



**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 church.

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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

Volume XVIII, Issue 08

October/November 2011

## PAUL'S PROFOUNDLY SIMPLE STRATEGY

*Leon Mauldin*

When one reads of the disorder at the Lord's table at Corinth, it is really hard to grasp the fact that brethren would stray so far from the truth. It seems that the church was dividing itself up into mutually exclusive groups who were eating a feast (with the poor excluded) instead of partaking of the Lord's supper. Perhaps we must say with Paul, "I partly believe it." (1 Cor. 11:18.) But we want to base this article on what Paul did to correct the situation. He did not try a different message. What he did was very simple: He repeated the same truth that he had already delivered. (v. 23ff.) In other words, the message concerning the Lord's Supper was not changed or altered at all to suit the Corin-

thians. If they wanted to do what was right, they had to come back to where the truth was.

### **God's Marriage Law**

No informed person needs to be told of the rising divorce problem. But as divorce becomes a problem among people, it poses a problem to the church, because the church is made up of people. Now what is to be done when divorced people would be converted, and thus added to the church? Also what is to be done when those who are already members of the church become involved in divorce? The answer is obvious to some as to what ought to be done: Change the message of the

*(Continued on page 7)*

*UPCOMING EVENTS AT ANDERSON*

# The Book of James

*JANUARY 12TH AT 10:00 AM Chapter 5*

*DECEMBER 18TH 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*



5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, AL 35610  
Phone: (256) 247-5539

### ANDERSON CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Spring Gospel Meeting 2012

### March 25th - March 29th

For more information go to: [www.anderson-church.org](http://www.anderson-church.org)



*Come Hear The  
Word Of God!*

Sunday: 9:45 AM Bible Class  
10:45 AM Worship  
6:00 PM Singing  
7:00 PM Worship  
Monday - Thursday 7:00 PM



Speaker:  
Lowell Sallee

# DANGEROUS PREACHING

*Sewell Hall*

A man who accepts the task of preaching the gospel accepts a dreadful responsibility. "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment" (**James 3:1**). Application of these words may not be limited to what we commonly term *local preachers*, but they apply in a special way to such men. The longer a man remains with a church, doing such work, the more responsible he becomes for the convictions and faithfulness of the members.

Brother, why do you preach? Is it a profession for you, simply a way of making a living? Is it a career that you wish to enhance by building up a large congregation? Is it an opportunity to exercise your artistic talents by producing a masterpiece of words

each week? Is it the pride of having people praise your preaching for years without tiring of it? Preaching for these reasons may build reputations or even larger congregations but it will not pro-



duce godly, well-informed, and indoctrinated Christians. Preaching that is God approved is not for the advancement of the preacher but for the salvation and edification of the hearers.

Note three examples of dangerous preaching.

### ***Preaching What is False***

The Old Testament is filled with warnings. Remember

the "man of God" who died because he believed a false prophet's lie (**1 Kings 13**). Jesus warned, "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous

wolves" (**Matt.7:15**).

Peter echoed these words, predicting, "... there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies..." (**2 Pet.2:1**).

The danger of false teaching is recognized by most of us. But teaching does not have to be false to be dangerous. We have seen how the media can distort the news by reporting only selected facts. Those facts may be true but if they do not give the whole picture, false impressions are left. A mother may not feed her child poison, but if she does not

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give it the balanced diet it needs she may contribute to its sickness or even death.

### ***Preaching Only in Generalities***

We may be pleased when someone says, "You have made me eager to obey God in everything." Such words are encouraging, but we should not suppose that our job is done when this is said. Jeremiah's countrymen said, "Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God...." (**Jer.42:6**). But when Jeremiah told them what God wanted them to do, they totally rejected it and called him a liar. It is our job, as it was Jeremiah's, to show our hearers what God says they should do and not do. We need to be teaching what is wrong with profanity, dancing, drinking, immodesty, and other worldliness; as well as with the social gospel, instrumental music, Calvinism, denominationalism, institutionalism and

other doctrinal errors. Preachers, how long has it been since you have preached on these important subjects? Elders, how long has it been since the flock for which you are responsible have been taught on such subjects as these? We may think that the congregation knows about these things, but how do they know? Even if the older members know, what about young people who did not hear the old sermons of thirty years ago? It is a failure to continue preaching on such things that leaves a church open to worldliness and unscriptural innovations. My brother, Bill, has observed that churches vary in their feeling about sound doctrinal preaching. The first church does not want sound teaching and will avoid preachers they fear might produce it. The second church will accept sound teaching and appreciate it, but they do not demand it. The third church not only accepts sound teaching but will accept nothing short of it. However, those churches that will accept it but do not

get it for a period of ten years will cease to want it. ***Preaching that is Limited to Attacks on Worldliness and Error*** It can kill a church. Recently, someone reported to me their periodic visits to a very small congregation of older Christians, and observed that every time they visited the preacher was warning about some kind of apostasy that really does not threaten those faithful veterans. All Christians, young and old, need encouragement. The gospel is good news; the promises it makes and the hope it gives should be often stressed.

The same passage (**2 Tim.4:2**) that calls upon evangelists to convince and rebuke also instructs them to exhort. Exhortation involves appeal, entreaty, encouragement, consolation and comfort (Vines). "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all" (**1 Thess.5:14**).

***On the Other Hand...***

Great preaching has always come from the heart of one who was passionate about the needs of his hearers and confident that God's word is the solution to their needs. One of the temptations involved in preaching to the same congregation each Sunday is the feeling that one must come up with something that is either new, or a novel presentation of what is old. The needs of the hearers may be forgotten. One may use scripture—even limit himself to expository preaching—yet not deal

with the current **needs** of his audience.

Jeremiah rebuked the sins of his generation and warned them of future consequences until he was tempted to keep silent. "But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones. And I was weary of holding it back, and I could

not" (**Jer.20:9**). "Someone has said that there are three kinds of preachers. The first has to say something—he is a paid talker who has to fill a certain amount of time each week. The second has something to say, and that is a —whole lot better. But best of

all is the third—the man who has something to say **and has to say it**. That is the kind of preacher Jeremiah was" (L.A. Mott in *Thinking Through Jeremiah*).

Each of us who preach should ask, "What is the burning fire in my bones that I cannot hold back?" If we do not have such a burning fire, or if it is something other than "what is good for edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (**Eph.4:29**), then we had best quit preaching. —

—**Via Folsom Points**

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## STANDING ALONE

*Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.*

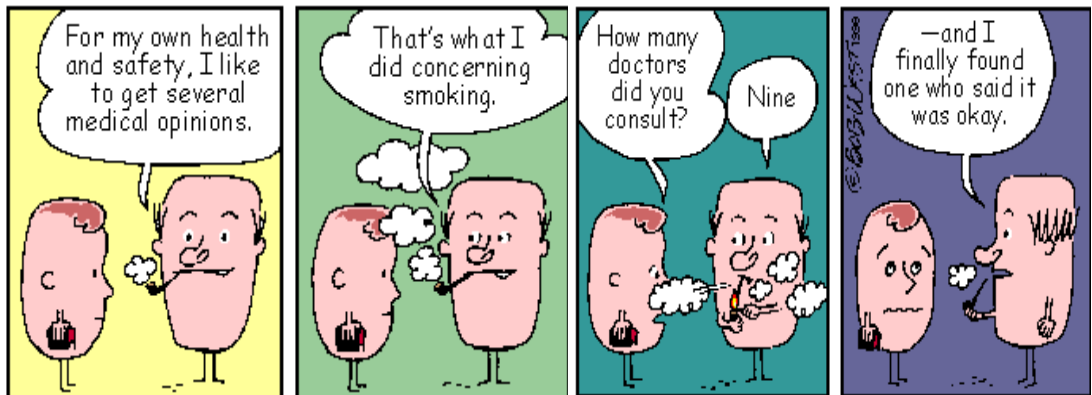
"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge." (**2 Tim. 4:16**)



In the battle for right, one should stand alone if necessary. But it should not be necessary. Paul recalls his encounter with the copper-smith. He relates, without bitterness, how he was left to fight the battle alone. Yet, he was not really alone. The Lord stood with him. (**v. 17**) How discouraging the ab-

sence of the brethren must have been. But, how encouraging was the fact that the Lord stood with him! Standing for truth is bound to produce enemies. Jesus said so much: "Think not that I am come to send peace, but a sword. For I am

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come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." **(Mt. 10:34-36)**

Standing for the truth should produce friends as well. We should openly stand for Christ. A Christian cannot help being encouraged by knowing that he has the support of good brethren in his spiritual warfare. If I had to stand alone, as Paul did, I wonder how strong I would be. I pray I shall not have to be put to the test. The moral support of good brethren in the Lord's work is priceless.

Before taking a stand with any person, one should distinguish between personality and principle. One need not feel obligated to support a brother in a purely personal dispute. In such matters both parties are usually wrong. One cannot afford to be a party to such partisanship. However, principles are held and advanced by persons. Ideas are not just loose in the air they are in people. Doctrines are not promoted by things they are taught and defended by personalities. It is too easy to dismiss every dispute in religion as a "personality clash" between the disputants. It avoids the effort of determining who, if anyone, is right. It avoids having to make the painful

decision to stand with those who are right. It may be the easy way out, but is it the right way?

People often privately admire those who take a firm stand for truth. They may even say so privately. Yet, if it comes to open identification with those people, then forget it! It might cost too much in worldly friendships.

Let us learn not to stand with any person above principle. That is cheap partisanship. But let us not be afraid to be identified with persons of principle. They should not have to stand alone - even if they are willing to. - **Via Auburn Beacon**

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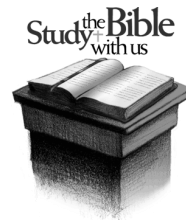
Bible to harmonize with the position which people find themselves in! But we cannot give "place in the way of subjection, no, not for an hour." (Gal. 2:5.) God's marriage law for those living under the New Testament is clearly stated in Matthew 19:9: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery." When people find themselves in divorce/remarriage situations that God does not authorize, we cannot alter the truth. If they want to do what is right, they must come back to where the truth is.

### Plan Of Salvation

In His word, the Bible, God has told of the response which man must make to His grace in order to be saved. Faith is required. (Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17.) All are commanded to repent. (Acts 17:30-31.) The name of Christ must be confessed (Rom. 10:9-10), and one is then baptized into Christ. (Gal. 3:26-27.) Because of tradition, one's family's religion, and denominational teaching, men have altered (and thus perverted, see Gal. 1:6-10), various steps of the gospel plan of salvation. People will rationalize and seek to justify their position, and attempt to explain why they

have not done what the Bible teaches in this regard. But this writer seeks to deliver what has already been delivered. In all things pertaining to spiritual matters, let us go back to the Bible for it all!

– *Via Gospel Guide, Vol. XII, No. 6*



**Sunday's at**

**9:45 AM**

**Wednesday's**

**at 7:00 PM**

## DO YOU ENJOY RECEIVING THE GOSPEL POWER?

We would like to make the Gospel Power available to all those who would be interested in reading it. We now have an emailed version of the Gospel Power. If you would like to receive the emailed version instead of the hard copy, please email your request to: [thegospelpower@gmail.com](mailto:thegospelpower@gmail.com).

**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  
Brian Word  
(931) 565-3799

### EVANGELIST/EDITOR

Aaron C. Andrews  
(256) 349-8911  
Office: (256) 247-5539  
aaronandrews@me.com

*Anderson church of Christ*  
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Anderson, Alabama 35610

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## Jesus' Prayer - John 17

*Answers from last edition crossword*

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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  
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