

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, April 10th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Hebrews 8:7-13)

..... Stephen Stewart

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Lord's Supper

Presiding Mark McIntyre

Assisting Andrew Gatlin

Serving Rodney McCrary

..... Eddie L. Hammond

..... Curtis Mosley

..... Jim Phillips

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (Hebrews 9:1-10)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

..... Andrew Gatlin

Closing Prayer

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Volume XII

April 10, 2005

No. 15

Why Are There So Many Churches?

Phillip Mullins

The fact that the religious world is divided is a good thing to some. They are happy to see so many different churches with a wide variety of teachings and practices. They think diversity gives more people the freedom to find a church that suits their own peculiar wants and needs. I suppose that sounds good to many people. However, when you consider the Biblical reason why there are so many churches claiming to follow Christ, the picture is not so pleasant.

At the end of Acts 20, the apostle Paul is giving a warning to the elders of the church at Ephesus. In vs. 29-30 he says, "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves." What Paul describes here is a division among Christ's followers. What is that division caused by? Men who speak perverse or distorted things.

The real reason why there is so much division among those who claim to follow Christ is because so many different men have wanted to teach their own particular brand or flavor of the gospel and thus, twist or pervert the true gospel of Christ. So, is religious division a good thing? Certainly not!

In John 17:20-21 we find this earnest prayer of Jesus to His Father, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." This is a plea of Jesus for His followers to be united. And what basis would this unity have?

That The word that Christ had given to His apostles which they took and proclaimed throughout the world. The very same message that we have preserved for us in the New Testament. According to this passage, Jesus' followers are to base their belief on this word. That is to be the foundation for our unity.

Yet, so many people do not base their faith and service to God on the New Testament. As a result, there is rampant religious division. May Christ help us all cling to His Word alone and to lay aside our opinions that rip and tear His body apart.

~via *Messages*, Kingsport, Tennessee.



Sowing The Seed

Allen Malone

Our Lord told a parable about a sower who went forth to sow (Matthew 13:3-9). It is a short parable and easy to understand, especially since He explained it in detail (Matthew 13:18-23). In its few lines are lessons for those who would sow the seed of the kingdom, the word of God. These lessons can greatly enhance our overall effectiveness as teachers of the gospel of Jesus. Notice the parable and its lessons:

“Behold a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up. Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up, and because they had no deepness of earth, when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns and the thorns sprung up and choked them. But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to

hear, let them hear.”

Why was this sower effective? First of all, because he sowed! “Behold, a sower went forth to sow!” Imagine that! Its hard to reap a harvest you have not sown, isn't it? How probable is it that we will be able to convert sinners whom we have not taught?

Why was this sower very effective? It seems it was because he sowed alot. He did not sow merely that he might pacify his conscience and be able to say, “I have sown.” Broadcasting one or two handfuls of grain would have allowed him to say that. No, he sowed alot, everywhere, and as he had opportunity, because he was a sower interested in the greatest possible harvest. We are going to have to convert as many people as possible to Christ. To convert alot of people, you must teach alot of people!

How was it that the sower made sure to sow seed into the good soil? Surprisingly, it was by refusing to judge any of the soil. He did not rely on his own judgment. He saw himself as a seed-sower, not as a soil-judger. There is a lesson there. Judging hearts is beyond our ability, but teaching is not. How are we going to be sure to teach everyone who will obey the gospel? Only by teaching everyone!

How did the sower keep from getting overly discouraged about all his sowing that seemed like wasted effort? He realized that as long as he was sowing, the problem was not with the sower but with the soil. He was doing what a sower is supposed to do. Should we be overwhelmed with discouragement due to the refusal of some to obey the truth, if we are living and serving as the Lord saved us to do? NO!

Brethren, let's teach. Let's teach alot. Let's teach at every opportunity (and not turn from opportunities by judging that certain people would not obey anyway). Let us rejoice with heaven over every soul saved, and show our thankfulness to God by continuing to teach.

~via *The Seeker*, Marshall, Virginia.

The Way I See It

Gene Tope

This is an unhappy world. Sin and Satan are responsible for this unhappy condition. Who can deny that this unhappiness has also affected members of the body of Christ. How can I be happy in such an unhappy world?

I must find ***Forgiveness With God***. “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest”. Forgiven people are happy people. The eunuch, after his baptism, “went on his way rejoicing” and the Philippian jailer, “rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.” Christians, too, should seek such continued forgiveness - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

I must put ***Worldly Possessions In Their Proper Place***. Material possessions cause much of our unhappiness. All of them can be damaged, worn out, or lost. Christians are taught to value their spiritual blessings above all else. “For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” If we would be happy we must learn contentment in this life. “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”

I must ***Do Good Every Day!*** It is indeed more blessed to give than to receive. I am the light of the world. Every day I can study the Bible, help someone in distress, teach the lost, visit the sick and elderly, forget myself, think on good things, show love to the whole world. The end of such a day will be happy.

I must ***Think About My Heavenly Home***. This world is not my home - “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into confor-

mity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” God’s promises are all true. There is no place like heaven. “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.”

Do you have this happiness?

~via ***The Cornerstone***, Richmond, Virginia

News and Notes

THE SICK: ***C. L. Weathers*** had surgery on his wrist this past Tuesday... ***Tisha Thomas’ grandmother, Nellie Hunter***, has been in the Hillside hospital in Pulaski this past week, but is doing better now... ***Claus Martel’s father, Gene Martel***, is in the hospital in New Jersey preparing for surgery to implant a pacemaker on Monday ... ***Stephen and Valarie Stewart*** have continued to be sick, but Valerie was better and able to be at Bible study on Wednesday... ***Jerry Dickey’s father, David Dickey***, is in Mitchell-Hollingsworth rehabilitation in Florence... ***Tisha Thomas’ mother, Shelia Johnson***, was not able to begin her treatments for her multiple myeloma, but hopes to begin them this week... ***Myrtie Williams*** is at home and not able to be out ... ***Monroe Pressnell’s aunt, Mildred Pressnell***, is at home ... ***Leota Springer’s husband, Bob Springer***, continues to take kidney dialysis ... ***Helen Stewart’s grandson, Adam Stewart***, is at home now, and is doing well ... ***Curtis Cooper*** is continuing 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.

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

TEACHERS MEETING: Remember a teachers' meeting is scheduled today concerning our Vacation Bible school. I hope that all our teachers and those that wish to help with the VBS will be present.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Scottie Goode** and *all the family* in the passing of his grandmother, *Clara Kelley*, on Saturday evening. Her funeral will be Tuesday in Pulaski.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Clemmons: Michael and Sissy* are in Pennsylvania this week visiting with *Ray and Judy Williams...* **Helen Stewart** is in South Carolina visiting with her son.

GOSPEL MEETINGS; The **Elkton church** in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. *Joe Corley* will be the speaker...The **Cartwright church** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at at 7:00 p.m. *Lowell Sallee* will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: *For the week of April 3rd*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 104
 Morning Worship 120
 Evening Worship 93

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 75



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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