

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 24th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (Hebrews 10:26-39)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry Dickey
Assisting Brian Word
Serving Mike Rogers
..... Jim Phillips
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading .. (Hebrews 11:1-12)
..... Stephen Stewart
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Jerry Dickey
..... Brian Word
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Volume XII

April 24, 2005

No. 17

Teaching Them To Observe

Bill Robinson, Jr.

True discipleship is a learning process ending only at death. Prior to His ascension, Jesus commanded, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20).

True discipleship is not grounded in any ritualism, or creedalism. To the contrary, it is rooted in Christ, *if* one has "received Christ Jesus the Lord" and is determined in that manner to walk in Christ (Colossians 2:6-8). Thus, the disciple's life is lived so that Jesus is honored as Lord in every way (Colossians 3: 17).

Jesus asks a penetrating question regarding discipleship, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). It is important to understand the nature and context of the question. It is not spoken to those who have no knowledge or familiarity with Jesus. In fact, the next verse Jesus said, "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings." Jesus was speaking to those who would come to Him and hear him. However, the fact they would come and hear was not the determining factor of their discipleship. For the context reveals that not all who would come and hear have the *will to do* what he says. Sadly, some came and heard but *would not do* what he says. Thus, the true disciple of the Lord comes to Christ to hear **and** obey! The teaching of Christ is the foundation of his existence by which he weathers the storms of life (Luke 6:47 -49).

A true disciple of the Lord will certainly submit to baptism to receive Jesus Christ the Lord. However, submission to baptism will

be a matter of course for the true disciple, for his heart and life will be characterized by listening and doing what Jesus commands as he/she remains faithful to the word of God. “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

True discipleship is not about measuring ourselves by ourselves (2 Corinthians 10:12). The “litmus test” for a true disciple is not found in having the right answer to someone’s questions. It is determined by our life in submitting to that truth which is in Christ Jesus. Truth must be as characteristic of the saved as it is of the Savior (Ephesians 4:21-24). And their the loyalty to God’s Son must be as distinctive as His was to His Father (Philippians 2:8; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:1-6).

That is why we are commanded to teach disciples (including ourselves) to observe all things Christ has commanded. Yet, even so, merely claiming Christ has commanded something means nothing until the true disciple opens up his Bible, hears the word, and does it for his/her Lord’s sake (Philippians 1:26-29; Acts 17: 11).

Being a disciple of the Lord means we come to His word because our desire is to follow it that we may draw nearer and be more like Him (John 6:68). Remember the words of Jesus, “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6: 40; cf. also John 13:16; 15:20). To this end, we teach men and women to observe what Jesus commanded through his word, as it is revealed in the New Testament (John 12:48).

~via *Power Talk*, Lexington, Kentucky.

The Obedience of Faith

Steve Dewhirst

How odd, that one of the Bible’s most fundamental teachings should have become so puzzling to folks. God is not the author of confusion, but man is. And during the centuries since Jesus walked the earth, the very nature of the faith that saves us has been obscured by an improper balance of principles.

Without controversy should be the straightforward declaration, “by grace you have been saved through faith...” (Ephesians 2:9). To deny the truth of this statement is to deny the gospel. But, as with other subjects, to isolate this verse to the exclusion of all others is to guarantee oneself the wrong perception. This verse surely tells us of salvation through faith, but it gives us no explanation of faith, itself. We should never question that we are saved through faith, but we should certainly strive toward a better understanding of what faith is and how it is expressed.

Faith can be defined as a deep, abiding trust and confidence in God - but to stop there is to leave the picture incomplete. It is this notion that faith is nothing more than the intellectual acknowledgment that God exists, that has led many to think that He makes no requirements of us. But that simply won’t square with scripture. After all, Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus is “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” Now faith, or belief, is not the same as obedience. But obviously, weighing the principle of faith beside that of obedience should cause us to dig a little deeper into the nature of the faith that saves. Saving faith cannot exist in a vacuum. In other words, faith doesn’t exist as an isolated concept, separate from the life of the believer. Faith is a living, active ingredient of one’s character. It effects the believer’s conduct for good. James 2:14 poses two critical questions. “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? That faith cannot save

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

him, can it?" These are rhetorical questions, requiring no answer. A "faith" that does nothing cannot save anyone. Even demons believe that God exists (vs. 19), but no one believes they will be saved. No, faith needs something else to make it complete. James cites the example of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God and asks, "Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?" (vs. 22).

So our earlier definition of faith needs to be amended. Faith is a deep, abiding trust and confidence in God, that creates a willingness to do what God says. Any definition of faith that excludes an obedient heart has failed to consider God's word completely. But just a note of caution is in order. Just as some men incorrectly deem faith to be a mental assent of God's goodness, others ignore faith and believe that righteousness lies in obedience. Both views are woefully wrong. No one will ever be justified before God on the basis of his obedience, for no one's obedience is perfect (Galatians 3:10-11; Romans 3:23). Obedience for the sake of "scoring points" with God is an exercise in futility. The only obedience God will accept is that which is born of our faith in Him. The obedience of faith is that service which is motivated by our trust that God knows best, and our desire to honor His will. It is this faith that Paul advocates in his great epistle to the Romans. In introducing his theme, Paul says he has received grace and apostleship "unto the obedience of faith among all the nations" (Romans 1:5, ASV). Plainly put, Paul is working as an apostle in order to bring about the obedience which rightly stems from faith. Paul never taught "rote" obedience in keeping with a ritualistic traditionalism. Instead, Paul taught that we can only be saved by recognizing our sinfulness, seeking the grace and mercy of God, and coming to Him through a faith in Christ that is willing to meet His conditions of pardon.

Man's salvation through faith shouldn't be puzzling. The most natural thing in the world ought to be our willingness to obey the God in

whom we have faith. If we have come to know redemption through the sacrifice of God's only Son, how can we fail to humble our spirits before His word? A faith that refuses to obey is really no faith at all.

-via *The Stonegate Standard*, Port Arthur, Texas.



The Anderson
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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: *Virginia Lovell* has been down with her back this past week and has been unable to be at services... *C. L. Weathers* was sick and unable to be at services last Sunday, but was able to be back on Wednesday night... *Jason White* was sick and unable to be at services last week... *Valerie Stewart's grandmother, Ollie Bell Rochelle*, is now in Life Care in Columbia... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is continuing her chemo treatments ... *Kerry Cox's cousin, Allison Hawkins*, was involved in a

serious automobile accident in Mississippi and is critical, but doing some better in a hospital in Jackson, Mississippi ...*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 awaiting a kidney transplant ... *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 Comminciation group four to meet. If you are in group four remember to meet with your group this evening.

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

OUT OF TOWN: *The McCrarys: Rodney, Angie and Mark* are back home after being out of town last week...*The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are visiting with family in Tennessee...*Glenda Phillipis* is also visiting today as well.

PREACHING TONIGHT: *Jimmy Glass* will be preaching at our service this evening at 6:00. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be back this evening to hear Jimmy speak. I appreciate Jimmy and his willingness to be used in this way.

THE RECORD: *For the week of April 17th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 96
 Morning Worship 118
 Evening Worship 88

Wednesday:

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

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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