

# 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](http://Anderson-church.org)

**Men Priviledged To Serve:**  
Sunday, January 1st

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Exo. 8:12-21)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Monroe Pressnell  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Mark McIntyre  
Assisting ..... Brain Word  
Serving ..... Jim Phillips  
..... Curtis Mosley  
..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Jimmie Lovell  
Closing Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Bible Reading ..... (Exo. 8:22-32)  
..... Larry White  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose  
Lord's Supper  
..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Brain Word  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker

Volume XIII

January 1, 2006

No. 1

## *Essentials To Spiritual Progress*

**Matthew H. Allen**

Jesus wants to change your life! God wants nothing but your success! God provides us with the tools to change our character. We have unlimited potential because of the spiritual blessings we received when we were adopted by God in obedience to the gospel. Everyone of us can become *imitators of God*, Ephesians 5:1. But yet, we are all aware of a sad truth: some never complete the process of discipleship. Some outwardly appear that they have obeyed, but they have not really been converted to Christ. This is why we must learn what is involved in turning to Christ. What is essential to our spiritual progress?

**We must make a "clean break" with the world.** So many new Christians *crash and burn* because of divided affections. Too many people try to serve God while holding onto their former lifestyle. *Progress always consists in taking one or another of two alternatives; abandoning the attempt to combine them.* (Albert Schweitzer) Christianity is an either/or commitment! Why is this so important? Consider that non-Christians often hold to different value systems and have different goals and hopes in this life. Christians stand apart from this because they **realize what is truly important in life.** In speaking of the need to make a clean break with the world, Paul called on Christians to *come out and be separate* in 2 Corinthians 6:17. Yes this can be difficult, but eternity in heaven is worth every ounce of effort we can muster!

For example, there are lines that the Christian must not cross. Think of how our behavior should change once we begin growing up in Christ. Read the following passages and see if you can find identifying marks of proper Christian conduct: Titus 2:3, James

3:13, 1 Peter 2:12, 3:2. Clear and distinct lines have been drawn as far as who we associate with, 1 Corinthians 15:33. Christians need to evaluate the places they go (1 Peter 4:3-4), what they say, think, and how they deal with people. Our lives must be marked by sheer determination to avoid all sin and error! Why? There is no middle ground. Jesus said, *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other*, Matthew 6:24. There should be no room left in our heart, soul, or mind to love the world.

**This involves courage.** Ask, *am I willing to take a real risk based on my trust in what God can do?* In Luke 14:26-33, Jesus taught us that there is a cost with Christianity that **MUST** be counted, and if we are to be successful, then we must be totally committed to Jesus Christ. And yes, there may be some major changes we have to make in serving God. It may involve the loss of *so-called* friends, rejection by co-workers, etc. And that is where brothers and sisters in Christ come in. Those who have been in Christ for a long time must not forget that new Christians are making major changes in their life and will need their support, encouragement, and most importantly, their friendship. We need to be here for each other! The courage to change comes out of character. *What kind of person am I? Do I have any "root" in myself? Do I have what it takes to deal with difficulty?* Courage that comes from character is a matter of choice on our part.

**We must become committed to the conversion process.** Salvation requires more than a "whim" or a "passing moment." Commitment involves a conscious decision to act! When we obeyed the gospel, we went on record, confessing our loyalty to Jesus Christ and our desire to live for Him. Have we made a promise to ourselves **to do** what we have **decided**? *You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one*, (James Anthony Froude). Just the possession of a desire to get to heaven is not enough. We must act on our desire. We

must make a little progress each day in finishing what we have started. Paul wrote, *But now **finish doing it also**, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the **completion** of it by your ability*, 2 Corinthians 8:11. God calls us to move in faith, not with a wavering, wishy-washy spirit. This principle is seen in James 1:6-8: *But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.* God has no room for double-mindedness! *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded*, James 4:8. We cannot indefinitely "think about" what we are going to do—we must make a commitment to actually do it!

Are you willing to acknowledge your faith? Will you confess your faith, Romans 10:9-10? Will you confess the truth, Ephesians 4:15? If you will, you are an imitator of Jesus. The person who does not continually confess his faith is not likely to keep it. We must bear witness to the truth in every situation and verbalize our commitment to live for Christ. Are you maintaining your confession? *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful*, Hebrews 10:23. God calls on us to make a commitment to truth. Doing so will ensure spiritual progress. Are you making spiritual progress?

-via *New Living* ; Brownsburg, Indiana.

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The Anderson church of Christ  
website at:  
[www. Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

**On the Site You Will Find:**

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The **Gospel Power** in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson

# *Why Does Sin Exist?*

**Phillip Mullins**

Why does sin exist? It is a question we should think about. I believe God asks it often.

The Bible tells us how that sin came into existence. According to Genesis 2:16-17, the first man and woman were given a choice to obey God or rebel against Him. They choose to rebel by eating of the forbidden fruit. Since that time, man has continued to disobey God. From the beginning we see that God has allowed mankind the choice of serving Him or not. Therefore, sin exists because man has chosen to bring it into the world.

The question still lingers though, not from the standpoint of how sin exists, but why.

Why did Adam and Eve sin when God had blessed them with such a wonderful place to live in? Why did they sacrifice all of God's gifts for a piece of fruit? Why did they exchange God's command for Satan's lie?

Why did the ancient Israelites chase after idolatry when the Lord had displayed His great power and love over and over again? Could there be a god any stronger or wiser or more caring than Jehovah?

Why did David steal Bathsheba from Uriah when God had been so good to him?

Why did Solomon pursue the vanity of idolatry when He knew and was richly blessed by the only true and living God?

Why did Judas betray Jesus? Why did Peter deny Him? They had witnessed His great power. They had known His perfect character.

Why do you sin? Why do I sin? How could we turn our backs on the God who has made the whole world for us to live in? The God who sends the rain and the sunlight to nourish our planet. The God who has blessed us with friends and family to be loved by and to love. The God who

planned to deliver us from sin even before we were born (Ephesians 1:4). The God who weaved together people, nations, and events over a period of thousands of years to piece together His wonderful scheme of providing a Savior. How can we sin against the God who took human flesh and spilled His blood on the cross to pay for our wicked deeds? (John 1: 14; Acts 20:28)

Each time we sin we should ask ourselves why. Why do I sin against a God who is so wonderful and so good to me?

I believe God is asking and waiting for the answer.

-via *Messages*; Kingsport, Tennessee.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Myrtie Williams* had a stint implanted in her leg on Thursday... *Rodney McCrary's mother, Nadine McCrary*, is in the Huntsville Hospital and is scheduled have an arteriogram done on Monday ...*Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is in the Vanderbilt Hospital undergoing treatments ... *Angie McCrary's mother, Edna Shook*, has moved to the J. W. Summers Rehabilitation Center in Muscle Shoals ... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Amber Hammond* was sick and unable to Bible Study Wednesday night...*Jerry Best* was sick on Wednesday and not able to be out ...*Jimmie Lovell* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Brooke Phillips* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Daniel Clemmons* was sick on Wednesday and not able to be out ... *Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan*, has been diagnosed with cancer... *Myaunt, Martha Morris*, is continues to undergo chemo treatments ... *Mattie Blanche Word's son, Billy Word* continues to recover... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ...*Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette. Her condition has de-

clined... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the time for communication group one to meet. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *Cindy Pressnell* is in Florida this week with her work... *The Dickeys: Jerry and Charlotte* have been out of town on vacation... *The Hammonds: Eddie and Willodean* are in Florida on vacation... *The Rogers: Mike, Tisha, Zack and Jacob* are away visiting family this weekend.

**NEW DIRECTORIES:** The new directories are still on the table in the vestibule. If you have not picked one up yet be sure to get a copy today.

**VOLUME 13 BEGINS:** With this issue, we are beginning the 13th volume of the *Gospel Power*. I hope that good is being done through this work that the Anderson church is doing. I appreciate the many good comments I receive from those that are local and those that receive it afar. The bulletin is mailed weekly to nearly 700 homes. If you know of someone that would like to receive it please give me their name and address.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of December 25th*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 93  
 Morning Worship ..... 132  
 Evening Worship ..... 92

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 74

## Gospel Meeting

March 26 – 31

Sewell Hall, Speaking

**Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
 Anderson, Alabama

### 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 ..... (256) 247-1451  
 Monroe Pressnell ..... (256) 232-0780

#### Deacons

Jimmy Glass ..... (256) 247-0571  
 Mark McIntyre ..... (256) 233-1953  
 Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
 Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
 Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988  
 Brian Word ..... (931) 565-3799

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