

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 3rd:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading .. (Hebrews 7:11-19)
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Larry White
Lord's Supper
Presiding Phil Pressnell
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Wesley Phillips
..... Mike Rogers
..... James McConnell
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading .. (Hebrews 7:20-28)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Phil Pressnell
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XII

April 3, 2005

No. 14

Doing What Is Right – For God's Sake

Gary Henry

"Father, if it is Your will, taken this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." (Luke 22:42)

Great spiritual progress occurs when we learn to do what is right for reasons higher than those that have moved us in the past. The very act of doing the right things is important, of course. But even more important than that is our motive for doing it. Jesus repeatedly emphasized the importance of the "heart." And we must get to the point where we do the right things not just for good reason, but for the higher reasons, the highest of all these being the pure love of God Himself.

It is not an easy thing to wrestle with the question "What are we to do?" and keep the focus on God. Even as we consider what God's will might be from a theoretical standpoint, it's hard to keep our thoughts from being overpowered by the more immediate concerns that relate to ourselves. How will this or that action affect our feelings? What will make us happy? What will others think of us? What will we think of ourselves? What's our best strategy? All this fretful self-concern about the pros and cons of human behavior makes it appear that life is about us. But life is not about us, it's about God. All the self-centered questions in the world matter very little next to the question of God. What does God desire? And we are never in more danger of acting selfishly than when the thing that God desires happens to be a thing that also accrues to our advantage. It's hard to keep from wrapping plain old self-will in the mantle of "God's will."

At some point we must learn not only to do what's right, but to

do it for God's sake. Whether obedience seems advantageous or disadvantageous to us personally can't be allowed to dominate the discussion. Many good things do come to the obedient, and it would be naive to suggest that we shouldn't be drawn to these. But they can't be our primary concern. Jesus taught that we get the good things God has for us only by forgetting those things and keeping our focus on Him. We find ourselves only when we lose ourselves, and life is gained in the act of giving it up.

"Not as I will, but as thou wilt. To be able to say these words and truly mean them is the highest point we can ever hope to attain. Then, indeed, we have broken out of time's hard shell to breathe, not its stale air, but the fresh, exhilarating atmosphere of eternity." (Malcom Muggerridge)

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



Broken Cisterns

Randy Harshbarger

"The prophet is a man who feels fiercely. God has thrust a burden upon his soul, and he is bowed and stunned at man's fierce greed. Frightful is the agony of man; no human voice can convey its full terror. Prophecy is the voice that God has lent to the silent agony, a voice to the plundered poor, to the profaned riches of the world. It is a form of living, a crossing point of God and man. God is raging in the prophet's words" (The Prophets, Abraham J. Heschel, 5).

God's prophets are trying to get our attention. They speak for those who cannot speak for themselves—the poor, the oppressed, the orphan. The prophets appeal to each of us to engage our hearts and lives in an application of

love and compassion for others—the same kind of love and compassion God shows toward us. Indifference toward the hurting of others is bad enough. But our greatest sin may be our reluctance to see ourselves in the messages of God's spokesmen. The prophets sound words of warning, judgment, and opportunity for repentance. How dare we not listen!

"Be appalled, O heavens, at this, And shudder, be very desolate," declares the LORD. For my people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:12-13, NASV). Israel exchanged a relationship with Jehovah for one that could only bring disappointment and ruin. The Lord provided life-giving water—an apt metaphor for Jeremiah's audience. Every family would find a blessing in a nearby stream of pure water that was readily available. This meant they did not have to dig a cistern, a rock-hewn hole in the ground, that was daubed with clay or some kind of plaster. Eventually, the walls of the cistern would crack, and despite the owner's best efforts, the water would become tainted with dirt, mud, clay, or worse. What an uneven exchange! A broken cistern over living water!

In context, Jeremiah makes clear Israel's folly of turning away from Jehovah to chase after false gods and pagan deities. "Has a nation changed gods When they were not gods? But My people have changed their glory For that which does not profit" (Jeremiah 2:11 NASV). We appreciate the inability of false gods to satisfy the longings of a pagan heart that has never known the true God of heaven—the God who provides living water. But how could the people of God make such a fatal trade?

Could we today make the same mistake Israel made? Could we trade the "glory" of Jehovah for some worthless trinket? The false gods of paganism might easily be traded in useless attempts to find solace for a superstitious heart. But heaven was surprised that Israel had made such a

trade. And now they were thirsty. They were left with cisterns that could not hold water. They were thirsty but did not know it. Do we?

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*, Nacogdoches, Texas



Watch Your Mouth!

David Eldridge

Did your parents ever tell you to “watch your mouth” as you were growing up? Jesus shares in that message in Matthew 12:37. He said, “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Our words can either make us right or make us wrong. So, we ought to be careful that we say the right things and watch our mouth. Paul, in Ephesians 4:29, commands, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Let us consider these two types of words.

Corrupting words. One type of speech that will condemn us is corrupting speech. To corrupt is to tear and break down. When we say things to tear others down we are in error. Corrupting words would be gossiping, lying, hurtful, divisive, condescending, and mean-spirited speech among other things. The Christian should not be involved in such. Corrupting words do not come from a love, but rather from a selfish, unloving heart. In our speaking to one another, let us not tear each other down.

Edifying words. Paul, having commanded us to refrain from corrupting speech, states we should then speak those things which will edify (build up) one another. These are, in part, the words which justify us. We all need encourage-

ment in this life and we use can our words to provide this for others. We need to be “slow to speak” considering the words we use when talking to others so that those words may edify them.

Heed the warning of the children’s song when it says, “Oh, be careful little mouth what you say” and speak in the right way to one another.

-via *Water For Life*, Westfield, Indiana

News and **Notes**

THE SICK: *C.L. Weathers* is scheduled to have out patient surgery on Tuesday...*Stephen and Valarie Stewart* have been sick this past week and unable to be at services...*Jerry Dickey’s mother, Pat Dickey*, spent several days in the hospital this past week...*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...*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...*Myrtie Williams* is at home and not able to be out...*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.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is

the time for Communication group one to meet. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group this evening.

TEACHERS MEETING: A teachers meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, April 10th concerning our VBS. I hope that all our teachers and those that wish to help with the VBS this year will be present.

OUR MEETING: This past Friday night we concluded our spring gospel meeting with Randall Hammock preaching. It was a very good meeting and Randall did his work well. CD's and DVD's were made of all the services. If you would like a copy just let us know.

GOSPEL MEETINGS; The *Brookhill church* in Killen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m., Monday through Wednesday. *Don Patton* will be the speaker... The *Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at at 7:00 p.m. *Bob Waldron* will be the speaker ... The *Helton Drive church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Paul Earnhart* will be the speaker... The *Sardis Springs church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Bob Buchanan* will be the speaker... The *Corinth church* in Athens is also beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Melvin Curry* will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: *For the week of March 27th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 113
 Morning Worship 150
 Evening Worship 96

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 93

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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