


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

March 4, 2001

No. 9

"I Am On The Lord's Side"

Richie Thetford

In our song books we sing a song entitled "Who Will Follow Jesus?" The chorus of that song says: "Who will follow Jesus? Who will make reply, I am on the Lord's side; Master, here am I"? Those words no doubt are taken from the book of Matthew, chapter 12, verse 30, where Jesus said: "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Jesus plainly taught that we are either for Him or we're against Him. We cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). We're either on the Lord's side or we're not.

Why Be On The Lord's Side?

We must strive to be on the Lord's side because if we aren't then there is no hope of eternal salvation! In Matthew 1:21 it says: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." It is only through Jesus Christ that we can have forgiveness of sins and therefore we all should want to be on His side and follow His commandments. When we are on the Lord's side we are profited. In 1 Corinthians 15:58 the apostle Paul said: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." When we are on the Lord's side then we will want to abound in all the work of the Lord.

Isn't it true that when we love doing something that we do it to the best of our ability, knowing that our work is not in vain because we are enjoying it.

All of us should look to our service for Christ the same way. We should enjoy being on the Lord's side and therefore do everything we do with fervent zeal, knowing that our eternal peace will someday be realized, because we were always determined to do **all** the will of Jesus (Matthew 7:21). In addition, when we're on the Lord's side, then we will be happy in all things that we do (Ephesians 1:3). We also want to be on the Lord's side because it is honorable (John 12:26). We will be glorified (Romans 8:17), will have peace (John 16:33), and will reign with Christ forever (2 Timothy 2:12) when we make it known that we are on the Lord's side!

Who Is On His Side?

Individuals show that they are on the Lord's side by believing in Jesus to the point of doing His will. In Hebrews 11:6, the Hebrew writer said: "But 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." When we have faith in God, then others will see our faith and

be able to see that we are on His side, not Satan's. When we truly believe in God, knowing that we will be rewarded by our life's service to Him (2 Timothy 4:8), then we can be effective teachers in His kingdom!

Not only the believers, but the wholehearted (Matt 12:30), and those that overcome the world (Rev 17:14), will be counted as being on His side. When one chooses to come out from the world and be separate (2 Cor 6:17) then they are making a statement by letting others know that they are choosing to be on the Lord's side! Only the faithful, and those that endure to the very end will be on His side forever (2 Timothy 2:12).

In What Should We Be With Him?

When one chooses to be on the Lord's side then one has chosen to be with the Lord in death (Galatians 2:20; 2 Timothy 2:11), in burial (Colossians 2:12), and in the resurrection (Romans 6:5; Colossians 2:12). When one is baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), they have chosen to be with the Lord in the likeness of His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). Afterwards, one will serve Him in his manner of life (2 Timothy 2:12) and that includes any suffering that may come our way in our physical life (Romans 8:17). Don't leave the Lord and return to the ways of the world (Galatians 5:4). Are you on the Lord's side? Are you determined right now to serve Him daily so that you can spend an eternity with Him in heaven?

~via *The Beacon* Clarksville, Indiana.

Where No One Stands Alone

W. R. Jones

There is a place, as the song says, "where no one stands alone." That place is "in Christ Jesus." If one stands with the Lord, one never stands alone. Jesus promised His followers: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:20). Even if all those around the faithful Christian were to forsake him, the Lord will not. This gives the Christian confidence to sing, "If Jesus goes with me, I'll go, anywhere." We have the responsibility to stand up for the Truth, even though all earthlings forsake it, but it surely is wonderful to have others standing by your side. Christians draw strength from one another, so God provided us with something called "fellowship." "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21). Paul wrote "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16).

We have all heard stories like, one little twig by itself can be easily broken, but when bound together with many twigs is almost unbreakable. We have seen the effect on young people when they are surrounded by other youth who stand for what is right. Sure, we must stand whether there is anyone with us or not, but it certainly helps when we know there are others pulling with us and for us. I am reminded of a story which the famous football coach Lou Holtz tells about a fellow stuck in a muddy ditch. The man asked for a farmer's help. The farmer said, "I have an old mule named Dusty, I think he can pull you out." So, he hooked old Dusty up to the car, snapped the reins and shouted, "Pull, Jack! Pull, Joe! Pull, Tom! Pull, Dusty!" The car came out with relative ease and the man profoundly thanked the farmer. "Why did you call all those other names along



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

with Dusty?” “Well, you see, Old Dusty’s eyesight is just about gone, and if he thought for one minute that he was the only one pulling, he wouldn’t have tried at all.” I urge you to pull, even if you have to pull alone, but isn’t it wonderful when we know there are others who are pulling with us? Remember this, whether you are pulling alone, or along with other faithful people, give it the best you have! And by all means, don’t act like you are pulling when in fact you are not.

~via *Great Plainness of Speech*, Florence, Alabama.



A Crown After A Cross

Jerry King

The words of Revelation 2:10 were spoken by Jesus and recorded by the apostle John to the Lord’s church at Smyrna of Asia. The saints in Smyrna were already suffering the blasphemy of Satan’s minions, and things were going to get a lot worse before they got better. The faith of some would be tested by prison and possibly even by death. And so, Jesus had a message of encouragement for them – keep on keeping on, and not only would the suffering end, but the cross they bore for a short time would be replaced by a crown to wear for eternity.

“**Be faithful**” How many times have you heard someone say, as Peter did long ago, “Lord, I will die for You!” That is a wonderful statement, you know. But I do not think that is what Jesus wants to hear.

I think rather that He would like to hear (and see) that we would *live* for Him. I think He would like to hear that we would live for Him even when living means suffering blasphemy for Him, and going to prison for Him, and, yes, even being executed for Him. It is easy to claim death-defying faith when God has not called you to die for Him, but it is another thing

altogether to evidence life-denying faith when God has called you to live with Him.

“Until Death” What does that mean? Is it qualitative (even to the point of martyrdom), or is it quantitative (be faithful all the way until you die)? I have heard it argued well both ways, and both are true.

We must be faithful even if our faith gets us killed at an early age, and we must be faithful even if our faith must stretch out over dozens of years filled with trials and disappointments and discouragements. No matter what, as long as we draw breath, we must be loyal to our Lord.

“A crown of life” That is what awaits the dying faithful on the other side. We will be crowned with life that can never be taken from us, life that is full of the glory of God, life that is empty of all the things that disappoint and discourage us on this side.

Is the crown we wear there worth the cross we must bear here? Just wait and see!

~via *Bible Viewpoints*, Katy, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Doris Newton* is at home recovering from her recent surgery...*Willie Ridgeway* is now at home following his stay in the hospital for pneumonia...*Onzell Tucker* has not been able to be out and at services recently...*Sadie McIntyre* has been sick this past week and has been unable to be at services...*Millinea Word* underwent some tests and is to see another doctor on Tuesday in Pulaski...*Wynell Ridgeway’s brother, Buster Kelley*, is now in rehab in Florida following his recent by-pass surgery...*Scottie Goode’s uncle, O. L. Prince*, continues in the ECM hospital

room 264 ... 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** 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.

NEW ADDRESS: Monroe and Yvonne Pressnell are now in their new home. The address is as follows: 606 Wilburn Athens, AL 35611

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Yvonne Pressnell and all the family** in the passing of Yvonne's mother, **Opal McGuire** early Saturday morning. The funeral will be Monday afternoon at 2:00 at the Limestone Chapel in Athens.

GOSPEL MEETING: **The Westview church** in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services Monday through Friday at 7:00. **Titus Edwards of Tampa, Florida** will be the speaker in this meeting... **The River Bend church** on the west side of Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:30 p.m. **Bill Cavender of Tompkinsville, Kentucky** will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: *Averages for February 2001*

Sunday: Bible Classes 73
 Morning Worship 90
 Evening Worship 60

Wednesday: Bible Classes 51

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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