


Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

Volume VIII

February 25, 2001

No. 8

“Reaching Forth”

Michael W. McLemore

When I was ten years of age my father undertook the restoration of the fields on our newly purchased farm. Interest in learning has always been my diversion, so I quickly showed interest in operating the tractor. To my surprise Dad was quick to take me up on my request, showing me how to operate the tractor with its breaking-plow. Soon I was alone on the machine. Time and again my dad would stop me and point out the crooked row I had just completed. Finally, he said, “You can’t plow a straight row if you continuously look back. You must keep your eyes focused straight ahead.” I have never received better advice.

So it is in the child of God’s walk. Plowing our way toward heaven is powered by faith in Christ (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6). For that faith to stay the course — the straight and narrow way which leads to life — the Christian must forget the past and reach forward to those things that are before (Philippians 3:13). Focusing on the past, what lies behind, will prevent us from effectively pursuing our future. Establishing meaningful and specific goals will provide direction that we may focus our energies on what lies ahead.

As Christians we should regularly take time to evaluate our relationship with the Lord, and

establish worthwhile and distinctive goals. Several areas of our lives should be considered is the process.

How is our relationship with the local church? Is the local church where I am a member stronger or weaker because of me? I can do something about that. A participatory spirit is developed behavior. Find one or two things which you can do. Do them well. Perhaps there is an area which you feel is not being attended. Take that on yourself with the elder’s consent. Follow through and encourage another to join your effort.

Is the study of God’s word part of the daily routine? All Christians can allot a portion of their day to the study of the word or God. We can rise thirty minutes earlier. One could study after dinner before watching television or reading the paper. Are we “giving diligence to present ourselves approved of God” (2 Timothy 2:15)?

Are we personally involved in leading others to Christ? We should include within our personal goals the aspiration to aid at least one person in coming to Christ sometime in the near future. Whether it is through direct instruction, setting up a class, inviting someone to services, or taking time to point out specific

truths at appropriate times during the coming days, weeks and months, every single Christian can do something. This simple approach will generate great opportunities in leading men to Christ wherever you may live and worship. Remember, the Lord said, “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest” (John 4:35).

~via *Bible Viewpoints* Katy, Texas



What Kind of Coal Are You?

Troy Nicholson

A faithful brother visited an erring one who had not assembled with the saints for a while. The erring brother welcomed him into the house, and they both sat down in front of the fireplace. Knowing why the faithful brother was there, both of them sat in intense silence for a moment, staring at the flames dancing in the fire.

Without saying a word, the faithful brother grabbed the pair of prongs next to the fireplace and picked a hot coal out of the fire. He then set the coal on the hearth away from the fire. At first the coal was glowing hot; but as they watched it, it began to lose its glow and grow dark and cold. Just as the last bit of glow seemed to be leaving the once brightly glowing coal, the faithful brother again grabbed it and set it back in the fire. In no time the coal began to glow as bright as it did before. Without a word needing to be said, the erring brother thanked his concerned brother for coming and said that he would see him at the next assembly.

What kind of coal would you honestly describe yourself to be? Do you see yourself as an erring, fading coal that has lost its fire; or do you see yourself as a faithful, glowing coal that is on fire for the Lord? Whichever you may be, you need to act upon your present condition.

If you are an erring, fading coal, then you

need to get back in the fire! You need to renew your contact with God and with your brethren. Maybe you simply need to increase your present contact, increasing it to a level that will make you glow. Spend time in God’s word, before His throne in prayer, and gathered together with the saints who love you (Hebrews 10:24-25).

If you consider yourself to be among the faithful, then get busy trying to help the fading coals back into the fire. Restore the one who has been overtaken and turn the wanderer back to the truth (Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20). Doing so “will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

May we keep the fire hot!

~via *TheSouthport Sounder*, Indianapolis, Indiana



Soar Like An Eagle

W. Frank Walton

“Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:30-31).

In context, God addresses to the remnant who had been languishing in Babylonian captivity for 70 restless years. Isaiah predicted about 150 years in advance that news would finally come that they could go home to restore and rebuild the Jewish nation. They would soar on the heights of joy in anticipation of the long awaited trek homeward.

However, before they could finally arrive home, there would be the long, arduous and perilous journey of over 600 miles. It would be a hard journey that could break the unaided efforts of the strongest “young men” or defeat the most vigorous “youths.” Yet, God promised

them that they could, by patiently trusting in Him alone, rise above the journey's obstacles and soar on the wings of faith. "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope' (Jeremiah 29:11; cf. 29:10-14).

The believer in God is likened to an eagle. It is a strong, confident, and a majestic bird. I've read that it relies on thermal currents in the air to glide gracefully through the air, spreading its God-given wings to soar high above the perilous storms. It's God-given instinct uses the updrafts produced by rough terrain to fly with efficient effort. When the eagle rests, it nests in the high, rocky clefts, trusting it for protection.

God made us to soar to great heights in our heavenward journey. However, the long and wearisome journey of life can tire our faith and dim our hope. If we trust mainly in our finite, puny selves, we will grow weary and fail. Our faith must instinctively look up to God and His Word always. "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). He dwells above the clouds where the sun is always shining, in the calm light of eternity.

Our God can lift us up above the shadows and sorrow of this life into the light of His joyous presence. Our faith and study of His faith-building Word is a renewable resource for the journey home (Romans 10:17). "*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen*" (Jude 24-25).

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 1 No. 18.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

With Every Rose A Thorn

James W. Adams

Our title illustrates "the law of compensation." With every good thing in life, there is, invariably, a corresponding bad thing. Yes, the sweet rose has its ugly thorns. The sweet aroma of the honeysuckle is mingled with the foul odor of the skunk. The balmy breeze of spring is displaced by the violence of the tornado. Joy in birth of a beautiful babe is mixed with the poignant grief over the loss of the lovely young mother who went down into the "valley of the shadow" to bring the child forth.

Paul wrote joyfully and hopefully from Ephesus: "There is a great door and effectual opened unto me." Then, he added: "But, there are many adversaries" (1 Corinthians 16:9). The Christian must prepare to accept the bad with the good, the ugly with the lovely, sorrow with joy, and disappointment with elation. The Infinite Wisdom that guides our destinies has seen fit thus to balance life's experiences. Therefore, let us be encouraged by the good and chastened by the bad with absolute confidence in Him "who doeth all things well!"

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

News & Notes

Willie Ridgeway is in the ECM hospital in Florence with pneumonia, room 655...**Angie McCrary** received a good report on the test on her heart this week...**Doris Newton** had surgery in Florence on Friday and is now at home...**Onzell Tucker** has not been able to be at services recently...**Ragan and Mycala White** were both sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...**Mary Best** is doing better after having the flu the last couple of week and was able to be at services...**Millinea Word** is

continuing her physical therapy in Pulaski ...**Sissy Clemmons** was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... **Ronnie & Lou Ann Phillips** were both sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...**Scottie Goode's uncle, O. L. Prince**, continues in the ECM hospital room 264 ...**Yvonne Pressnell's mother, Opal McGuire** is in the ICU in the Hillside Hospital in Pulaski...**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, had another treatment of chemo this past week in Birmingham ... Remember **Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson**, is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia ..**Sheila Goode & Lou Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton**, is continuing to receive chemo treatments each week in Birmingham... **Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland**, who is continuing her treatments for her cancer ...Also remember **Mattie Blanche Word** who continues at home and not able to be out...**Aldeen Noles** has not been able to be at services due to her being on oxygen ...Also remember **Gurtie Snoddy** who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home ...Remember **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunt**, and **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for group four to meet. If you are in group four plan to meet this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Williams:** *Ray, Judy and Chase* have been in Arkansas this past week...**The McConnells:** *James and Freda* are on vacation...**Donna Rose** is now back home after being in Atlanta during the week.

GOSPEL MEETING: **The Pepper Road church** in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services Monday through Friday at 7:00. **Sewell Hall** will be the speaker in this meeting.

SPEAKING TONIGHT:: Tonight **Claus Martel** will be speaking. I am looking forward to hearing Claus as he directs us in a study of God's Word.

Gospel Power

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

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.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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