

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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Where Corn Don't Grow

Michael Thomas

One of my favorite country music songs is "Where Corn Don't Grow," by Travis Tritt. I don't know if I like it because it was written by a Christian in Nashville - Mark Allen Springer who is a professional songwriter, or because it has a good message. Either way, I think it's a neat song.

The story is about a seventeen-year-old boy living on a farm and dreaming of a life in distant places - where corn don't grow. He is convinced that people are happiest who own the things he wants - modern technology, trendy fashions, freedom to experiment with the forbidden, and abundance. So he sets out in life to find happiness away from home, only to realize he was wrong. On "the other side of the fence", he had just as many challenges, disappointments, regrets, heartaches, and moments of loneliness and emptiness. Life was not better where corn don't grow.

Like the young man in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-21), the young wanderer missed his family, home, and the life he once had. And, like the prodigal, the young man returned home with the realization that life is a lot better on the farm than in the city - especially if the city represents a life without the Father (:17). What a wonderful lesson to learn.

Why are we lead to believe that life is always better for everyone else except us? Why are we foolish enough to think that no one else has problems in life except us? We convince ourselves that if we had the other person's money, education, job, family, or looks, we would finally be happy. Everybody else is happier, satisfied, and has a problem-free life, or so we think. When in reality, everybody else is just as troubled and miserable! While in life under the sun, we are bombarded with a series of disappointments and setbacks (Ecclesiastes 3:1ff.) that none of us escape, even as Christians (2 Timothy 3:12).

Since this is so, we need to find the ability to cope with the disappointment instead of only complaining, running away, or daydreaming it out of our minds. Instead of wishing for a life where corn don't grow, or should I say, where our problems don't exist, we need to learn to be content. If we don't like the way things are in our families, jobs, or even the local church, the solution is to find a solution, not run away. This comes by being content and by placing our hope in God.

The apostle Paul wrote, "But godliness with contentment is great gain...And having food and clothing...with these we shall be

content” (1 Timothy 6:6, 8). I believe he is saying we need to find the presence of mind to be satisfied in life, especially if we have God in our lives.

So what if our peers can afford newer things or nicer items, does that make our life with God any less meaningful? Will it even matter how much or how little we had in life when we see God? Please, good friend, don’t be so gullible. Instead of destroying yourself over things, people, and positions you don’t have, appreciate the things you do have, especially with God. Naked we came into this world and naked we will leave. There is no “work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (Ecclesiastes 9:10), “then whose will those things be which you have provided” (Luke 12:20)?

I believe it is good to daydream. We need to do more of it regarding heaven. However, when our dreaming leads to neglecting our

responsibilities or causes us to think that life without God is better, we are abusing the abilities and freedoms God has given us. The only person better off than us in life is he who is faithful to God when we are not. If that is our condition, then yes, we need to dream of a better life and yearn for a change.

If, however, we have made a commitment to Christ and are backing out of it because the “grass looks greener on the other side” (Acts 7:39), we need to realize that godliness with contentment is our solution. Instead of making our lives miserable with self-absorption, laziness, worldliness, and greed we need to appreciate life on the farm with God and His fellowship.

Take it from two boys who learned the hard way: life is not as rewarding as it appears where corn don’t grow. It is much better to be on a corn farm with God than on foreign soil with Satan.

~via *Southport Sounder*, Indianapolis, Indiana.



“Three Thousand Converted”

Richie Thetford

In the second chapter of Acts we can read where about three thousand souls were saved! Can you believe it? Thousands of people gathered around to listen to the apostle Peter’s sermon and after hearing it the Bible says “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). Today we would be hard pressed to get three thousand souls in one place to listen to God’s word, much less accept His Word and be baptized for the remission of sins!

The Coming Of The Holy Spirit

In Acts 2:1-5 we read where the Holy Spirit came in fulfillment of a promise to the apostles. It is important to note that the Spirit came “to

the apostles” and did not come directly to those converted (Acts 2:6-7). These people had trouble understanding what all this was about. In fact, they were confounded because each heard in his own language (Acts 2:6). They then marveled because they who spoke (the disciples) were Galileans (Acts 2:7). These people did not even know the meaning of all this (Acts 2:12). We read about these people charging the apostles with being filled with “new wine” (Acts 2:13). At this point, the people that were gathered there on Pentecost certainly had not “received the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

Peter’s Sermon

The first thing that the apostle Peter does is reply to their charge of “being filled with new

wine". He proves to the people gathered there that he is as sober as one can be and then begins one of the greatest gospel sermons ever given. He lets the people know that this moment in time is one that was prophesied about years ago by the prophet Joel (Acts 2:16-21). Peter preaches to the people concerning the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. In Acts 2:23 he says: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain". As he preaches about Jesus, he makes sure that these people understand that they are responsible for crucifying the Son of God, a man without sin, because He was God in the flesh (John 1:14)! Peter goes on to proclaim Christ's supreme authority. Notice what he said in verse 36: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." Peter preached a powerful sermon that day, a sermon that let everyone know that they had killed Jesus Christ, the one who came to give them life!

The Effects Of Peter's Sermon

Fortunately, these individuals realized that they were wrong in what they did. In verse 37 it says: "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" First of all these people were touched, saddened that they killed the Son of God, and then genuinely asked "what shall we do?" It is important to note here that the Holy Spirit produced the conviction in these people, not by going directly to the sinners, but through the preaching of the gospel of Christ by the apostles.

Their Question Is Answered

To their wonderful surprise their question is answered in such a way by Peter that they realize that they only needed to fully repent, be baptized for remission of sins and then they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Know what? This same opportunity is available for us today. Jesus died for all of us and

if we will let the gospel of Jesus Christ "prick" our hearts like it did those early Christians, then we too can have forgiveness of sins and newness of life! What keeps you from obeying God's truth?

~via *The Beacon*, Clarksville, Indiana

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Marcia Cooper* is at home now recovering from her recent surgery... *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, his in the Huntsville Hospital room 841 ...*Phil Pressnell* is now doing better after his bout with kidney stones...*Willie Ridgeway* is in the Brookwood Hospital in Birmingham...*Leota Springer* has been sick recently and has been unable to be at services...*Angie McCrary's sister, Peggy McGee*, continues in the UAB hospital following surgery on Monday ...*Shelia Moore's mother-in-law, Lorraine Whitehead*, is in Athens Convelesant Center in Athens...*Sissy Clemmons* had eye surgery on Thursday and is doing well...*Marla Clemmons* is now doing better after being sick last weekend... *James McConnell* is also doing better after being sick last weekend...*Claus Martel's sister, Ann Martinez*, is now at home after spending some time in the hospital following an automobile accident that caused some internal bleeding ...*Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton*, is at home sick battling cancer ...Remember *Millinea Word* as she continues her treatments/medication... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, who is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia...*Helen Trousdale's neice, Martha Henson*, who is battling cancer ... *Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland*, is not doing well at all and is not able to continue her treatments... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home and not able to be out...*Aldeen*

Noles is in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ...*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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Oneal church* near Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. They will have services Monday through Thursday will beginning at 7:00 p.m. The speaker in this meeting will be *Mark White of Florence* ...The *East Florence church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Larry Hafley* preaching. The services will begin each evening Monday through Friday at 7:00 ...The *South Fayetteville church* in Fayetteville, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Paul Earnhart* will be the speaker in this meeting.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Angie McCrary and all the family* in the passing of her aunt, *Erma Newton*, this past Thursday night. She was buried yesterday in Bonnertown, Tennessee.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Communication group two will meet tonight after the evening service. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group this evening.



Next Sunday evening, August 19th, 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.

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.

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