

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, July 17th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (1 John 2:1-11)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Monroe Pressnell
Assisting Mark McIntyre
Serving Eddie L. Hammond
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Jim Phillips
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (1 John 2:12-23)
..... Stephen Stewart
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Volume XII

July 17, 2005

No. 29

Decisions, Decisions

David Curry

Whenever we pass judgement on an issue which is under consideration, we have made a decision. Have you ever thought about how many decisions you and I make every day? I have, and it's mind boggling. For instance, you realize that the cupboard is bare and a trip to the grocery store is inevitable. Already you've made a decision, and this is only the beginning of a flood of decisions that will be made on this occasion. You must then decide what groceries you need, what clothes you will wear, what car to drive, what store to shop at, what route to take, where to park... and so on. All those decisions just about grocery shopping. If you'll notice, each decision was made with the previous one being taken into consideration.

This business of decision making is a pretty serious matter, regardless of the issue under consideration. Imagine now the serious nature of the decisions we make concerning our spirituality. If we do not make hasty judgements in regard to grocery shopping, shouldn't we do the same with regard to spiritual matters? I believe God's word answers this question in the affirmative.

Please consider the story of Lot recorded in Genesis 13:1-13. The scriptures tell us that because of the great amount of livestock that both Abram and Lot owned, "the land was not able to support them." This problem was causing strife between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Abram makes a "decision" in the matter and a very wise one at that. Abram suggests a separation in order to put an end to all the bickering. Only one decision remains, who will go where? Abram leaves the decision up to Lot. "If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

After we conclude the reading, we see the evidence of a hasty decision. If only Lot had remembered Eve! One of the reasons she ate of the forbidden fruit was because it was pleasing to the eye. “And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere.” He made his decision based on looks alone, and what a tragedy! Within a period of time, we read in Genesis 19 that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were utterly destroyed because of their deliberate unrighteousness. Lot lost what he had, because of a hastily made decision.

Through this tragedy we learn the great lesson of how important it is to make the right decision. What is it that prompts us to make the decisions that we make from day to day? Unless our answer is God’s word, then it is time to stop and take stock of our situation. God’s word was given by inspiration, and is profitable. We see clearly the fact that God’s word should be the guide to all of our decisions. “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord” (Colossians 3:17).

We should be intent on studying the word of God, and learning from the decisions that others have made. Their decisions, whether good or bad, will make ours much easier. This was one of the reasons that these acts of the men and women of old are recorded for us. “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition.” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Do we make the decision to attend services for fear of rebuke from the brethren, or to please mom and dad? Or do we do it in the light of God’s word, realizing that it is God’s will, and that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. May I suggest we do it not only because we have to, but because we want to. Fathers, “bring them (your children) up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). “Husbands, love your wives” (Ephesians 5:25). Do we do these things because we have to or because we want to? The decision is yours, just make the right

one.

As we go about from day to day, let’s turn to God for help in making our decisions. Whether big or small, we’ll know for sure that we have made the right ones.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



Are You Committed?

Michael W. McLemore

Folks need to fully understand that in becoming a member of God’s church, in becoming a Christian, they are assuming a definite obligation. It is a lifetime commitment. As a Christian one’s thinking is transformed. Once a child of God a man or woman’s speech is restyled. In behavior, the Christian is reborn. Paul said of this process of growth and development, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Christian is a new creature – a new person. It is by the Gospel that we are transformed into this image of Christ.

Obedying the Gospel is not something that one does just once in a lifetime. There is no road of ease from then on. Obedying the Gospel is the mere beginning of a life long commitment. Christianity is a way of life, not a once a week, twice a week, or even a three time a week affair. It’s a path that must be traveled until the very moment of death. The Lord warned the brethren at Smyrna, “Be thou faithful until death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

“Let us hold fast our profession,” the Hebrew writer exclaimed (Hebrews 4:14). “Let us go on unto perfection” (Hebrews 6:1). The Lord concluded, “And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:27). Are you committed for life?

-via *The West End Way*, Richmond, Virginia.

Condemning Others' Religion

Frank Himmel

Is it ethical to condemn another person's religion? Should the followers of Christ just show love rather than criticizing what others believe and practice?

Not everything done in the name of religion is right. Respect for God's word demands that we love what is right and "hate every false way" (Psalm 119:97, 104).

Jesus condemned false religion. He censured the Sadducees for denying the resurrection (Matthew 22:23-33). He charged the Pharisees with following their own rules instead of God's, a practice which makes worship useless (Mark 7:1-13).

Jesus' apostles followed His example of condemning error. Paul commanded the people of Athens to quit worshiping idols (Acts 17:23-31). James warned against vain religion (James 1:26). John wrote against false prophets (1 John 5:1-3). Peter exposed the scoffers who denied that Jesus would come again (2 Peter 3:1-10).

It is no lack of love that leads one to expose error; in fact, the opposite is true. Love for God, love for truth, and love for people's souls motivates Jesus' followers to speak out against whatever is false, whether among the religious or the irreligious. Those who are going the wrong way need to be warned. Of course, we must always speak kindly, "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition" (2 Timothy 2:25).

¹via *The Manslick Road Speaker*; Louisville, Kentucky.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Helen Stewart* is to have some tests done this week at her cardiologist...*Eric White's father, Jim White*, had surgery this past week in Birmingham, but is now at home...*Helen Trousdale* is going to have hip replacement soon...*Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, has been diagnosed with myeloma and is scheduled to have out patient surgery in Birmingham on Tuesday... *Myrtie Williams* is now at home...*Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, is in a nursing facility in Fayette... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, was scheduled to be dismissed from the Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville this past Friday...*My aunt, Martha Morris*, is scheduled to have surgery for her colon cancer on Monday... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, continues at home...*James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, is at home... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home...*Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is awaiting a kidney transplant...*Mattie Blanche Word* is at home... *Shannon Johnson*, continues at home... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coxes: Kerry, Tyler, Hunter, and I* are in Elkton Tennessee this week...*The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are returning home tomorrow from vacation.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Angie McCrary* in the passing of her aunt, *Dura Mackey*, this past Monday. Her funeral was Thursday afternoon.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The *Belgreen church* in Belgreen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Sewell Hall of New York, New York* will be the speaker...The *Eastside church* in Scottsboro is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00

p.m. They will have different speakers as follows: *Sunday morning* – Darren Winland; *Sunday evening* – Greg Legg; *Monday* – Buc Chumbley; *Tuesday* – Matt Hennecke; *Wednesday* – Allen Dvorak; *Thursday* – Gary Patton; *Friday* – Bill Hall...The **Northside church** in Lexington is beginning a meeting with *Bob Waldron* preaching. The meeting will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m....The **Elkton church** in Elkton Tennessee. I will be speaking through Wednesday...The **Brookhill church** will be beginning a VBS on Thursday and it will continue through Saturday. Thursday and Friday services will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Lord willing, I will be speaking on Thursday; *Collin Stringer* on Friday; on Saturday sessions will be at 10:00 a.m. with *J.R. Rosado* speaking; and 11:00 a.m. *Lee Hyatt* speaking.

PREACHING TODAY: In my absence today, **Jerry Dickey** will be preaching this morning. I appreciate Jerry and his willingness to fill in for me while I am away. I know you will enjoy hearing him.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We had a very good vacation Bible school this past week. The teachers did a great job in teaching their classes and the interest was very good. We averaged 87 each morning. I appreciate all the work and effort that everyone put forth to make this VBS such a success. Let us remember to work and pray for continued success from this effort.

SONG SERVICE: Tonight will be the time for regular scheduled song service. Ronnie Phillips will be directing the service. Make your plans to be present.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for group 3 to meet following our service. If you are in group 3, plan to meet.

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

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 105
- Morning Worship 125
- Evening Worship 84

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 102

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 (256) 247-1451
- 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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