

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 20th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Isaiah 66:1-9)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jimmy Glass
Assisting Mark McIntyre
Serving Stephen Stewart
..... Wesley Phillips
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading ... (Isaia:h 66:10-22)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Brian Word
Lord's Supper
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Volume XII

February 27, 2005

No. 9

"Eye Hath Not Seen Nor Ear Heard"

Robert Jackson

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

These words from the pen of the beloved Paul are often spoken at funerals. This is due to the fact that many think Paul here is speaking of heaven. I am aware of the fact this would give much comfort to one who sorrows over the death of a loved one. There are many other Scriptures that tell us about heaven. However, it is my understanding, at this time, that Paul is not referring to the glories that believers will receive after death, but rather to the blessings that one enjoys now as a result of his love for God.

Paul Was Speaking About His Message

As we examine the first five verses of this chapter, we note that Paul was speaking that the message of his preaching was of divine power. In verse one, he speaks of declaring to them the Testament of God. He declared unto them that Jesus was crucified. This message was not of human wisdom. Then he follows in verse five that our faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. What then does it mean that our faith should be in the power of God? The power of God had to be revealed.

A Message Revealed

Looking at verse seven, we understand from Paul that the message he was presently delivering at one time was hidden. The truth about what God had prepared for those whom He loved had never been seen by the eye, ear, or heart of man. Now Paul informs us that the things not seen by eye, heard by ear, or thought of by the mind of man have now been revealed to us (the apostles) by the Holy

Spirit. Only the Spirit of God knows the deep things of God. Since they have been revealed by the Spirit, we can now know the deep things of God. Listen to the words of Paul in the Ephesian letter: "How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I wrote before in a few words which when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Ephesians 3:3-4). When we leave these words of Paul as he spoke them, it seems clear that what he is speaking about when he said that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, and the heart of man had not thought of, was that which had been revealed to them being the message, the gospel of Christ.

Let us not overlook the blessings that now come to those who love the Lord: the forgiveness of sins, to be called the sons of God, (Romans 8:14), and the blessing of being a member of His church, the body now (1 Corinthians 12:13), and the joy of serving the Lord. Let us be grateful for the blessing of Romans 8:28, and the blessing of prayer -- the blessing that we can cast our care on Him, (1 Peter 5:7).

Eye hath not seen, ear heard, nor the heart of man ever thought about the glorious gospel of Christ that was revealed by the Spirit. The gospel of Christ is the power of God (Romans 1:16).

-via *Susquehanna Sentiel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania..

Gospel Meeting

March 27 – April 1

Schedule of Services

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Singing at 3:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday 7:00 p.m.

Randall Hammock, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

The Completeness of Christ

Randy Harshbarger

All man's spiritual needs are supplied in Christ; to Him we must be loyal. When Christ was on earth He had unfaithful followers (Acts 1:16-17, 25). Some forsook Paul in his time of need (1 Timothy 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:16-18). Why would they act in this manner? Ultimately, they were challenged by something contrary to the will of Christ.

The book of Colossians helps us deal with the same basic problems of faith we have today. In this little but powerful book, Paul deals with the challenge of human philosophy; some loved their own wisdom (Colossians 2:8). Philosophy is the "love of wisdom." The danger of human philosophy is that it seeks to answer the three basic issues of life apart from God's revelation. One: man's origin. "Where did I come from?" Did I evolve from lower forms of life? Is my existence entirely natural? Two: man's purpose. "What am I doing here?" Am I here to simply live as I choose (as the old TV commercial says: Grab all gusto you can!). Three: man's destiny. "Where am I going?" The plaintive cry of the unbeliever leaves the heart cold. "O, God if there is a God, save me from hell, if there is a hell.

The Bible teaches that the earth, yea, the universe is the result of creative act of God through Christ (Colossians 1:16). Man is to serve God (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). The destiny of all men can be summed up simply: either heaven or hell awaits all men (Matthew 25:46).

Religious teachers in the first century sought to bind aspects of the Law of Moses on Gentile converts. In doing so, they were preaching another gospel (Galatians 1:7-9). The completeness of the salvation Christ provided did not combine the Old Law and the New Law. Mixing the two laws today evokes discussion about using mechanical instruments in worship to God, Sabbath

day keeping, etc.

Paul faced the challenge of mysticism (Colossians 2:18-23). The worshipping of angels, special knowledge (knowledge that only the spiritually elite were privy to know), will worship, etc., all of which constituted challenges to the completeness of the salvation found in Christ.

Paul addressed these matters. All men are subject to Christ (Colossians 1:18). All men need to be brought to Him in submission to His will. The body takes instruction from the head; the body derives nourishment from its head. All the spiritual needs we could ever imagine are summed up in Christ (Colossians 2:10). Christ is a complete Savior. Christ is a complete guide for our journey to heaven. Christ is a qualified judge. Before Him all men will stand and give account.

If this is who Christ is and this is what Christ does for us, then our greatest task and opportunity is to yield our lives to His will. Let us be thankful we can be complete in Christ, but only in Christ.

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*, Nacogdoches, Texas.



How Sweet The Sound

Phillip Mullins

David's head was hung low. He knew he had sinned with Bathsheba. He knew his hands were stained with the blood of Uriah. He knew that he deserved to die. Instead he heard the forgiveness of God through the lips of Nathan, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die" (2 Samuel 12:13).

Peter had done exactly what he said he wouldn't do, he had denied Jesus. What guilt he

must have felt, what shame he must have had. Several days after the resurrection, Peter sat on the shores of Galilee with His Lord. What did he hear from Christ? Words of scorn, words of rejection? No. "Feed my lambs", said Christ (John 21:15). Words of restoration to the work Jesus had called Peter to do. Words of forgiveness.

The greatest words that a person can hear are not, "You are getting a raise" or "You just earned the highest grade in the class" or even "Yes, I will marry you". The most important words that the human ear can receive are the words that bear the news that God is merciful and that He forgives through His Son Jesus Christ.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),..." (Ephesians 2:5-6).

Have you heard these words? Have you responded with love, faith, and obedience? If not, open God's Word, bend your ear, and listen to His voice. It will be the sweetest sound you have ever heard.

-via *Messages*, Kingsport, Tennessee.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Myrtie Williams* is now at home following her recent stay in the hospital... *Wynell Ridgeway* is doing better after her fall last week and has been able to be services... *Claus Martel's sister, Ann Martinez*, is in rehabilitation in New York following her double hip replacement ... *Virginia Lovell* has been down with her back

this week and has been unable to be at services... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, is now home from the hospital... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in Glenwood rehabilitation in Florence ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, was not able to begin her treatments for her multiple myeloma this week... *Angie McCrary* was sick last weekend and was unable to be at services ... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, continues to receive 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.

JEAN RAY: It is with great sadness that we note the passing of sister Jean Ray this past Wednesday morning. Jean fought a hard battle with her health during the last couple of months and the series of strokes that she had to endure were very difficult for her. We are thankful for Jean and her faith and trust in the Lord. We will miss Jean and his presence among us. Her funeral was Friday afternoon in Rogersville. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all the family.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Hammonds Eddie and Willodean* are in Florida and will be returning home the first part of this week.

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

THE RECORD: *For the week of February 20th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 95
 Morning Worship 108
 Evening Worship 69

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 88

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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