



**Anderson  
church of Christ**  
5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, AL 35610

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

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# THE GOSPEL POWER

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation...” Romans 1:16*

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August/September2011

## WHAT A LAZY HORSE CAN TEACH US ABOUT FAITH

*Mike Wilson*

Some years ago, my wife and I went horseback riding with our neighbors, Don and Joyce. Don and Joyce weren't exactly cowboys (though Don used to dress like one sometimes), but they were seasoned veterans compared to Cheryl and me in matters of horsemanship. Cheryl had ridden a couple of times when she was growing up, and the real city slicker in the group who had never experienced this before was yours truly.

I got the tamest horse. In fact, the old "Girl" was so tame she was downright lazy. After my best efforts of pretending to play cowboy, I couldn't get "Girl" to stay up with the other horses. She lagged behind with absolutely no spunk. Even after I said all



of the right words and kicked her in all of the right places, I couldn't get "Girl" to rev up the engines.

Then, we reached the midway point on the trail and turned around; Something amazing happened. The horse with no zest for life suddenly

*(Continued on page 7)*

# ***UPCOMING EVENTS AT ANDERSON CHURCH OF CHRIST***

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## **The Book of James**

***OCTOBER 13TH AT 10:00 AM Chapter 4***

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***OCTOBER 16TH AT  
3:30 PM***

### **GOSPEL SINGING**

Join us as we, "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," - *Ephesians 5:19*



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### **FALL QUARTER 2011**

**Wednesday's at 7 PM Auditorium Class**



9/21: Modesty, 10/5: Dishonesty, 10/12: Gambling  
10/19: Profanity and the Lord's Name, 10/26: Anger Management  
11/2: Respectable Worldliness



# Fall Lectureship 2011

September 25th - 29th

*“God and the Family”*

Sunday: 9:45 AM Bible Class

10:45 AM Worship

6:00 PM Singing

7:00 PM Worship

Monday - Thursday 7:00 PM

COME HEAR THE  
WORD OF GOD!

**SUNDAY: Ken Chapman**

**Bible Class** – “A New Family” – the importance of the family being centered on God from the very start.

**AM Worship** – “Satan Confronts the Family”

**PM Worship** – “Why Marriages Fail”

**MONDAY: Norm Webb Jr.** – “Till Death Do Us Part”

**TUESDAY: Bobby Graham** – “Except it be for fornication”

**WEDNESDAY: Jeb Reaves** – Faith and the family

**THURSDAY: Jeff May** – “The Little House on the Freeway”

# CHEERLEADERS AND MODESTY

*Stan Cox*

More and more often you hear of Christian young ladies participating in cheerleading activities. Is there anything objectionable about cheerleading? Well, yes and no. There is nothing objectionable in leading cheers at football games and other school events. However, too often cheerleading includes two things that a Christian girl should have no part in: 1) Immodest dress; and, 2) Lascivious choreography.

A recent article that appeared on the internet reported that Piedmont High School principal Traci Williams (San Jose, California) enforced a long standing ban on the wearing of mini-skirts by requiring the school's cheerleaders to wear sweatpants under their cheerleading uniforms.

The school dress code requires that skirts reach



down to mid-thigh. Other students who violate the code are required to go to a special building and remain there until their parents bring suitable clothes. Senior cheerleader Antonia Bավilacqua contends that an exception should be made for the cheerleaders. As reporter Cameron Smith writes: *Now Bավilacqua is leading a charge to try and get Williams to ease up on her enforcement of the rule, citing both a prior case in Florida, common sense (another cheerleader cited the weather concerns, saying "It's 95 degrees outside"), and fashion sense as reasons to allow the cheerleaders to wear*

*their uniforms in school one day a week.*

It isn't difficult to see the intellectual vacuity of the young lady's reasoning. The school dress code is in place to restrict students from dressing in a lewd or provocative manner. And yet, on the basis of temperature (by the way, the other students are hot as well), school spirit, or (of all things) fashion sense, an exception should be made for the cheerleaders. The arguments are absurd. If there is any legal basis for a dress code in public schools, (and some deny there is), then the cheerleader and sports uniforms should conform to the code.

Of course, the application for Christians is clear and forceful. Circumstance does not change the acceptability (or lack thereof) of a person's dress. Christians who would never be

seen in immodest dress on any other occasion seem to think it acceptable if at the swimming pool, leading cheers, or engaging in sports activities. Parents want their children to fit in, and will acquiesce to pleas from them with regard to basketball or volleyball shorts, or cheerleading uniforms. There is no valid reason for such compromise. There is a reason why beach volleyball is so popular, and why the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue is the magazine's annual best

seller. It is because of the provocative dress and sensual appeal of women who participate. Any Christian mother or father who would allow their daughter (or son) to dress immodestly, whatever the occasion, should be ashamed, and will answer to God for their decision.

This article is not intended to establish what constitutes modest dress, as indicated in scripture. This we have done in other articles and sermons, and we will make the points again in the future. The point of this writing is to remind

Christians to cover their thighs, midribs and chests whenever they are in public. God always demands modesty in dress and decorum! There are no exceptions.

No, it is not wrong to be a cheerleader, or to play volleyball or basketball or softball. But, it is wrong to act or dress lewdly — ever! Unfortunately too many Christians either don't see, or refuse to acknowledge this truth. -- *via Sound Teaching, September 13, 2011*

S G A V E N A M E  
 A B J U S T E G Y  
 N E G I V E N W S  
 C L L W O R L D E  
 T I O O T H C G N  
 I E R R R H O L T  
 F V I D U M M O K  
 Y E F A T H E R N  
 C N Y E H M M Y O  
 A L S O L O V E W

## Jesus' Prayer *John 17*

ALSO	BELIEVE	COME
EVEN	FATHER	GAVE
GIVEN	GLORIFY	GLORY
JUST	KNOW	LOVE
NAME	SANCTIFY	SENT
TRUTH	WORD	WORLD

## TWO WAYS TO KEEP MEMBERS FAITHFUL

*Bill Hall*

There are two ways to keep members of the church “faithful.” The first way is to be sure everyone is involved. Have a project for each member, and make sure that he feels important in his role. Praise him for the good job he is doing. Make him feel needed; make him feel that the well being of the whole congregation rests firmly on his shoulders. That will keep him “faithful.”

There are two problems with this method. In the first place, it encourages the creation of projects that are not remotely related to the work of the local church. One member plays on the church ball team; another member leads the Boy Scout troop; another is an active member of the “Dorcas Society”; another plans the program for the men’s luncheon. Everybody is busy all right, but in activities that are not authorized

in the New Testament. In the second place, members are often given roles for which they are not qualified. A lady is chosen to teach a class not because she is qualified, but because she needs to be involved. A man is appointed a deacon to help him to be “faithful.” Another man is appointed to serve the Lord’s Supper for a month in order to encourage him to be present each Sunday that month. This method thus places “the cart before the horse,” for no one should ever be assigned any work in the Lord’s service who is not already faithful and qualified for the work to be done (2 Timothy 2:2).

The second way to keep people faithful is to develop within them a genuine love for the Lord. When people love the Lord, they will be faithful, and it won’t take some kind of “special” project to keep them faithful.

They will also be involved: in worship, in study, in godly living, in sharing the gospel with a friend, in helping the needy. I have known literally hundreds of Christians who have never in their lives been appointed to any special work, but whose love for the Lord alone keeps them faithful. There is no superficial faithfulness on the part of these; theirs is a faithfulness that is real.

Special responsibilities are fine for those who are qualified, but the man who requires some special duty to be faithful has never learned what true faithfulness is. —*Via The Seeker Sunday, February 20, 2011*

*(Continued from page 1)*

came alive. She tapped into the energy reserve tanks and started trotting eagerly without any prodding. I had to say "whoa" so much, I thought I was John Wayne for a minute. That horse knew she was going back to the barn, and I didn't have to tell her.

This incident illustrates an important aspect of Biblical faith. One reason I am a believer is because of the substantive answers the Bible gives to the question of man's existence. Whereas most people in this world go through life wandering

aimlessly, I know where I came from. I know why I exist. And I know where I'm going one day. The apostle Paul reminds Christians, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor. 4:18)

This knowledge is not based on factors which are any less reasonable to me than those which made this horse a "believer" of sorts in her anticipated afternoon rest. Moreover, because I know where I am headed, I don't want to slow down or take a different path. Such

distractions can endanger the goal that lies before me and take away the peace of mind that my current path has given me. Finally, there is a sense in which I cannot wait to get there. There is something very special on the horizon that awaits every faithful Christian. A certain lazy horse has helped me to appreciate an old prophetic refrain:

Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary (Isaiah 40:31) -- *via Focus Magazine, May 2000*

## **DO YOU ENJOY RECEIVING THE GOSPEL POWER?**

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**IS THERE ANYONE YOU WANT US TO SEND  
THE GOSPEL POWER TO? LET US KNOW!**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Bible Class 9:45 AM  
AM Worship 10:45 AM  
PM Worship 6:00 PM  
3rd Sunday 3:30 PM  
Worship

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

### ELDERS

Michael Clemmons  
(256) 247-0836  
Scottie Goode  
(931) 565-3391  
Cecil Cox (256) 627-5349

### 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  
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## Peter's Sermon on Pentecost Acts 2:14-39

*Answers from last edition crossword*

C	H	R	I	S	T	F	B	S	C
T	H	E	R	E	F	O	R	E	O
N	E	C	I	S	D	U	U	H	M
S	A	E	J	G	R	A	I	S	E
A	V	I	S	J	E	S	U	S	C
I	E	V	P	D	A	V	I	D	C
D	N	E	I	K	M	F	W	M	L
P	O	U	R	C	A	L	L	H	L
W	B	E	I	N	G	E	U	D	O
E	M	L	T	N	N	S	E	W	R
K	N	O	W	I	T	H	A	N	D

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