

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, August 21st:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Rev. 2:1-11)
..... Brad Hammond
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Michael Clemmons
Assisting Phil Pressnell
Serving Stephen Stewart
..... Wesley Phillips
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Rev. 2:12-17)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Aric Butler
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XII

August 21, 2005

No. 34

"Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out"

David A. Cox

In Numbers 32, the tribes of Reuben and Gad requested the land on the east side of the river Jordan. Moses granted them the request, but they were to help the other tribes in the conquest of the land, then return to their families in the land they had been given. Moses reminded them that if they did not do as they had agreed they would be guilty of sin and "be sure your sin will find you out" (Number 32:23). As I think about this statement in Number 32:23, I am reminded of the commercial that the city of Las Vegas has been promoting that states, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." The sentiment of the commercial is what many think about the sins of their lives. They believe that what they do in their own privacy is their business and no one should say or do anything about it.

In thinking about this, it would do us well to think of a couple of lessons we should get clear in our minds from what Moses said.

It does not say if or when. Many think that sins are only a problems if and when they are known. The fact is that all sins are problems in our relationship with God. In Isaiah 59:2 we read, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you..." We must understand that sins will cost us an eternity with God unless we deal with and correct them according to God's will. Man may not know our sins, but God does. The Hebrew writer said, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13).

Your sins will find you out. Every criminal commits a crime thinking that it is a perfect crime. But many criminals will slip and the crime is detected and proven. However, some crimes may be

committed that men may never know of, but there is not a sin that God does not know. The wise man said, “For God will bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Remember the sin of Achan in Judges 7? When the children of Israel took the city of Jericho, they were told not to take anything. But Achan took of the spoils of the city and hid it among his things. No one knew about it, but God did! After the children of Israel were victorious at Jericho they were defeated by Ai, and God told Joshua that sin was among them because they had taken of the spoils of Jericho. Another example of sin being covered and hidden from men is the sin of fornication that David committed with Bathsheba, and the following sins committed in trying to cover and hide his sin (2 Samuel 11). David thought the sin was covered and hidden and that no one knew. And it is true no man knew, but his sin was found out because God knew. Nathan, the prophet, confronted David and told him of his sin and David confessed “I have sinned.” The point is that we must realize that our sins will find us out and we must seek God’s forgiveness for our sins.

Let us not be deceived in thinking that if we travel far away from home that no one will know, or if will can conceal our sins in the sight of others that everything is all right. The fact is, our sins separate us from God and can cost us an eternal life of bliss. Remember the promise in Revelation 14:13, “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...” When we put on Christ in baptism we are dead to our sins and are in Christ (Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-6). As we put on Christ, then we serve Him and seek to please Him and confess our sins and God will forgive us (1 John 1:9).

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Testing The Spirits

David Posey

Why would a person who was once a faithful Christian suddenly begin to embrace false doctrine? Why would he risk his eternal well-being on some teaching that is far from what he had been taught in the past without subjecting his new found belief to careful scrutiny? Why do some people cling so tenaciously to certain teaching, while rejecting, out of hand, good arguments against the view?

Most of us have known brethren who sat under the same teaching we did, and who still attend a church of Christ, but have radically changed their views on a variety of subjects. For example, I know men who now embrace instrumental music, institutionalism, the building and maintenance of “fellowship halls” and social programs as part of the work of the church. Some have gone even further and are teaching that only the gospels count, that the letters of the apostles are not authoritative (one preacher, in a letter to me, called apostolic authority a “raggedly old tradition”). Not one of them has contacted me to try to change my view of these matters.

Exactly what leads men to make these kinds of radical changes will always escape us because we cannot read their hearts; we are limited to judging their fruits (Matthew 7:16). No doubt, some people embrace teaching for no better reason than that someone they like taught it to them. Some teaching is tenaciously held only because brother so and so taught it, “and that’s good enough for me.” We all need to check our doctrine against our motives and make certain we have better reasons than that for our faith. “Faith comes from hearing (the word of God),” not the word of bro. whomever. Steadfastness is no virtue when it is just parroting someone else’s teaching.

We are to be steadfast and immovable but not stubborn and obstinate, though the difference may not be always apparent. We should never totally shut down our minds on a portion

of the doctrine of Christ. There are some non-negotiables, to be sure, but why would we be afraid to re-study any subject? Truth has nothing to fear.

But even worse (if possible), is the embracing of teaching simply because it validates a chosen lifestyle or moral decision. For example, a person may want to drink “socially” (social schmocial: “social drinking” is a stupid name for it; it’s drinking alcoholic beverages, period), and therefore he’s “decided” that the apostle Paul’s instructions to Timothy to “take a little wine for the stomach’s sake” applies to him. I find it sadly comical that some people could barely tell you what the work of the church is, but can quote verbatim 1 Timothy 5:23! Rarely has such a person done much study on the passage, but they like the sound of it and feel “confirmed” in their life-style choice. Is that honest?

There are many, though, who honestly and sincerely believe that the Bible teaches a doctrine just the way they see it. They may sincerely believe that one is saved by faith alone, or that having musical instruments in the assembly is scriptural, or that women should be able to preach, or that drinking wine is fine, or that a guilty party in a divorce can remarry, and so on...

Honesty and sincerity does not insulate us from judgment, though. One sure test of a man’s sincerity is this: is he willing to study the issue? John said: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). The word is powerful (Hebrews 4:12) and if a man will study any issue honestly, he will know the truth. What bothers me are brethren who are unwilling to speak up, content to discuss the issue only with those with whom they agree or with those whom they feel they can dominate. That is neither sincere nor honest. It is only cowardly, and Jesus puts cowards right up there with liars in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8). Paul predicted that the time would come when people would not endure sound doctrine, but would heap up for them-

selves teachers who would “tickles their ears” (2 Timothy 4:3). It is disingenuous in the extreme to avoid all discussion of an issue with those who you know disagree with you.

If an issue is important enough to a person that he is willing to advise others on it (like the marriage issue), or is causing them to change their view of worship or the church (like the instrumental music issue, institutionalism, and women’s roles in the church), or causing serious life-style changes (like modesty questions or drinking issues), then upon what basis does that person refuse to discuss (or debate, if necessary) the issue with one who is at least as knowledgeable as he? What is he afraid of?

I can respect anyone who is willing to put his belief to the test. But I have a very difficult time respecting those who claim to “believe” but who then stand aloof and will not subject that cherished conviction to the scrutiny of others. It betrays an attitude either of doubt about the belief or of unconcern about others.

If we cannot discuss biblical issues as adults and Christians and come to a clearer understanding of the principles that God intends for us to learn, then isn’t our confession a ruse? Let’s always be willing to subject our precious opinions and doctrines to the most severe scrutiny possible so that, before we say “I believe” something, we are confident that we have fully “tested the spirits to see whether they are from God.”

-via *The Folsom Point View*, Folsom, California.

Gospel Meeting

September 25 – 28

Cecil Cox, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Monroe Pressnell* had a CAT scan done on Friday and will be undergoing an arteriogram on Wednesday morning... *Helen Stewart* is recovering at home and is getting rehabilitation three times a week at home ... *Diane Johnson* is doing better after being sick last weekend... *Cindy Pressnell* had a procedure done on Friday... *Angie McCrary* had a test done on Tuesday... *Virginia Lovell* has continued to be unable to be out due to her back problems... *Sissy Clemmons* has been able to be at services this week, but is still dealing with the severe break to her ankle ... *Eric White's father, Jim White*, is at home ... *Myrtie Williams* is at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, continues to deal with dialysis... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, continue in the Vanderbilt Hospital with her treatments... *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: *Madia Haraway* has been out of town on vacation this week... *Mark McIntyre* is out of town this week in Atlanta with his work.

ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING: The elders and deacons will be meeting this afternoon at 4:00.

SONG SERVICE: Remember tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled worship in song. I hope that every one will make their plans to be present at 6:00 p.m. this evening.

THE RECORD: *For the week of August 14th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 95
 Morning Worship 114
 Evening Worship 84

Wednesday: Bible Classes 75

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 (931) 565-3799

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