

Gospel Power



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

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

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 29th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Deut. 9:22-29)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Brian Word

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jimmy Glass
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Mark McCrary
..... Hunter Cox
..... Tyler Cox
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Deut. 10:1-5)
..... Kevin Chancellor
Prayer
..... Brian Blaakely
Lord's Supper
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XV

June 29, 2008

No. 26

Crucified With Christ

David A. Cox

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

This is a most interesting statement made by Paul. How is it that Paul could say that Christ now lives in him? It was because Paul had molded himself into the image of Christ. How did this happen?

Paul began this process when he went into Damascus and was told by Ananias to "Arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins" (Acts 22:16). Paul had lived in the flesh as a Jew and as a Jew could glory in who he was (Philippians 3:7-14). But at Paul's conversion, that changed. He no longer lived doing what he previously thought was right or what would give him a lofty reputation among the religious and political leaders. He crucified self to live for Christ.

Paul wrote to the Romans concerning the crucifying of the old man. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life... Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:3-4,6). Notice Paul said he was buried and arose to walk a new life. Why? Because the old man had been crucified; he had put to death the affections and lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:24).

Our new life will be focused on the things above, and not on things on the earth. We will have our minds set on Christ for he

is now our life (Colossians 3:1-4). Yes, we continue to live in the flesh, but now that Christ is enthroned in our lives, our actions will be pleasing to Him. Our lives will be lives of faith. Trusting Him and looking to His word to find the direction for our lives (Romans 10:17; Proverbs 3:5).

What is the motive of the Christian's life? One motive may be heaven, the prepared home for the faithful, and that is a great motive. But another motive Paul mentions here is the sacrifice of Christ for us upon the cross, "He loved me and gave himself for me." As we walk in life thinking of how much Christ valued us by giving His own life for us, we should be motivated to live to please Him and to do the work He has left for us to do.

May God help us to be "crucified with Christ" and to mold our life into the image of His dear Son. May our hearts and minds say as the song says:

*"Mold me, make me, as you'd have me be,
Take me, use me, that the lost may see,
Guard me, guide me, thru this pilgrim land,
Make me as clay in the potter's hand.*



The Church and Numbers

Mark W. White

Most brethren I know pay attention to the number of people who attend the services. There is nothing wrong with taking a count and keeping up with the statistics, because every number represents a soul. But when it comes to the attendance number on the board, two false extremes often exist within the church.

Some people don't want the church to grow. They may not come right out and say it, but their actions speak louder than words. Some members will be heard to say, "I like this church

because it is small." Do they realize what they are saying? What if the congregation should grow? Will they leave because they don't like the growth? Does this attitude affect the evangelistic fervor of an individual? Perhaps we are not trying to teach people for fear that they will obey and the church will not be so small anymore! Surely we do not think in this way! None of us would purposely attempt to frustrate or hinder God's purposes. We cannot stand in God's way by insisting that the church be kept small. After all, increase comes from the Lord (1 Corinthians 3:6).

The New Testament church at Jerusalem grew quickly and largely. At the rate of growth mentioned in Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14 and 6:1 it is probable that this congregation numbered over 10,000 souls by the time Saul launched his vehement persecution against the church (Acts 8:1). The Scriptures show that the church first met in the Temple, a building and complex which, according to some educated estimates, could accommodate some 20,000 people. The Scriptures do not mention even one complaint that "the church is getting too big" for the disciples in Jerusalem. Our desire to be like the New Testament church should surely involve having the same joyful spirit for the growth of the church and the salvation of lost souls.

There are those, however, who would force the church to grow even by unauthorized means. Some brethren believe that large facilities will produce a large church. They have a "if we build it, they will come" attitude toward church growth. Churches have even been known to hire preachers who are especially adept at entertaining people in an attempt to raise their numbers. A stand-up comic may please the masses, but God will not be pleased when such is passed off as preaching. Some congregations have even been known to survey and poll their communities to see just what it is that the people want from a church. Then, they accordingly provide the community's wants. If it's food, they build banquet halls. If it's recreation, they build gymnasiums. If it's baby-sitting, they build daycare centers. This is fueled by an intense craving for large numbers on the board. And for what? Certainly not for spiritual

things.

It could be that the idol many modern churches bow down to is the attendance board! What good is a church building filled with souls who are unconcerned for spiritual things? They may be at the church building, but these souls are still just as lost as they were.

There is considerable difference between numbers added to the roll and believers who have turned to the Lord (Acts 11:21). God wants great numbers of penitent souls who will genuinely serve His cause. We must not stand in God's way of achieving this goal by refusing to be as fervent as we can in preaching the Gospel. At the same time, however, we must not artificially force growth. The Great Commission did not say, "Go ye into every congregation and make it grow!" It did command us to preach the Gospel to the lost and faithfully teach those we convert to the Lord. God will be responsible for the growth of the church. We must do our part of planting and watering and let God give the increase to our efforts (1 Corinthians 3:6).

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

The Foolish Son

Jonathan Perz

The wise man wrote, "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him" (Prov. 17:25). Indeed, there is no more poignant truth in the entire world for a parent than this. Time and again, I have witnessed the great pain a son who behaves foolishly has brought to his parents. Sometimes, a selfish teenage boy is responsible for such pain. Other times, it is the behavior of a full-grown man. Regardless, every parent and son should take these words of wisdom to heart.

I have personally seen a man cry for his son as he prayed that my own son would never bring the pain his had. I have heard a man mournfully speak of a child who has departed from God's way. I have listened as faithful parents ask them-

selves where they have gone wrong. I have watched as parents argue with a son who will not heed wisdom or receive instruction. I have witnessed parents unwittingly rescue a son as he lied to avoid trouble. I have felt the pain a parent feels when his child does wrong. I even know what it is to be the foolish son.

Nevertheless, even more painful to witness is the son who does not realize the grief and bitterness he burdens his parents with, or who just doesn't seem to care. If only the foolish son could hear the ardent prayers of his desperate parents as they ask for wisdom to help him. If only the foolish son could see every tear shed on account of his actions. If only the foolish son could feel the pain he brings to his parents in his very own heart. If only the foolish son knew what his parents would give to see him on the straight and narrow path.

Hopefully, these words will help some foolish son to realize that with every passing sinful pleasure he engages in, he brings grief to his father and bitterness to his mother. Are drinking, alcoholism, drug abuse, homosexuality, stealing, lying, or gambling worth the price your parent's pay? Though you may not realize it, every time you play the fool, your parent's pay the price! Thus, rather than hurt your father and mother, honor them. This is, "the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:2b-3).

-via *North Jasper Seeker*; Jasper, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Noah Lane Hammond* is at home now after being taken to the hospital due to his blood sugar going extremely low... *Cindy Mosley's mother, and Marla Clemmons' grandmother, F. A. Haney*, is at home now after being

back in the hospital at the end of last week... **Monroe Pressnell, Phil's father**, began treatments Thursday for his cancer... **Jack and Onzell Tucker** continue to be confined at home ... **Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, Nadine Thompson**, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen ... **Eric White's father, Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments... **J. T. Word's great grandson, Eric Jackson**, has moved to Atlanta for rehab. He continues to show improvement ... **Steven Crunk's niece, Abby Vandiver**, is in Children's Hospital in Birmingham and is seriously sick with a blood disorder ... **Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

PREACHING TODAY: It is good to have the **Andrews Family: Aaron, Tammy, Joshua and Laura** with us today. Aaron will be preaching for us during the Bible class period, and both morning and evening worship services.

OUT OF TOWN: The Words: Lisa, Corey and Olivia are continuing their stay a couple of weeks in Orlando, Florida due the death of Lisa's father ... **The Wallens: Billy, Buffy, Anthony, Ethan, Emma, Ella, and Ivy** are in Booneville, Mississippi this weekend.

RUSSELLVILLE MEETING: It was my priviledge this week to be with the **Russellville church** in Russellville preaching in their gospel meeting. The meeting was very encouraging. It was good to see many brethren from that area at the meeting and other visitors from the community that came. The church there seems to be doing very well. It was good for me to be able to be with **Eddie Caskey** and his family, who preaches there. I appreciate **Kevin Chancellor** for preaching for me while I was away and for **Jimmy Glass** who taught my class on Wednesday night. It is good to have men that are willing and able to fill in when I am gone and I appreciate them doing this very much.

THE RECORD: Attendance: Week of June 22nd

Sunday: Bible Classes 100
Morning Worship 109
Evening Worship 79
Wednesday: Bible Classes 78

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.

Elders

Michael Clemmons (256) 247-0836
Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391

Deacons

Jimmy Glass (256) 247-0571
Eddie J. Hammond (256) 247-3038
Mark McIntyre (256) 729-8316
Steve Parker (256) 247-7843
Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
Brian Word (931) 565-3799

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