Monday July 10, 2023

# **Andersonville** CRUSADER

Issue #SU23

Summer 2023 News & Updates

Office of Academic Affairs

# **School of Practical Ministry Now Enrolling Students**

New Practical Bible Programs Available to All

As of Summer 2023, ATS has opened its School of Practical Ministry to compliment its traditional School of Theology. While the School of Theology contains in-depth lectures from professors around the USA, the School of Practical Ministry focuses exclusively upon practical Bible study by examining the text of the KJV in the Life Application Study Bible.

While most students will remain in the School of Theology, many students are choosing to enroll into the School of Practical Ministry. These students include especially those who are older, those who have learned English as a second language, those who are located on foreign mission fields, those who have little or no internet access, and those who just wish to understand God's word better through guided studies.

The School of Ministry offers degrees in Biblical Exposition, from the Associate of Biblical Exposition through the Doctor of Biblical Exposition. Courses are four semester credits each. Both the Master's and Doctorate programs require a practical capstone project, which will round out the student's training in practical application of the truths learned in the program.

If you are having difficulties in the School of Theology program, do not give up! Give the School of Practical Ministry a try ... It just may meet your needs, too!





Office of Academic Affairs

# Whatever Happened to **Practical Bible Study?**

Bible Study Should Be For Everyone

Too many seminaries have forgotten the purpose of seminary—to train preachers and teachers of God's word so that they might share the word of God more accurately with their congregations or classrooms. It is not to raise up CEOs to administer church business. The business of the church, in fact, is to create disciples who in turn reproduce more disciples. And how is this to be accomplished? The Bible gives the plain answer, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ... So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Preachers and teachers and counselors trained in the word of God must proclaim the gospel Truth to a lost and dying world.

Andersonville, in keeping with this mission of the church, has always relied on the Bible as the sole source of Christian teaching. Whether in hermeneutics, where preachers and teachers and counselors learn the rules of interpreting the Bible, or in Greek, or in Pastoral Counseling, the text for each of these courses is primarily the word of God.

In keeping with our focus on God's word, Andersonville has opened a new school under the Andersonville umbrella—the School of Practical Ministry.

Not every student is training to lead a church. Some just want to know God's word better so that they might be a more effective Sunday School teacher or deacon. They do not need Greek or Eschatology. But they do need God's word, and Andersonville has answered the call with our new School of Practical Ministry. These new programs guide students deeper into the Word and that is what seminary really should be about. With Andersonville now divided into two schools, ATS offers a program for everyone.

May God bless the new programs.

#### **2023 Sunday Sermon**

By Dr. James L. Hayes

Church, Coolidge, Georgia, 2023.

#### **Graduation a Success**

Spring 2023 Ceremony By Office of the Registrar

Dr. James Haves's sermon to Coolidge Baptist A summary of Graduation and Remarks from A short article on the hidden problem that Students who attended the ceremony.

#### Big Problems from a "Little" Sin

Counseling in the Real World By Christian Counseling Department

many counselees face.

Dr. James L. Hayes

# The Pure Gospel

#### A Sermon Preached for Coolidge Baptist Church 2023

**TEXT:** {John 3.16; Ephesians 2.8-9}

Vince Lombardi is widely recognized as one of the greatest football coaches of all time. Many years ago, while he was coaching the Green Bay Packers, his team suffered a tough loss. Following the game, he gathered his team around him in the locker room for his postgame speech. Holding up a football, Lombardi stared into the faces of his team and said, "Gentlemen, *this* is a football." His point was well made—their performance in the game was evidence that his team had failed to grasp the very basic fundamentals of the game.

For the past several years, I have found that such a statement could apply to the American church as well, for the American church has presented a widely inconsistent and conflicting picture of the gospel, and such a presentation clearly illustrates that the church has failed to grasp the very basic fundamentals of the gospel.

Most evangelicals, who are supposed to be sound and conservative in their doctrine, agree that Jesus Christ is the object of saving faith, but the problem comes in when the specific content of saving faith is presented. In other words, what is it *about* Jesus that you must believe in order to have eternal life? Are there certain essential truths that must be included in a gospel presentation in order for it to be considered the pure gospel? The answer to this is "Yes," there must be certain truths included in your presentation of the gospel in order for it to be the pure gospel.

Now, you may not always give a perfect presentation of the gospel, but this does not mean that God cannot use an imperfect presentation to lead a sinner to Christ. But such a practice is dangerous at best and ineffective at worst.

So, this morning, I want to give you a clear presentation of what the pure Gospel is so that this church can understand exactly what one must believe in order to be saved. Then we can share this gospel with our community.

# And to this end, let us first give an overview of God's Plan of Salvation

A proper presentation of the Good News of man's salvation includes three primary aspects. First, it emphasizes the bad news that man is a sinner in need of a Savior. Second, it presents the good news that God has provided this Savior through His Son Jesus Christ, who died and rose again. Third, it tells one how to obtain eternal life, namely faith alone in Christ alone.

This is to be our gospel in a nutshell here at this church: Faith alone in Christ alone! Nothing can be added to or taken from this formula if a person is to be biblically saved.

Now these three aspects that I have just mentioned may be termed the predicament, the provision, and the profession. And I want us to look at each of these very quickly.

The first is the predicament—that you are a sinner, and you cannot save yourself.

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#### Dr. James L. Hayes, Vice President of ATS

#### THE MESSAGE OF ROMANS

#### An Alternative Viewpoint

I would like to share with you today something that I have been learning over the past several months. It is controversial, but it is intriguing, and I believe it is worth studying more closely. My study has been focused upon Paul's Epistle to the Romans and what its main message is for today's Christian.

Now, while many hold that Romans is Paul's most systematic treatment of the gospel, they go on to equate that gospel with the good news of eternal life. In other words, Paul is writing to tell one how to receive eternal life. But I do not think Paul is trying to accomplish this goal at all. In fact, I think that Paul is doing the same thing as the author of the Book of Hebrews, a book that contains warning after warning of God's impending judgment/discipline on wayward believers.

Both Hebrews and Romans quote Habakkuk 2:4 in key places—Hebrews in the fourth warning passage, and Romans as the thesis statement for the entire epistle. Both Hebrews and Romans contain a warning that is reminiscent of Ezekiel 18:21-24, a passage that is contemporaneous with Habakkuk's message in Habakkuk 2:4. Both passages are written in approximately 600 B.C. and warn of the coming Babylonian assault on Jerusalem, which ultimately led to the Babylonian captivity of Judah. The two passages, Habakkuk 2:4 and Ezekiel 18:21-24, ultimately speak upon the same issue. Habakkuk focuses on the temporal salvation of one who lives by faith, and Ezekiel focuses both upon the blessings of the righteous life and the discipline of the unrighteous life.

Habakkuk 2:4, as quoted in Romans 1:17, can mean "the just-by-faith *person* shall live." Such an understanding is strengthened when one considers 1:18 reveals that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Notice the underlined word above, "is." The word is a present tense verb, which indicates that God's outpouring of wrath is not limited to some future event, but rather is currently being poured out on unrighteous people. See also Ezekiel 18:21-24, where the sinning soul "shall die." This is physical death in Ezekiel. But the passage goes on to state that if an unrighteous person turns from his sins, "he shall surely live, he shall not die." This is physical life.

It is important to note that Paul mentions "eternal life" only three times in his letter to the Romans, and "everlasting life" only once. Compare this with John's Gospel, which Office of the Registrar

#### Graduation A Great Success

On Labor Day Weekend, Andersonville held its annual graduation ceremony in Albany, Georgia, at the Albany Municipal Auditorium. Students earning their Associate through Doctorate degrees were recognized by Dr. Jimmy L. Hayes, President of ATS, and the ATS faculty and staff.

Dr. Fayez Narooz, head of the Arabic Department, which oversees Arabic students in the Middle East and Canada, also participated in the graduation ceremony. Dr. Narooz was in attendance to hood one of his graduates during the ceremony. This was a special event for all in attendance.

As always, excellent pre-ceremony entertainment was provided by the Seminary. This year, Gold City Quartet returned to bless the graduates and their families and friends. They also sang during the ceremony, encouraging the graduates with messages in song that moved all in attendance.

Students have sent in many remarks over the past month praising the Seminary for the graduation ceremony.

Samuel A. stated, "Our 2023 graduation was well planned and perfect."

Lawrence E. was quoted as saying, "The graduation ceremony was one of the very best I have ever attended! It was well organized, and the

Continued on Page 3.

# A Big Problem with a "Little" Sin

One of the Greatest Challenges for Counselors

ATS Christian Counseling Department: Michelle Hayes

Over the past few years, I have been blessed to counsel many people with problems that have overwhelmed them. They have been at their rope's end, not knowing God's will or design for their life. But as I have spoken with these broken people, I have had the wonderful opportunity to show them that God is still speaking through His perfect and complete Word of God. The Bible and the Bible alone has the answers to life's problems.

While my counseling is primarily aimed at broken and troubled women, I have found that regardless of gender, age, or situation, many counselees suffer—at least in part—from a big problem that is often overlooked as a little sin: the sin of fearing people more than God.

While secular counseling will delve into a counselee's past and try to find the problem embedded in distant events, the biblical counselor is more interested in the here and now. How do we move forward and serve the God of the universe now, regardless of what may have happened in our pasts? That is the question that we as counselors must place before our counselees. Nothing in our pasts gives us the right to ignore God's commandments for our present lives. To all, regardless of their brokenness, God commands "Be ye holy, for I am holy." This command cannot be overlooked or downplayed for any reason. So, we as biblical counselors must seek to restore those who are broken to fulfilling this command and many others given to us in God's word.

This is not to say that brokenness is not a real problem. In fact, it is a great and real and tragic problem in the lives of many who struggle day to day to hear God's voice as they wander through life without knowing God's will for their lives. So, we as biblical counselors must be tenderhearted and patient as we draw out applicable principles from God's word to guide and to heal our counselees. Only in so doing can we hope to help those broken counselees through their difficulties.

Biblical Counseling approaches counseling from a "sin is the *Continued on Page 5.*"

#### Graduation

Continued from Page 2.

music and the speaker were excellent. The staff [was] very warm and pleasant. It was such a privilege to be there."

Gary M. emphatically proclaimed, "The graduation was phenomenal! ... Truly a blessing!!!"

And Alan F. warmly stated, "I thought the speakers did a fabulous job. The message was so good and to say that I was not emotional would not be truthful because I certainly was."

In truth, the ceremony was a blessing to all in attendance. All of the faculty and staff enjoyed meeting the students, as it is always a blessing to put names and faces together. The students were a true joy to work with this year, from the pre-ceremony pictures to the final recessional march.

Andersonville is already planning next year's ceremony. It tentatively will be held in early June 2024, but more information will be forthcoming later this year.

Also, as a reminder, all students who were not able to come to the previous graduation ceremonies due to COVID are welcome to come and participate in next year's graduation.

May God bless the graduates as they continue their service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### **Romans**

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mentions "eternal life" nine times and "everlasting life" eight times, for a total of seventeen occurrences, a fourfold increase over Paul's letter.

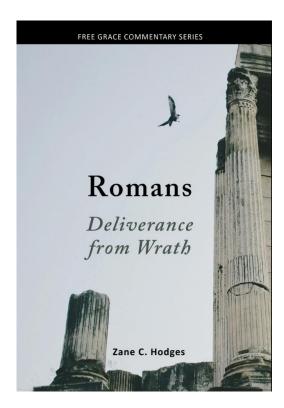
John is writing to unbelievers—the only book in the Bible to do so—to tell them how to secure eternal life, as John 20:31 explicitly states. But Paul is writing to those who are *already* believers. And what is his message? Avoid God's punishment and live, or else you will be disciplined, even with death, if you continue in sin. It is a temporal message that assumes one's eternal position is already secure in Christ.

Looking at the key words in Romans, we can see that Paul's focus is not upon eternal life. Instead, Paul writes of "righteousness" forty-four times, "faith" thirty-nine times, "grace" twenty-four times, "justification" seventeen times, "gospel" thirteen times, "salvation" thirteen times, "sanctification" once, and God's "kingdom" once. So, Paul writes of righteousness eleven times more than he writes of eternal or everlasting life. Now, while a simple word count should not be given too much weight in and of itself, it should lead us to consider Romans from other possible perspectives than the traditional "Paul is writing about how to obtain eternal life" perspective.

So, what is Paul arguing in Romans? I would suggest that Paul is warning Christians on how to avoid God's judgment/discipline in this present life. In other words, Paul's salvation in Romans is not eternal life per se, which is assumed for his readers, but salvation in Romans is about temporal salvation, salvation in this life, just as Ezekiel 18 and Habakkuk 2:4's salvation.

Zane Hodges has written a very interesting work on this very topic in his commentary on Romans, a book that I strongly recommend to all Christians, especially pastors. Hodges' book is controversial, bringing an "outside-the-box" perspective. But it is not without merit, whether one ultimately agrees with his thesis or not. Hodges "sees a difference between justification and salvation, between eternal destiny and eternal rewards. Those who are justified still need to be saved, that is, delivered from God's present wrath. That deliverance is gained not merely by believing in Jesus, but also through obedience and calling upon Him in believing prayer." Hodges' commentary on Romans is entitled, *Romans: Deliverance from Wrath*, and it may be purchased at https://faithalone.org/shop/books/romans for \$25.00.

Many who hold to works as an essential part of salvation (good works <u>must</u> follow salvation or good works <u>will</u> follow salvation) often accuse those who separate good works completely from salvation of teaching a cheap gospel. But Hodges' perspective on Romans takes temporal sin very seriously, for sin not only brings temporal judgment in this world, but judgment affecting our rewards in the life to come. Nothing could be further from cheap grace than this!



#### **Sermon: Pure Gospel**

Continued from Page 2

An accurate gospel presentation must begin by establishing the need for salvation.

Romans 3.10, the beginning of the Romans Roadmap to Salvation, states, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."

Romans 3.23, the second marker of the Romans Roadmap, states, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Isaiah 64.6 plainly says, "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." So, if a person does not acknowledge that he is a sinner, he remains ignorant of his predicament, and as such he is unable to receive salvation. It is a fact that what makes the gospel *good news* is that remedies man's predicament.

And the third marker in the Romans Roadmap, Romans 6.23, plainly states, "For the wages of sin is death." That is not only physical death, but eternal damnation in Hell according to Revelation 20.

Therefore, the salvation of the gospel message involves understanding that you are being rescued from Hell and into eternal life. Yet, many so-called gospel presentations ignore the discussion of sin, Hell, and Heaven. This is an incomplete gospel presentation: You must realize you are a sinner in need of a Savior. This is your predicament.

The second element is the provision—that is the solution to your predicament. What is God's solution to man's sin problem? It is this—Jesus Christ, the Son of God, paid the penalty for mankind by dying on the cross, and He rose again the third day and offers freely to all deliverance from Hell and the gift of eternal life. Romans 6.23, the second half of the verse, states, "The gift of God is eternal life though Jesus Christ our Lord." So, though God's plan of salvation does include more than this, it must at a minimum include the death and resurrection of the Savior.

Paul states this gospel message in 1Cor 15.3-4 — "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." For you to place your faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you need to know who Jesus is and what He did for you.

The third and final element is the profession—this is the call to faith. The necessity of faith in securing eternal salvation is undeniable in Scripture. There are over 160 verses that demonstrate that salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. Yet, this is where most gospel presentations miss the mark. They often present man's predicament. They often present God's solution. But on coming to the moment of "What must I do to accept God's solution?" many gospel presentations lead down a dead-end street—They miss the mark of faith alone in Christ alone. So, let us move on to an understanding of the answer to the question, "What must I do to accept God's solution?

# And to this end, let us consider the Content of Saving Faith.

In the course of presenting the gospel, having sufficiently addressed man's predicament and God's provision the moment comes when the sinner is ready for specific instruction on how to obtain God's free gift of eternal life. He is ready to profess faith in something or someone. And the remainder of this message this morning is going to demonstrate that saving faith is "The belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who died and rose again to pay your personal penalty for sin and the One who gives eternal life to all who trust Him and Him alone for it."



Now let's take apart this complete definition of saving faith and understand the pure gospel message this morning.

"Jesus Christ"

Jesus is the center of saving faith. He is the object of saving faith. This fact is indisputable. John 3.16—"For God so loved the world that He gave HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, that whosoever believes IN HIM should not perish but have everlasting life" John 6.47—Jesus Himself states, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth ON ME hath eternal life" Paul gives the same message in Acts 16.31 in his response to the Philippian jailor—"Believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and thou shalt be saved...." John 20.31 states, "...but these things are written that ye might believe that JESUS is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have eternal life through HIS NAME." So any presentation that lacks explicit reference to Jesus Christ cannot be considered the pure gospel.

Now, consider the phrase, "The Son of God who died and rose again."

Belief in Jesus requires an understanding of who Jesus is, and the simple fact is that you must believe in the Jesus of the Bible. And in its simplest form, you must understand that Jesus is the Son of God who died and rose again.

Now this does not mean that you must affirm a fully developed doctrine of the deity of Christ.

Yet, however basic your understanding, you must accept that Jesus is God in the flesh. Throughout John's Gospel, John connects Christ's self-identification as the Son of God with His ability to save. We find such passages in John 1.14 and John 8.19-24. Think too of Jesus' conversation with Martha. Jesus tells Martha that she must believe in Him if she is to have eternal life. In John 11.26, Jesus said, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Her response in v. 27 indicates that belief in Jesus means His ability as the Son of God to impart life, for v. 27 says, "She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

John 20.31 emphasizes this point—"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is

the Christ, THE SON OF GOD; and that believing ye might have eternal life in His name." So, if you desire to be saved, you must understand and accept that Jesus is the only One who can forgive sin and give eternal life. Again, I say, that believing in Jesus as the Son of God means understanding He is the divine Son of God who alone can forgive sin and grant eternal life.

The next phrase is "To pay one's personal penalty for sin." This means that you must not only understand that Jesus is the Son of God who died and rose again, but you must understand the significance of His death and resurrection. It involves understanding that Jesus' death and resurrection serve as the basis of His substitutionary atonement for sin. John the Baptist, in John 1.29, proclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Paul said in 1Tim 1.15, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world *to save* sinners, of whom I am chief."

So, saving faith includes the specific content that Jesus' death and resurrection involve His personal, substitutionary atonement for sin. Just believing that Jesus died and rose again is not enough. You must believe that Jesus died and rose again for you personally. This belief will entail an understanding that when Jesus paid your penalty for sin, He rescued you from Hell if you will but put your personal trust in Him.

The fourth phrase is, "Gives eternal life to all who trust Him ... for it"
To be rescued from Hell has a flip side. In being rescued from Hell, one simultaneously receives eternal life. 1 John 5.11-13—"And this the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in

the name of the Son of God, THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.... So, saving faith requires an understanding of what you are receiving as a result of your faith. The goal of saving faith is not a mystery. It is not ambiguous. The goal of saving faith is deliverance from Hell and the securing of eternal life

Finally, let us consider "Him alone." Salvation is exclusively in Jesus Christ alone. You cannot claim to have saving faith if you are trusting in Jesus and doing good works. You cannot claim to have saving faith if you are trusting in Jesus and your baptism. You cannot claim to have saving faith if you are trusting in Jesus and keeping the Law. You cannot claim to have saving faith if you believe that Jesus is one of many pathways to eternal life.

Faith that does not rest SOLELY on Jesus Christ as the only One who can pay the penalty for sin and give the gift of eternal life is not saving faith. John 14.6 — "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, BUT BY ME" Acts 4.12 — "There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Faith in anything or anyone besides Jesus Christ will put you in Hell. And faith in anything or anyone plus Jesus Christ will put you in Hell. Saving faith is faith in Christ alone for eternal life.

These five essentials that I have just covered must be included as the content of saving faith and the content of saving faith must not include anything which contradicts these five essentials. Belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who died and rose again to pay your personal penalty for sin and the One who gives eternal life to all who trust Him and Him alone for it.

This is the content of saving faith.

People, the gospel is really a simple matter. Jesus said to receive eternal life you must have the faith of a child. When daddy promises to do something, the child believes not only that he is able, but that he is willing.

When God promises eternal life through trusting in the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, He is able to provide that salvation, And He is willing. 1 Timothy 2:4 says of God, "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." So, this morning, I want to close with a simple presentation of the Gospel.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, came to this earth and was born of a virgin. After 33 ½ years, the world took Him and nailed Him to the cross on Calvary. This was not for any wrong that He had done, but it was part of God's plan so that Jesus might die in the sinner's place. And there on Calvary's cross, Jesus shed His blood for your sins and my sins. After He died, He was placed in a borrowed grave where He spent three days and nights in the grave. Then, He came out of that grave, alive to live forevermore!

If you will but put your trust in Jesus—That He is the Son of God that died to pay your sin debt; that He died to save you from Hell and to give you eternal life—And if you trust in Jesus alone, you shall be saved.

If you've never done this, I pray that you will this today.

[[This sermon borrowed heavily from Dr. J.B. Hixson's book, *Getting the Gospel Wrong*. It is an excellent resource for all who would understand the Gospel more fully. It has been a blessing to me.]]



#### **Biblical Counseling**

Cont'd from Page 3

problem" perspective. And very frequently this is the case, whether it be the counselee who has sinned or whether the counselee has been sinned against. And one of the more common problems that has come up in actual counseling is an important issue upon which the Bible has much to say. As mentioned above, this important issue is the FEAR OF MAN. All too frequently our hearts give way to peer pressure and fear of what others may think of us. This can be a paralyzing fear that causes us to shrink back from relationships with others and that breaks down our fellowship with the God who knows and loves us.

A quick googling of "Common problems for which people go to counseling" reveals what most people go to counseling for. The list includes depression, self-esteem, grief and loss, relationship conflicts, sexual identity concerns, and suicidal thoughts. Notice the list carefully: people are not seeking counseling for the sin of fearing man more than God.

How does this fear of God play into the counseling session? By recognizing that humans are needy creatures by design and by nature. We are not necessarily needy for the love and attention many sinfully crave from others, but all of us are truly needy for the grace and mercy that only our Savior can give.

According to the Bible, fear is not just about being afraid of someone; it includes being controlled by someone, worshipping someone, or needing someone. We too often replace God with people. Instead of being controlled by fear of the Lord, we are controlled by fear other people.

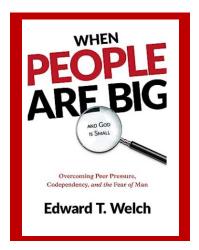
So, the question stands, "Whom do you fear?"

Psalm 27:1 says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear. The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" The Holy Spirit's words written through David are astounding, leading me to state that we can only live without fear of people if we have a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

Outside of being washed in the blood, we are controlled by fear of people, living for the approval of our peers. 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." As Christians we are no longer slaves to fear. We have power given to us by God to love others as He has called us to do and to gain godly wisdom as we learn to fear the Lord. Proverbs 9:1 instructs us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

So, the next time you are dealing with a counselee whose sin problem seems to elude you, consider the little sin of fearing people more than God. Do not overlook this little sin, for it ultimately causes big problems in the counselee's life.

Edward T. Welch has written an excellent book upon this topic, When People Are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man. The book may be purchased from Amazon for less than twenty dollars. I strongly recommend this book to every counselor.



# **Additional Quotes from Students about Graduation**

Sandy S.: "My husband and I enjoyed the graduation very much! We especially enjoyed Gold City and James Hayes' message ... Meeting some fellow graduates was great!"

Ancel P.: "On-site graduation solidified the rigorous work required in my training! I am thankful to attend. The staff was wonderful."

Shekita L.: "The onsite graduation was Spirit-filled and organized. The speech/sermon was very timely and encouraging. I accept the challenge. The singing by the Gold City Quartet was amazing. Thank you for a memorable life moment."

Clifford R.: "It was indeed a joy as well as a pleasure to attend the onsite ceremony with my wife, daughter, and church family. The preached Word was very powerful by Dr. Hayes. The testimony of Dr. Hayes senior was very touching, and I thoroughly enjoyed the singing! I intend to attend future onsite ceremonies as a proud graduate of Andersonville Theological Seminary.

Damon L.: "First allow me to say, 'Thank you' for your willingness over the years to help me when I asked for guidance as I tried to navigate my journey through each degree I earned at ATS. The professors made the courses they taught both interesting and challenging... I do not know how [the graduation ceremony] could have been more pleasing than it was. The commencement service made me proud to be there with my fellow classmates to celebrate the accomplishment each had achieved...The message Dr. Hayes delivered as the charge to the graduates was no the best I have heard on 1 Kings 19. What a powerful challenge to stand against the Jezebels of today...Also, Gold City led an excellent worship through song...I do not know how it could have been any better."

Darnell I.: "I enjoyed today's graduation and received the message from 1 Kings 19, to be encouraged, to keep the faith in Christ, to be strong in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to seek Christ's guidance and not run from perceived adversity. You all are appreciated!"

Patricia T.: "Great job! Fond memories to cherish forever...thanks for all you and Andersonville have done for me on this journey."



# Word of Mouth: The Best Advertisement

### Students Recommending to Friends Still Best Recruiting Method for ATS

While Andersonville advertises with many fine outlets and agencies such as Sermon Central, the best recruiting tool that ATS has had for over four decades is students telling students about the seminary. If every student recruited just two students over their career with ATS, the school would grow exponentially, which will only help you as a graduate!

ATS has been going strong for over four decades, and it is getting ready once again to make major upgrades in its programs, upgrades that will help strengthen the seminary's reputation and acceptance in the Christian community. With new professors once again being recruited and the addition of the Association of Biblical Counselors credentials being added, ATS will only get stronger.

Please have your friends and colleagues to visit our home page and click the Free Evaluation button, which is pictured above. There is no obligation, and you might be responsible for leading another student to the ATS family, which only strengthens the Seminary and ensures a growing student body for the future.

We hope we have been a blessing to you and that you will in turn be a blessing to us and others by recommending ATS. We pray the Lord will bless you as you continue to do His will.



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