

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, May 29th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (James 3:10-18)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper

Presiding Eddie J. Hammond

Assisting Brian Word

Serving Brad Hammond

..... Daniel Clemmons

..... Jim Phillips

..... Mike Rogers

Closing Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (James 4:1-10)

..... Eddie L. Hammond

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Lord's Supper

..... Eddie J. Hammond

..... Brian Word

Closing Prayer

..... Andrew Garlin

Volume XII

May 29, 2005

No. 22

When Is The Penitent Believer Saved?

Randy Harshbarger

All responsible people, are guilty of sin (Romans 3:23). Sin has a Payday, and when people persist in sin, they ultimately face the wrath of God (Romans 6:23). It is equally clear, that the only way men can be saved from sin is by the blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8-9). The fact that this is *clearly* taught in the Bible doesn't mean that men readily accept this truth. The fact that men have concocted many ways (according to them) by which they can be saved, is proof that they resist what God says. We ask the question: At what point in man's response to God is he saved by the blood of Christ? What does the Bible say about this matter?

Some insist that God will save everyone. That is, everyone will go to heaven, and no one will go to hell. That is a rather convenient and comforting teaching, but is it true? Jesus spoke of two ways, one broad and the other narrow. The broad way leads to destruction, while the narrow way leads to life (Matthew 7:13-14). Jesus certainly didn't have the idea that everyone was going to be saved, even though that is His desire. Then, some say that a person is saved at the precise moment he or she believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. This is another way of saying that men are "justified by faith alone." Some add that justification is by faith alone "without works of any kind." Others speak of being "ordained to eternal life." The end result is that a person is not baptized to be saved, but because he has already been saved. This says that faith is the only condition of salvation, and that baptism has nothing to do with being saved.

There are a number of passages that show other important considerations in the matter of salvation. For example, Acts 2:38

speaks about baptism, but it also speaks about repentance. So, is salvation by faith alone, or is it by faith plus repentance? James 2:24ff talks about the faith of Abraham, and says that faith without works is dead, and that man is not **justified** by faith alone. Whom shall we believe, God or man? Jesus spoke about believing, which all admit is necessary to salvation; but he also said you must be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:15-16). Does the Lord know as much about this as man knows? Baptism stands between the sinner and being saved. Who is saved? He that believes and is not baptized or he that believes and is baptized? Who is right, Jesus or man? Baptism stands between the sinner and the remission of sins. That is what Peter said on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38). Remember, that Peter and the other apostles were simply preaching what Jesus told them to preach (Luke 24:44). The people on Pentecost asked the question: What must we do to be saved? Peter said: "Repent and be baptized." It is clear that those folks believed; otherwise, why would they ask what they needed to do? Baptism stands between the sinner and becoming a son of God. This is what Paul taught in Galatians 3:26-27. The believer has the right or opportunity to become a child of God (John 1:12). Yet, if he became a son of God when he believed, he wouldn't have to *become* one, would he? If he believed, as some say, he would already be a child of God. Paul says that men are baptized into Christ. Baptism also stands between the sinner and having his sins washed away. Saul of Tarsus (later the Apostle Paul) was told to be baptized in order to have his sins washed away (Acts 22:16).

It is clear that he believed in who Jesus was. Yet, this didn't mean that he was saved. If he was already saved at the point of faith, then there wasn't anything to wash away. The New Testament also teaches that baptism stands between the sinner and getting into Christ. The only way to get into Christ is to be baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-4). If you can be saved without being baptized, then you can be saved without Christ. Who would be so foolish as to say that a

person can be saved without Christ?

When is the penitent believer saved from past or alien sins? When he is baptized into Jesus Christ! Have you obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why not?

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



No Middle Ground

Tim Smelser

First it had been the Herodians asking Jesus, "What do you think about paying tribute to Caesar?" Then the Sadducees asked, "What do you think about a woman who was married to seven brothers? In the resurrection whose wife will she be?" A lawyer next asked, "Which do you think is the greatest commandment in the law?" To all of these questions Jesus gave answer (Matthew 2:15-40). Finally it was his turn to ask a question. "What think ye of the Christ? Whose son is he?" (Matthew 22:42).

This was not merely a curious inquiry as to what the rabbis believed. Nor was Jesus wondering how the various sects felt about the Messiah. Rather, this question was directed to the individuals in the audience and it is a question that must be answered correctly today by all who would be saved.

The Jewish rulers were caught between two ideas: They would readily agree that the Messiah was to be of the seed of David, but they were not willing to confess that he was the divine Son of God. However, the claims and teachings of Jesus left them no middle ground. Either He was truly the Son of the living God, or He was a blaspheming liar. As they had to then, each person must

now, weigh the evidence and then decide what they think of the Christ.

Jesus appealed to the Old Testament prophecies to prove His deity many times. He told his disciples, "These are my words which I spoke while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44). In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus also said, "Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets, I came not to destroy but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). The apostles and the New Testament writers would often refer to Old Testament prophecies when trying to convince their audiences that everything Jesus did and taught was in direct fulfillment of things written hundreds of years before hand.

The miracles that Jesus performed were enough to convince Nicodemus of Christ's identity. "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him" (John 3:2). In concluding his account of the life of Christ, the apostle John wrote, "Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31). To prove that He had the authority to forgive sins (which only God can do) Jesus healed a crippled man (Matthew 9:5-6).

The final piece of evidence proving Jesus' identity is his resurrection from the dead. Paul told the Corinthians that his preaching was vain and their faith was vain, if Christ had not been raised (1 Corinthians 15:14-19). Peter concluded the Pentecost Day sermon with this very point. "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses... Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:32-36).

By faith we believe what is written and by

faith we believe in God. The evidence concerning His Son is before us and we must examine it and form our own conclusions. The question then that all wishing to be saved must answer is, "What think you of the Christ?" There is no middle ground. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me" (Matthew 12:30). Where do you stand today?

-via *The Parchment*, Indianapolis, Indiana.



Vacation Bible School

July 11-15 – 10:00 a.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Myrtie Williams* is in the Glenwood Rehabilitation Center in Florence ... *Scottie Goode* was sick on Wednesday and not able to be at Bible study... *Austin and Ashley Goode* are now both at home after spending several days in the hospital last week... *Mark and Sadie McIntyre* have both been sick with a virus this past week... *Virginia Lovell* has still not been unable to be at services ... *Valerie Stewart's grandmother, Ollie Bell Rochelle*, continues at Life Care Center in Columbia... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is continuing her chemo treatments ... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy*

Letson, is back at home after being in the hospital last week ... **James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell**, is at home ... **Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell**, is at home ... **Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer**, is taking kidney dialysis at home ... **Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart**, is awaiting a kidney transplant ... **Curtis Cooper** is continuing his chemo treatments ... **Mattie Blanche Word** is 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

PENNSYLVANIA MEETING: It was my privilege to be in a gospel meeting this past weekend in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. It was good to be with the church there and to become acquainted with them. The attendance and interest was very good. I appreciate **Mark McIntyre** and **Rocky Rose** preaching for me last week while I was away and I know that you enjoyed hearing them.

GRADUATES: We want to congratulate **Justin Dickey** on his graduation this past week from Anderson Junior High School. We wish the very best for Justin as he continues his education in high school.

OUT OF TOWN: **Cindy Mosley and Sonja Blackburn** are on a cruise this week.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Myrtie Williams and all the family** in the passing of her brother-in-law, **Herbert Williams**, this past week.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **West Rogersville church** in Rogersville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with **Bill Hall** preaching. The services will begin tonight through Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

ARAB, ALABAMA: The Lord willing, I will begin a meeting next Sunday, June 5th, at the **North Parkway church** in Arab. I look forward to be there and seeing many friends of the Cox family while there. The meeting will continue through Wednesday.

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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