

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 17th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading . (Hebrews 9:23-28)

..... Brad Hammond

Prayer

..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Lord's Supper

Presiding Rocky Rose

Assisting Claus Martel

Serving Ethan Pressnell

..... Stephen Stewart

..... Mark McCrary

..... Wesley Phillips

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading .. (Hebrews 10:1-10)

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

..... Claus Martel

Closing Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Volume XII

April 17, 2005

No. 16

Is There Any Hope?

David A. Cox

As you watch the news, one thing is quite certain; life is filled with dire circumstances of personal problems or natural calamities of one kind or another. As such circumstances befall men, many times the question comes, "Is there any hope?"

The Bible teaches, "The world passeth away, and the lust thereof" (1 John 2:17a). Peter wrote, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (1 Peter 3:10). When one asks if there is any hope in this life and the world in which we live, the answer from the scriptures is clear; No! The sobering fact is that those who place their trust in this life and what it has to offer will be lost without any hope.

But to truly answer the question, "Is there any hope?" The answer is "Yes!" This is because of Jesus Christ and his coming to earth and living a perfect life among man and sacrificing himself for us. Jesus died on he cross to redeem us from sin (Ephesians 1:7). Because of the death of Christ we might have life (1 John 4:10). Because of Jesus' resurrection we have a hope that lives. Peter reminded those he wrote to of this fact when he wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). So indeed, there is hope in God. The Hebrew writer refers to this hope as "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19). This hope is our stabilizing force through the storms of life, as an anchor is to a sea vessel on the stormy sea.

This hope is available to all who will put their trust in God (Hebrews 11:6); repent of their sins (Luke 13:3); confess Christ before men (Romans 10:9-10); be buried in baptism in the name of Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4); and live faithful lives in serving God (Revelation 2:10). John writes “and the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (1 John 2:17).



Contentiousness

Frank Himmel

God’s people are to be contenders. “...*I felt necessity to write to you appealing to you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3). To contend for a thing is to strive for it, to struggle for it. Contending for the faith requires not only learning it and obeying it, but defending and advancing it.

Paul was “*set for the defense of the gospel*” (Philippians 1:16). Peter said, “*But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence*” (1 Peter 3:15).

Can you make the case for why someone ought to become a Christian? Can you explain from the Bible what he must do? Could you answer the basic argument of error on subjects such as salvation by faith only, infant baptism, once saved always saved, instrumental music in worship, etc.? If not, get busy and equip yourself for the battle.

There is, however, a danger to which we

must all be warned. It is possible for us to go from being contenders to being contentious. Contentiousness is a perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrels and disputes. It is an argumentative attitude, a belligerent bearing. And it is by no means limited to religious discussions. Pugnacious people are on playgrounds, in homes, at work, in politics — everywhere.

A Wrong Disposition

The Bible condemns this sparring spirit in numerous places.

“It is better to live in a corner of a roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman” (Proverbs 21:9; cf. 21:19; 25:24; 27:15).

“Urge bondservants to be subjects to their own masters in everything, to be well pleasing, not argumentative” (Titus 2:9).

The qualifications of elders include “*not pugnacious*” (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7). Many translations say, “*not quarrelsome*.”

Disputes and dissensions are among the works of the flesh, which will keep us out of heaven (Galatians 5:19-21).

James admonished, “*But everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God*” (James 1:19-20).

Kindred Problems

The quality of a thing is often known by the company it keeps. Paul wrote of some who have “*morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction*” (1 Timothy 5:4-5)

Whether consciously or not, that is what the contentious spirit does. It tends to look for bad things, things to criticize, instead of good. It looks with a fault-finding eye, taking every thing that is said or done in the worst possible light. (That is the disposition the Bible calls malice, which is also sinful [Colossians 3:8]). It takes extreme positions in the course of argumenta-

tion, and often grows angry. Harsh language is sure to emerge. In time, the argumentative man grows bitter when others tire of his quarreling and have little to do with him. He does not understand their discouragement at constant friction.

Lord, Is It I?

Contentiousness is like greed: we know it is wrong, but we often can see it only in others. After all, I am right about this! Perhaps a little self-test will help.

- Do I frequently argue with others, no matter who or what the subject?
- Do I feel compelled to get in the last word in a disagreement? Am I ever willing to just drop it?
- Do I tend to correct every detail in another's story or speak out every time I do not completely agree with what he is saying?
- How often do I end up in arguments over things that are really inconsequential?
- Are the attitudes associated with contentiousness showing up in my life?

May God help us all to know when and how to make a stand, to be "shrewed as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16), only doing good and abstaining from every form of evil.

-via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.



Remember our regular scheduled song service this evening at 6:00. Phil Pressnell will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we sing songs of praise to God.



The Anderson
church of Christ
website at:

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: *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, has been in the Hillside hospital in Pulaski this past week, but is doing better now...*Morgan Grisham* had his adenoids removed on Tuesday in Athens...*Marissa Gatlin* had her wisdom teeth removed on Friday...*Jacob Rogers* had some teeth pulled on Wednesday afternoon...*Claus Martel's father, Gene Martel*, had a pacemaker implanted on Monday in New Jersey and is doing well...*Valerie Stewart's grandmother, Ollie Bell Rochelle*, has been in the Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia, Tennessee...*Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, began her chemo treatments this past 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 ... *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 time for Communcation group three to meet If you are in group three remember to meet with you are group this evening.

ELDERS MEETING: The elders will be meeting this afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Dickeys: Jerry, Charlotte, Justin and Brandon* were back on Wednesday night after being out of town over the weekend.

GOSPEL MEETINGS; The *West Madison Street church* in Pulaski, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. *Stan Caldwell of Fayetteville, North Carolina* will be the speaker...The *Market Street church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at at 7:00 p.m. *Jerry Accuterra* will be the speaker ...The *New Georgia church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker ...The *Underwood Heights church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Aaron Erhardt* will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: *For the week of April 10th*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 96
- Morning Worship 122
- Evening Worship 83

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 80

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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