

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

July 1, 2001

No. 25

Join Us For Our

Vacation Bible School

July 9-13

Monday – Friday
10:00 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.

Theme: "Realizing The Real Power"

The Adult Class:

Day	Topics	Adult Class Speaker
Monday	The Garden of Eden – The Power of Sin	Dwane Derrick
Tuesday	David & Goliath – The Power of Faith	Steve Klein
Wednesday	Daniel – The Power of Prayer	Jeff McCrary
Thursday	Jonah – The Power of God	Jacob Holman
Friday	Death, Burial & Resurrection – The of Power of the Gospel	Phillip Owens

There will be classes for ages Nursery through Adult.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Potential Is Not Enough

T. Doy Moyer

“It is a most mortifying reflection for a man to consider what he has done, compared to what he might have done” (Samuel Johnson, 1770).

Potential has to do with something that can happen, but has not yet happened. It has to do with possibilities: unrealized and undeveloped. While it is good to have the capacity to do many things, potential alone is not enough to accomplish what is necessary.

Christians have great potential. We have the potential for growth, to convert many people to the Lord, to make a strong impact on the communities around us. There are great possibilities; the future looks fantastic from this viewpoint.

But potential is not enough! Just because we have the ability to do something does not mean that we will do it. A congregation with great potential is no guarantee that they will make the most out of it. Remember, while something is still potential, it has not happened. What a tragedy it would be if, given the possibilities before so many Christians, these potentials were never realized!

Potential is realized when we press on with diligence to grow. We must act on our abilities and improve upon them. It takes work and commitment, not just recognition that we “can” do many things. The one talent man had the ability to gain another, but his laziness marked him forever as never reaching his potential (Matthew 25:14ff).

Sometimes we boast about our former days. “These seats used to be filled up.” “We used to be known for our singing.” So? What are we doing now and where are we headed? Potential will never be seen by resting on the past. Paul understood this: “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not

count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14). Paul did not think in terms glorying in his past accomplishments or moping about his failures. His potential for perfection would only come through continually pressing toward the goal. Shall we expect less now?

God has provided for a local church to grow and be what He wants it to be (Ephesians 4:11-16). Teaching takes place, saints are equipped to serve and edify, unity is accomplished, maturity is accomplished, and the church grows as each individual member does his or her part. However, as long as there are Christians who do not do their share, the total potential of a congregation will not be seen. A church may accomplish much and be known for its faithfulness, but it will never attain to its full ability as long as there are some who do not work as they ought. One or two people cannot work for everyone else. “...the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (vs. 16).

Not everyone does the same work. One person may not have abilities that another may have, and vice versa. But God expects each person to do what he/she can do. Potential means nothing unless we are willing to act on it.

There is a sense in which we will never reach our full potential on this earth. We must avoid the attitude that says, “I did it; I’m perfect” (Revelation 3:14-22). If we become satisfied with our spiritual lives so that we do not work for further growth and knowledge, we are in serious trouble. So, while we recognize

that we have potential, let's always be striving to grow and mature. It we will, our capacity for heaven will be attained when this life is over (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

So ask yourself, "What have I done?" Then ask, "What am I able to do?" Are you working hard toward fulfilling your abilities?

~via *Focus Magazine*, Volume 5 No. 6



Voluntary Sacrifice

Jim Jonas

"One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Much has been said about the negative things Paul had to forget from his past. Chief among these was a pervasive sense of guilt concerning his murderous campaign against the true "circumcision" (Philippians 3:3; cf. Galatians 6:16). But the strict context of the chapter does not address these things. What Paul had to "forget" was the great advantage afforded him by his Jewish ancestry and his place in the socio-political fabric of his culture (Philippians 3:4-6). Saul of Tarsus was a rising star in Israel, a man of uncommon talent who had already caught the eye of Israel's upper echelon. How brightly would he have shined if he had remained safely nestled within the haven of religious orthodoxy, public adoration and political favor?

Now, from the dark depths of Roman imprisonment, Paul ponders what might have been. He says, "What things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ" (Philippians 3:7). No whining; no self-pity; no regrets. Quite the opposite, in fact, for Paul realizes that his Jewish ambitions were a barrier between him-

self and God. Thus he muses, "I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection" (Phil. 3:8, 10).

How many of us are astute enough to realize that all of the material dreams we doggedly pursue amount to a pile of "rubbish"? How many self-absorbed overachievers realize that the promotions and prominence they desperately covet amount to a pile of "rubbish"? And dare we reflect on our cherished desires and admit a potential threat to our faith, how many of us love the Lord enough to voluntarily sacrifice our "confidence in the flesh" (Phil. 3:3-4)?

Truly, it is difficult to say "No" to the offerings of a prosperous society. We cry "Yes" to our possessions, our opportunities and our amusements. We do because we can; we go because we can; we buy because we can. And often our children suffer, our marriages suffer and the work of the local church suffers because too many of us don't know how to say "No" to the rubbish of the world.

Yes, we must also forget the discouragements of life, but what shall we do when Satan offers us "all the kingdoms of the world and their glory" in exchange for worship (Matthew 4:8-9)? Paul encourages us to make the same sacrifice he made: "Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind" (Philippians 3:15). Mature people of faith are distinguished by what they willingly sacrifice for God. What am I willing to count as "loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord" (Philippians 3:8)?

~via *Biblical E-Sights*; Vol. 1 No. 30

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word* is in the Hillside Hospital in Pulaski with a blood clot in her leg, room 103-A...*Willie Ridgeway* is now at

home from the hospital and is doing better ...**Judy Williams' father, Herbert Kazzire**, was released from the hospital in Tuscaloosa...**Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey**, was released from the ECM hospital in Florence this past week ...**Hoyt Hammond** went back to the doctor on Monday for some tests ...**Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton**, is at home sick battling cancer... **Kerry Cox's sister-in-law, Evie Lowman**, came home from the hospital on Thursday following her surgery last week ...Remember **Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson**, who is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia ..**Helen Trousdale and Gurtie Snoddy's niece, Martha Henson**, who is battling cancer ...**Sheila Goode & Lou Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton**, is nearing the end of her treatments for her cancer... **Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland**, who is continuing her treatments for her cancer ... **Mattie Blanche Word** who continues at home and not able to be out...**Aldeen Noles** who is not able to be out ... **Gurtie Snoddy** who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home ...**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, 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 Communication group 1 to meet. If you are in group one remember to meet this evening.

OUR VBS: Our Vacation Bible School will begin next Monday July 9th. Let remember to take some flyers and cards to send and give to others we invite. We will be studying the material prepared by the teachers here at Anderson on the theme "Realizing The Real Power".

THE RECORD:

Sunday:	June 2001	2nd Qtr. 2001
Bible Classes	89	88
Morning Worship	100	101
Evening Worship	90	72
Wednesday:		
Bible Classes	68	65

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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