from such lofty heights we go immediately to the valley. Philippians 2:19-30 seems out of place so closely following the great section about the mind of Christ (vv. 5-11). I do not doubt the long hours of toil, and even danger, that Timothy and Epaphroditus faced. I believe they were men that should be esteemed. But, why should such a glorious revelation of Christ’s mind be followed with the praise of two of us “just plain ol’ Joes”?

I’m slow, but I think that’s it. It fits like a hand in a glove. Jesus so consecrated Himself to God that He was willing to be poured out for the supreme benefit of others. So, too, these brothers consecrated themselves to God, subduing self in the service of others. The Lord Jesus Christ was their model and they faithfully followed His steps.

Timothy: A Man of Character

We say, on occasion: “He has character.” The Greek word is *karakter*, an instrument used for marking or engraving. It passed from that to mean the mark, brand or stamp engraved. The ancients made the “character” of a horse in the forehead of a bondsman. We talk of “the lasting impression” made on an individual by adversity or the tutelage of a great mentor. “He has character,” that is, the highest moral qualities have been stamped on his heart as indelibly as the brand on a cow. So, Jesus Christ marked young Timothy (v. 22).

Timothy was a timid fellow. That does not lend itself well to the task of confronting false teachers and cantankerous brethren. But, he met both challenges. It does not help one to meet the dangers of persecution—railings, imprisonment, or even death. But, Timothy overcame his fear and suffered imprisonment (see 2 Timothy 1:7-8; Hebrews 13:23). He was often sickly (1 Timothy 5:23). That doesn’t help you keep up with the

schedule of preaching demanded by missionary work. Yet, he did all of it as a “slave of the gospel” (v. 22). A slave has no will, save his master’s. We are so deluged with “my rights” that I fear we cannot know the true meaning of being Christ’s bonds slave. Timothy did. He knew what it meant to do something you don’t want to do, but you do it because it serves another’s good. He knew what it was to endure hardship like a good soldier (2 Timothy 2:3). The test of any army is how they fight when they are hungry and tired and want to go home. He genuinely cared for the brethren (v. 20). Paul often used him in missions to churches they had established. There was nothing artificial or forced about his love for the brethren.

Paul said he was “equal-souled” with him (v. 20, isopsychos). Timothy shared Paul’s deep concern for the churches (2 Corinthians 11:28). He outstripped all who were left in Rome when it came to devotion to Christ. What a sad generalization that those Christians put self first and Jesus Christ second. What good excuses men can make for taking the easy route over God’s hard way. Unpleasant duties have a way of not becoming duties at all. How the kingdom of God has been hindered by such people! Can it be said of us, “He is a Timothy?”

Epaphroditus: Risking It All

Paul pays tribute to this man when he calls him “fellowworker and fellow soldier” (v. 25). He was no passenger, just along for the ride. These words speak of effort, loyalty, endurance—a man of Christ’s mind. Philippi committed their trust to him and he faithfully carried out his mission to Paul, even to the point of nearly dying (see v. 30 with v. 8).

He risked it all. The verb is *parabeuomai*, a gambling term meaning to stake all on the turn of the dice. Epaphroditus took a calculated risk in serving Christ, the willingness to expend all he had in His service (2 Corinthians 12:15). He was worthy of that honorary title the early Christians gave to such “proven character”—Parabolani,

“The Riskers.” Cyprian best defined the word. In A.D. 252, a plague swept the city of Carthage. The populace threw out the dead bodies and fled for their lives. But, Cyprian gathered the congregation together and sent them to bury the dead and tend the sick at the risk of their own lives. “Foolhardy,” “reckless” would be the epithet of the world. What an impact Christianity could make if every believer’s epithet was Parabolani, even if it became their epitaph.

Enduring, spending, risking all in serving Christ because they had the mind of Christ. When you see them in our day, esteem them highly, brethren. There are precious few of “equal soul.”

—via *Susquehanna Sentinels*; Maritta, Pennsylvania.

Gospel Meeting

March 27 – April 1

Randall Hammock, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Willie Ridgeway* is now at home following his stay in the hospital ... *Donna Rose* is recovering at home following her surgery on Wednesday ... *Jean Ray* is in the Glenwood rehabilitation in Florence... *Lou Ann Phillips* was sick and unable to be Bible study Wednesday night... *Myrtie Williams* is at home ... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell,* is at 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 two to meet. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group this evening after our service.

SYMPATHY: We want express our deepest sympathy to **James Word, Brian Word and Marcia Cooper and all the family** in the passing of James' brother-in-law and Brian and Marcia's uncle, **Paul McCafferty**, on Tuesday. His funeral was on Thursday.

OUT OF TOWN: **June Calvert** is in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this weekend... **Cindy Pressnell** has been out of town with her work this week.

ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING: Next Sunday afternoon, January 16th, the elders and deacons will be meeting at 4:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the week of January 2nd*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 101
Morning Worship 117
Evening Worship 99

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 87



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
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