


Gospel Power



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

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The Importance of Biblical Faith

David A. Cox

The Hebrew writer says, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). We see here the necessity of faith if we are going to please God. The value of faith cannot be over estimated. If we are concerned at all about pleasing God, faith is a basic foundational element upon which we must please Him. Since faith is so important to our pleasing God then we must ask, "Does everything man calls faith pleasing and acceptable to God?" The answer is simply, "no." In the world in which we live it is not uncommon for people's concept of faith to be just the idea of mental assent. This is the kind of faith that James was speaking of when he said, "Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble, but thou know, O vain men, that faith without works is dead" (James 2:19-20). Surely, all understand that the faith the devils had will not save, but what kind of faith will please God?

We learn two things about the kind of faith that pleases God in Hebrews 11:6: 1). "Must believe" this is a belief, (firm conviction... trust...assurance) that God exists. 2). "Diligently seek Him" the action of seeking after

God. These two elements of faith may be emphasized in different verses, but they never contradict one another. So if we are going to have a faith that pleases God it will not be just faith in His existence, but a faith that motivates us to actively seek His will. Paul in Romans 4 speaks of one that had this kind of biblical, God-pleasing faith, his name was Abraham. God told Abraham to leave his home land ... to receive a promised land, that his descendants would become a great nation and that all nations of earth would be blessed through his family. Abraham by faith left his homeland and lived as a pilgrim and sojourner on this earth looking for the promised land. Abraham's faith is described as being strong, not weak and staggering. By his faith he was justified because his faith was not in just the fact that there is a God, but he diligently sought to do the will of God. In Hebrews 11, the writer reminds us of the faith of Abraham; doing what God told him to do, even if it might have seemed by human reasoning to be wrong. His faith was strong; he sought to do what the Lord wanted to be done.

As we have seen in these passages, Biblical faith involves both belief and action. First, Jesus taught this in the sermon on the mount, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,

shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23). It is quite clear that those Jesus told to depart had a belief (mental assent) in God, but it was not the Biblical faith that is required to please God. Jesus described this kind of faith that pleases God as the faith that does the Father’s will or diligently seeks after Him. James also described the faith that pleases God and saves man as being an active, living, working faith and not just mental assent or “faith only” (James 2:14-24).

Let us be zealous to have the kind of faith that saves, which is the faith that comes from God’s word (Romans 10:17), more than just a feeling or an impulse, but that which is done in accordance with a “thus saith the Lord.” With that kind of faith we can rest assured that we have a faith that pleases God. Anything short of that will cause disappointment and grief (Matthew 7:22-23; 25:41-46). Let us look to God as those great men of faith in Hebrews 11 and be found with a faith that pleases God.



Remember this evenin at 6:00 will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Ronnie Phillips will be directing the service. Make your plans to be present as we sing songs of glory and praise to God.

Christians Must Be Aliens!

Allen Dvorak

As I contemplate an upcoming trip to Brazil, my mind drifts back to the experiences that my family had while we lived in Brazil in years past. We learned a lot about the culture and the language of the people there, but we never really felt that we “belonged.” Just about the time that we would begin to feel comfortable, some new situation with the accompanying unfamiliarity of vocabulary or cultural norms would remind us that we were indeed “aliens” in Brazil. The Brazilian people in general were kind to us and accommodating, but even fluency with their language didn’t erase the fact that, in many ways, we didn’t fit in.

I remember vividly the feeling that I had when we returned to live in the United States and arrived in the Atlanta airport. The “look” of a North American setting and the sound of English being spoken was comforting and reassuring. Despite the impersonal nature of airports, we belonged!

Sticking out like a sore thumb is uncomfortable. Being different from others often draws unwelcome attention to oneself; it is no wonder that children want to dress and talk like their peers. With some exceptions, we tend to want to blend in with those who are around us.

Christians can’t do that. They are “aliens” in the sense that their citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20) and they cannot “blend into” the world here without losing that citizenship. Peter described the Christians who were his readers as “sojourners and pilgrims,” begging them that they “abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:11-12). Christians live “in” the world, but they must not be “of” or like the world.

We tried hard to “fit in” in Brazil and did so with limited success. The Christian, on the other hand, will stand out when seen against the backdrop of worldly or fleshly practices and God intends for it to be that way. Not only is the Christian qualitatively different from those who serve Satan, but Christians are to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13-14). Their different allegiance and resultant lifestyle is intended to influence others. As soon as they become like those who do not serve Jesus Christ, they cease to be light and cannot help those who are in darkness (Philippians 2:14-15).

The danger for Christians is that we have a tendency to “get comfortable” with evil practices in this world. When our allegiance is tested, it may be that we no longer wish to stand out from the world (2 Timothy 4:10). The more we “fit in” to the worldly environment, the more that sin creeps into our lives, the less we look forward to going home where our citizenship actually is.

~via *New & Notes*, Madison, Alabama



“Rejoice With Those Who Rejoice”

Jeff May

Someone in the congregation loses a loved one. For many of us, it becomes a call to action. We are ready to share words of comfort, listen with understanding ears, attend a visitation or funeral service, and perhaps prepare a dish to help the family. The words, “weep with those who weep” ring in our ears and we respond to the call of our Lord.

But what about when Sue and Bob have their wedding or Monica and Joe have a little

baby or Jessica and Bill’s daughter is baptized into Christ? What about when Fred gets his job promotion or John gives his very first talk at church services or Sally graduates from college? Do we feel the call to action in these moments? Do the words “rejoice with those who rejoice” (Romans 12:15) ring equally strong in our ears?

It seems to me that if Romans 12:15 were taken to the scale, one side would have a weight that says “weep”, the other side would have a weight that says “rejoice” and the scale would be balanced. God puts equal value on both. He wants one done just as much as the other.

Perhaps there are reasons why we sometimes do not rejoice with others as we should. Could we, like the prodigal son, be jealous over our brother's joy? Could we ever be bitter because the thing my brother is rejoicing over is the very thing I wanted? Could it be something as simple as being too busy to just stop and think about the other person’s joy?

Let’s all resolve to balance the scales. “Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.”

~via *The Noble Searcher*, Gardendale, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Onzell Tucker* is scheduled to have surgery this coming Wednesday in Florence...*Daniel Clemmons* was sick this past week and has been unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Claus Martel* was also sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Millinea Word* is now at home following her stay in the Baptist hospital in Nashville...*Angie McCrary’s father, Buford Shook*, had his surgery this past week in Birmingham

to remove a cancer on his face and the surgery went well.. **My father, Cecil Cox,** is now home following his surgery this week to remove his gall bladder ... Remember **Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson,** who is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia ... **Sheila Goode & Lou Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton,** is continuing treatments for her cancer... **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** who is not able to be out ... Also remember **Gurtie Snoddy** who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home.. **Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson,** who is at home ... Remember **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter,** and **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty,** who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

OUT OF TOWN: **Corey Goode** has been out of town this week in Mississippi with his work.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for communication group 3 to meet. If you are in group three remember to meet this evening.

GOSPEL MEETING: **The Shoal Bluff church** near Minor Hill, Tennessee is beginning a meeting tomorrow and it will continue through next Sunday with services each evening through Saturday at 7:00. The speaker Monday through Thursday will be *Charles Littrell* and Friday through Sunday will be *Kevin Harbin*... **The Posey church** in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. *Raymond Harville* will be the speaker.



**Remember Our
Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

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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