

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, February 13th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Isaiah 63:1-10)
..... Stephen Stewart
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Andrews Gatlin
Serving Mike Rogers
..... Mark McCrary
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Wesley Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading ... (Isaiah 63:11-19)
..... Eddie Hammond
Prayer
..... Msrk McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Volume XII

February 13, 2005

No. 7

When Feeling Bad Is Good

Dan S. Shipley

To feel bad about doing bad is bad, but it is far worse when you don't. In fact, when a man no longer feels regret or guilt for his wrongdoing, he has reached the very bottom of the barrel of moral degradation. Such are those described by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:18,19. He says they have become "alienated from the life of God, because of the hardening of their heart..." — a condition resulting in their being "past feeling". This is the final and worst state of wickedness to which mortals can fall. It is the ultimate in moral bankruptcy. To be "past feeling" is to be dead to all that is good and decent and uplifting. It is to be so dominated by sin as to lose all sense of shame and to live without regard for the consequences of evil, either to self or to others. But men do not sink to such depths overnight.

Today's most calloused conscience was once, many, many sins ago, a tender and sensitive moral alarm. Back then, its warnings were felt with disturbing uneasiness — even if unheeded. But, repeatedly ignored and suppressed, its pangs gradually diminished to the point of being barely bothersome. Then, finally, it becomes incapable of being aroused even by the vilest deed. It is past feeling; it is dead. Having come to this state of miserable wretchedness, men give themselves up to lasciviousness, "to work all uncleanness with greediness" (Ephesians 4:19). And, if I mistake not the lesson of Romans 1, this is where God gives them up to what they themselves are determined to have. (v.24,26,28). What else remains for those who refuse to know God and heed conscience?

So, if you can still feel bad when you do bad, that's good — but it's better, of course, to refrain from what offends the conscience to

begin with. Not that conscience is the standard of right, but when properly enlightened by the word of God it becomes a reliable guide and a strong ally. Any conscience should be heeded, but the truth-set and God-oriented conscience gives a new dimension to morality. Wrongdoing brings sorrow and regret even to the non-Christian who violates a tender conscience — but it does not bring godly sorrow, and there is a vast difference. Only godly sorrow works repentance unto salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10). So, the Christian not only feels bad about doing bad, he feels bad for the right reason — because he knows he has sinned against God! It seems to me this is the “conscience toward God” mentioned in 1 Peter 2:19; 3:21. Without such a conscience there can be no genuine repentance and, consequently, no salvation. The correlation between repentance and maintaining a tender conscience is obvious. When godly sorrow works repentance, it produces the change of mind and conduct that puts man right with both God and conscience — and, thereby, preserves its effectiveness.

So, feeling bad about doing bad can be beneficial, if we will allow it. The question is not whether we will do bad (sin) — or even whether we will feel bad (sorrow), but rather whether our sorrow will be of the “godly sort” (2 Corinthians 7:11). Realization that we “have sinned against heaven” will ever bring us back home to the Father as it did the prodigal. This is hurt that helps.

—via *Plain Talk*; Burnet, Texas.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

The Joy of Marriage

Phillip Mullins

A few weeks ago, I attended the wedding of a young couple. Then, the next day, I went to a fiftieth wedding anniversary reception of another.

The first event was characterized by anticipation. The couple was beaming with optimism, looking forward to the years ahead. Words of instruction were given by the preacher, prayers for God's guidance were offered up on their behalf, and all wished them well.

On the other hand, the anniversary was characterized by reflection. There were pictures on display that spanned the life of the couple. A copy of the marriage license from fifty years before was also set out for all to see. “I remember when...” was overheard often that afternoon.

Though different in many respects, joy was the emotion that dominated both events. Joy over what will come and joy over what had already occurred. Marriage ceremonies and anniversaries are natural occasions of great celebration because marriage itself is at the heart of so many of life's joys. It is the fountain from which many of life's most satisfying experiences flow such as the birth of children, the rearing of children, and seeing the birth and growth of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Even the most mundane happenings of life are made special when shared with a loving mate.

It is an emotion however, that not everyone associates with marriage anymore. With about half the marriages today ending in divorce proceedings and custody battles, pain has become the emotion that many people associate with marriage.

Yet, that is not the way that God intended for it to be. Though all marriages have their rocky spots, God desires that the marital union be a

source of great happiness. "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor with the Lord" (Proverbs 18:22).

The reason marriage has fallen on hard times in our society is that God's basic guidelines for marriage have been tossed out. Without God directing marriage, there is little hope for joy in it. Without God guiding a marriage, it is not even likely to last. "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it;..." (Psalm 127: 1).

That is why these two events involving these particular couples were so refreshing to me. They offered hope that if people will apply the will of God to their marriage, as the couple who was enjoying the anniversary had, then it can work. And not just work, but work marvelously bringing much happiness to so many others. I believe that such will be the case for the young couple whose vows I witnessed on the same weekend for the simple fact that they too have a deep commitment to the will of God.

Joy in marriage depends not on romantic feelings nor on economic prosperity nor on luck. Whether you have joy in your marriage or not will depend on if you and your spouse are willing to submit to the will of God. He created marriage and He holds the key of finding and maintaining joy in it.

-via *Messages*, Kingsport, Tennessee.

Gospel Meeting

March 27 – April 1

Randall Hammock, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama



The Anderson
church of Christ
website at:

[www. Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

On the Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The *Gospel Power* in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Jean Ray* is back at the Glenwood rehabilitation in Florence ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, was not able to begin her treatments for her multiple myeloma. She will begin in a couple of weeks... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *My father, Cecil Cox*, is in the ECM hospital following quadruple by-pass surgery on Wednesday... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Helen Stewart* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and is experiencing some circulation problems in her foot ... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, had some test done this week ... *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

...*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.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Beulah church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the time for Communciation group two to meet. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group this evening.

WILLIE RIDGEWAY: It is with great saddness that we note the passing of brother Willie Ridgeway this past Thursday. Willie fought a long hard battle with cancer. We are thankful for Willie and his faith and trust in the Lord. We will miss Willie and his presence aamong us. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Wynell and all the family.

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS: *Jack and Onzell Tucker* will celebrate 65 of marriage this coming Thursday, February 17th. We want to congratulate them and honor them for this great example of the lifetime commitment that marriage is. It is indeed a wonderful blessing for all of us to see an example like Jack and Onzell and other couples that are among us that have been married for 50 plus years.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Janice Glass* in the passing of her cousin, *Mark Jones*, this past Thursday. His funeral was on Saturday.

THE RECORD: *For the week of February 6th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 110
Morning Worship 124
Evening Worship 97

Wednesday:
Bible Classes 78

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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