

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 24th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (1 John 3:1-12)

..... Eddie L. Hammond

Prayer

..... Brad Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

Presiding Scottie Goode

Assisting Rocky Rose

Serving Rodney McCrary

..... Wesley Phillips

..... James McConnell

..... Stephen Stewart

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (1 John 3:13-23)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper

..... Scottie Goode

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Volume XII

July 24, 2005

No. 30

Showing Reverence Every Day

Wilson Adams

As the children of Israel gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19, they were filled with awe at God's majesty and respect for God's holiness. The Sinai Summit was calculated to strike fear in the heart of every Hebrew. God wanted to insure they understood that you don't stroll casually into the Holy Presence: God is to be respected.

Everything about the Sinai experience speaks of reverence, holy fear, and the deepest veneration for Jehovah. It's as if God is saying, "Don't become frivolous nor too familiar in My presence. Take Me seriously." According to Exodus 19:16, the skies were filled with lightning and thunder, the mountain quaked, a thick cloud settled upon the summit and the people trembled with fear. They should have, after all, they were in the presence of God.

Why did God choose to reveal Himself to the Hebrews in such a miraculous way? Moses gave the answer in Exodus 20:20 when he said, "God has come in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." That's it. God wanted them to have a healthy fear of Him so they would think twice before engaging in sin. Mark this down: someone who turns to sin does *not* have a fear of God. Fear is not necessarily a bad thing. Wholesome respect for the all-powerful Judge serves as a marvelous deterrent to sin. "The conclusion, when all have been heard," said the wise man, "is to fear God and keep His commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12: 13).

Have You Been to the Mountain?

My son and I for two summers have conquered 6593' Mt. LeConte in the Great Smoky Mountains. It's hardly a pleasure stroll to LeConte's rocky top summit but once you've made it, it's easy to

sense God's presence. I have never been to the mountain when I was not filled with a sense of awe and inclined to worship. The words, "O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder..." seem to come easily when surrounded by such serenity.

But we are not always standing on top of the mountain nor surrounded by such serenity. If there are mountains, there must be valleys. May I remind you that we are always walking in God's presence no matter where we are. David asks in Psalms 139:7, "Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence?" The answer? There is no place. God is a part of our life every day and a part of our everyday life. In other words, He's in the big stuff and... in the small stuff too (Matthew 10: 29-31). He cares about the entire world you live in (after all, He created it), and He cares about the ordinary details of your life. But make no mistake: You stand in His holy presence every day. Every Day.

What Does It Mean?

Showing reverence for God every day means:

1. *I think about what I say.* The young boy in the back seat of our car caught more than our attention when he remarked repeatedly, "Oh, my God." How casually we use His holy name. Young people, THINK! And the same goes for older ones. God's name is holy (Psalm 111:9) and is to be so used. One of the ten commandments from the summit of Sinai proclaimed, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

2. *I think about what I do.* "But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior" (1 Peter 1:15). Christianity is practical and relevant every day. For example, we show reverence for God when we show up for work (on time) and labor responsibly (Colossians 3:22-25). We show respect for Him when we choose to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3) or determine to tell the truth regardless of the consequences (Ephesians 4:25). When we understand that we walk in God's sight each day, it changes our way of walking.

3. *I spend some special time with Him.* There

are some things you do every day. Breathing is one. Eating is another. Spending time with God is equally vital. To do that you need three things: (1) you need a place that's conducive to meditation and prayer, (2) you need to be prepared (God made sure the Hebrews understood that you don't approach the Throne with an idle mind or flippant attitude), (3) you need the Scriptures. The same Moses reminded his generation that the words of God "are your life" (Deuteronomy 32:46,47). One of the problems I see with Christians is that we don't know the Book because we don't spend much time in it every day. Have you breathed today? Eaten today? Read your Bible today?

Showing reverence for God is a daily discipline. May we never forget who we are nor Whom we serve.

-via *Topics For Thought*, Haleyville, Alabama.



The Gospel & Absolutism

Steve Dewhirst

The gospel of Jesus Christ leaves us few options for salvation; we will be saved by the blood of Christ, and in the manner prescribed, or we won't be saved at all. And it's that last statement, "or we won't be saved at all," that people dislike. It sounds so narrow-minded and bigoted to modern ears accustomed to defining "truth" as men see fit.

Muslims cannot be saved, inasmuch as they reject the Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*" (John 14:6). That's a pretty absolute statement. Jesus rules out any other possibilities for salvation. Buddhists, Tao-

ists, and Hindus need the saving truth of the gospel. Jews need to accept their own Messiah. The world needs to recognize the existence of God and His Son and submit to Their rule. It's that simple. Of course, the very simplicity of truth makes it "unsophisticated" and "narrow" in the minds of many, yet the truth of God's word stands. As Paul said, "Let God be true, though every man a liar!" (Romans 3:4).

Jesus charged His apostles, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16). That's not a difficult set of instructions. Jesus requires belief plus baptism for salvation. Why, if men acknowledge His Lordship, do they jump through hoops to eliminate baptism from the equation? Scripture contains multiple passages explaining the nature of baptism and its relationship to faith and grace, and yet many still turn up their noses at the teaching of obedience to Christ. Still, the words of Christ stand, "he who does not believe will be condemned."

And even among those who recognize Christ as Savior, why is there not a greater sensitivity for submitting to His authority in modern religious practice? Jesus plainly stated, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matthew 7:21-23). It should be clear that the Lord expects to be served in His way, not ours.

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

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Grieving God

Billy Norris

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

In the Patriarchal Age, sin grieved God. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart" (Genesis 6:5,6). In the Mosaic Age sin on the part of His chosen people grieved God..." I was crushed by their adulterous heart..." (Ezekiel 6:9). In our dispensation, Christians are not to grieve God by giving opportunity to the devil, by walking as the Gentiles walked, by lying, stealing, using corrupt speech (Ephesians 4).

Rather than grieve God by our sins, we can bring joy to heaven. "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance... Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

via *Gospel Guide*, Vol. 33 No. 2; February 2001.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Sissy Clemmons* fell this past Monday and broke her ankle. She had surgery to repair it on Tuesday and is now at home ... *Sonya Blackburn* out patient surgery on her foot on Tuesday ... *Faye Hammond's nephew, FDonnie Cox*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Eric White's father, Jim White*, is at home after returning to the hospital last week... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, is recovering from his surgery this past week to remove some skin cancers... *Myrtie Williams* is now at home ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, is in a nursing facility in Fayette ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is at

home following her extensive treatment at Vanderbilt...**My aunt, Martha Morris**, is home following her surgery for colon cancer, and will be starting treatments in the near future ...**Helen Stewart** is to have some tests done this week at her cardiologist...**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

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **New Hope church** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Sewell Hall of New York, New York** will be the speaker...The **Corinth church** in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Curtis Pope** will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Elgin Hill church** in Elgin is beginning a meeting with **Dick Blackford** preaching. The meeting will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m....The **Underwood Heights church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Tom Roberts** will be the speaker in this meeting .

ELKTON, TENNESSEE: It was my privilege to be with the **Elkton church** in Elkton, Tennessee this past week. It was encouraging to be with the good brethren there and to see the good work they are doing. **Randall Hammock** and **Joe Greer** are the evangelists there. I know that you all enjoyed hearing **Jerry Dickey** preach last Sunday and I appreciate his willingness to fill in for me while I was away.

THE RECORD: *For the week of July 17th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 97
 Morning Worship 120
 Evening Worship 77
Wednesday: Bible Classes 72

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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