

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, June 5th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (James 5:1-12)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
Presiding Monroe Pressnell
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Wesley Phillips
..... James McConnell
..... Eddie Hammond
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (James 5:13-20)
..... Mike Rogers
Prayer
..... Claus Martel
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Andrew Garlin

Volume XII

June 5, 2005

No. 23

His Eyes Are In Every Place

Jason Moore

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3).

It's a simple proverb, but a profound one. It states emphatically that we must all reckon with God eventually. It says that for every action, every word, every thought men will give an account. Think for a moment about how this proverb applies to the current culture, the days of our lives.

Sometime this week, before dawn, somebody steals from somebody else and relishes the thought that they got away with it. But "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching their evil and the good." They get away with nothing.

On another day somebody says something unkind and uncalled for to another somebody smaller than themselves and crushes their spirit. Nobody cares about them anyway, they think to excuse their actions. But "the eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good." Somebody cares.

During lunch this week a man and a woman secretly forsake their own spouses and meet each other surreptitiously in the park. Arriving back at their respective places of work they call their spouses, chat about their day, tell them they love them before hanging up. And "the eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good." They forsake more than their spouses. They forsake a jealous God who remembers the vows they forget.

In a few weeks when school starts, several young men skip school and drive down to Galveston to play at the beach and drink a few

beers. They eat certs and chew gum on the way home, lie to their folks about the day, and tomorrow morning forge a note from their parents to explain the absence. And “the eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.” The Lord made the beach. He knows what men make of it too.

One evening another person gets on the telephone and spreads a little juicy morsel of gossip to a ready listener and brings ruin to someone else’s reputation. No one would know where it all started except that “the eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.” He knows who started it, and who kept it going.

One night a man will come home and strike his wife and no one will be the wiser for it. But “the eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching his evil and the good.” The Lord has never shown mercy to bullies. Woe to the man, when the Lord strikes back.

Some young lady will not want to go to school because she’d been made fun of the day before for being too much of a nice girl. She’ll go to school anyway and feel all alone, but “the eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the evil and the good.” She’s not alone. The Lord stands with those who stand for what’s right.

Someone tries to explain their faith to some coworkers. They wrestle to find the right terms and word their sentences carefully but awkwardly. They are shot-down by a barrage of criticisms and sharp retorts and made to feel like a fool. But “the eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the evil and the good.” No one ever loses when they make a stand for righteousness.

Another someone spends part of their lunch writing to another someone who has been discouraged a little note to build them up. And “the eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the evil and the good.” Those kind of notes mean as much to the Lord as they do to the recipient.

One afternoon someone finds out that they

have been the subject of someone else’s unkind, untrue, unsubstantiated rumor. They worry whether their reputation can overcome the malicious anecdote. But “the eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the evil and the good.” It’s a man’s reputation with God that matters most. He’ll take care of the gossip.

One evening a man comes home from his work and eats supper with his wife and children around him and leads them all in thanks before eating the meal. And “the eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the evil and the good.” Happy is the home where the Lord is an invited guest.

Late one night some weathered, weary saint closes their eyes to sleep and their heart will stop beating, their lungs will cease to fill with air, and they’ll awake in Paradise. Because “the eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the evil and the good.” The Lord watches His people in the hour of death just as He did when they lived—maybe even a little more closely.

The wages of wrong and the rewards of righteousness may come slowly on time’s side of eternity. And it may never come in this life. But it will come. And when it comes it will remain. Because, “the eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.”

—via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.



No Inconsistency!

Allen Dvorak

There are yet many people in our country who view human life as sacred. Some believe that it is wrong to take human life under any circumstances. These people also have difficulty understanding how anyone could argue against abortion while supporting the death penalty for certain convicted criminals. Does such a position

seem inconsistent to you?

God emphasized the seriousness of taking human life from the beginning of human history. Cain was driven from the rest of Adam's family because he killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4). After the flood, the sanctity of life was proclaimed AND the death penalty was instituted (Genesis 9:5-6). The Law of Moses, given to Israel, prescribed the death penalty for a number of crimes, including cursing or striking one's parents (Exodus 21:15, 17), kidnapping (Exodus 21:16), adultery (Deuteronomy 22:22) and homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13).

Was life not sacred during the Old Testament era? The same One who created man in His own image was also the One who commanded that the death penalty be used during the patriarchal period and under the Law of Moses! Furthermore, the death penalty was administered by men (e.g., Genesis 9:6; Leviticus 24:14). Did God not realize that men might make mistakes? The Bible even records a case in which an innocent man was falsely accused of blasphemy and then put to death (1 Kings 21:1-14). Surely God was able to see that the Law of Moses might be thus misused by wicked men. Yet, He gave the law.

I understand that the Christian does not live under the Law of Moses. I merely use that abrogated law to show God's attitude toward capital punishment in the past. Is God inconsistent for declaring human life to be sacred at the same time that He demands the death penalty for certain crimes?

Can a person with logical consistency favor the death penalty and yet oppose abortion? Certainly! I oppose abortion because human life is sacred. I favor the death penalty because I believe that the punishment for crime ought to be commensurate with the crime (Exodus 21:22-25). The death penalty is administered as **punishment** for individuals convicted of crimes of the most serious nature. Abortion, on the other hand, is the taking of **innocent** human life. In many cases, the unborn infant is guilty only of

inconveniencing his mother.

There are indications in the New Testament that God still approves of the death penalty. Paul wrote that the government "does not bear the sword in vain" and identified the ruling authority as God's minister (Romans 13:1-5). Appearing before the Roman governor Festus, Paul said, "For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying..." (Acts 25:11). What a strange thing to say if the death penalty is morally wrong!

The difference between the taking of life by abortion and by capital punishment is the guilt of the person put to death. There is good reason to oppose one and support the other.

-via *News & Notes*, Madison, Alabama.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Myrtie Williams* is in the Glenwood Rehabilitation Center in Florence ... *Yvonne Pressnell* had out-patient surgery on Thursday and is doing well... *Ronnie Phillips daughter, Shannon Lyle*, had surgery in Huntsville on Thursday and the reports were good ... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Virginia Lovell* has still not been unable to be at services due to sickness... *Eric White's father, Jim White*, is considering the options for his treatment ... *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

PREACHING TODAY: Due to my being away to begin a meeting today *Jimmy Glass* will be preaching this morning. Tonight, *Claus Martel* will be preaching. I appreciate Jimmy and Claus for filling in for me while I am away and I know that you will enjoy hearing them.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Dickeys: Jerry Charlotte, Justin and Brandon* are in Texas this weekend... *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are away today ... *Glenda Phillips* is also away visiting family ... *The Roses: Rocky and Donna* are out of town this weekend and plan to be back this afternoon ... *The Coxes: Kerry, Tyler Hunter and I* are in Arab as I begin a meeting at the North Parkway church today.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: *The Carriger church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Allen Dvorak of Madison* preaching. The services will begin tonight through Wednesday at 7:30 p.m...*The Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Mark White of Florence* will be the speaker... *The Quinn Memorial church* in Spruce Pine is beginning a meeting today with *Paul Sheehan* preaching. The meeting will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the week of May 29th*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 116
- Morning Worship 142
- Evening Worship 84

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 84

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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