

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 Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, November 12th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (Lev. 9:18-24)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jimmy Glass
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Jonathan Keenon
..... Trent Thornton
..... Zack Rogers
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Lev. 10:1-7)
..... Brad Hammond
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Phil Pressnell

Volume XIII

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No. 46

Figures of the One True Church

Dee Bowman

Marks of identification are so important. And whoever first said, “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me,” is dead wrong. Words are among the most powerful things in the world. They not only identify, but they illustrate. They not only brand, but they can either encourage or discourage, hurt or heal.

Words are vehicles of thought. They make it possible for us to “express” ourselves, make things known, to warn, exhort, correct, or manage. They are indispensable to a well-ordered life. Words are life sometimes; sometimes they are powerfully destructive. It all depends on how and when they are used, and by whom.

Figures of speech—metaphors, similes, allegories, etc.—are a vital part of our ability to describe and depict certain aspects of things, based on their similarities.

The Lord's church is called by several different figures, each of which gives a distinctive flavor as to what the church is and how it functions. It should be noted, first of all, that the church of the Bible is people. “And the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved,” we are told (Acts 2:47). The church of the Lord is the saved, viewed in the aggregate.

May I call to your attention some of the names by which the Lord's church is known in the New Testament. They are powerfully significant.

The church is called *the bride of Christ* (Revelation 21:2 ; Revelation 22:17). This describes the intimacy of the connection

between Christ and His people. They are like a bride—tender, untainted, beautiful, adorned. He loves them as passionately as a groom loves his bride. Like a new bride, He will protect and provide for them, love and care for them.

The church is called the *family* (Ephesians 3:14-15). “These things write I unto thee that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:14-15). The family is the fabric for society; the church is like that family. It is the place where tranquility and peace exist, where growing-up takes place, where there is loving correction; where there is protection from the outside elements; and where there is happiness and joy between the siblings which comprise it.

The church is called the *kingdom* (Matthew 16:18; Matthew 26:29, Mark 9:1, Luke 9:27; James 2:5; etc.). The term kingdom brings to mind the power of the king. He is King. In Him reposes all the authority. He is the ruler of the monarchy, His kingdom, His church. No council, no group of ecclesiastical persons, no human hierarchy exists to rule—only He rules. He is the King. He makes the laws; and He will judge.

The church is called the *flock* (Isaiah 40:11; John 10; 1 Peter 5:2). This is a pastoral term, implying a shepherd. He identifies Himself as The Good Shepherd (John 10:11). The shepherd leads the flock. The Shepherd will give His life for the sheep; and so He did (John 10:15). The Shepherd knows his sheep; they have an intimate relationship with Him. He will even “call them by name,” and “they hear his voice” (John 10:3). Even the local congregation is referred to in Scripture as “the flock” (see Acts 20:28), and the Elders as subordinate shepherds.

The church is called *the body* (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, etc.). The figure here is graphic, one where the head is in complete control, dictating each and every

movement of the body. Christ is “head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” The body does not control the head, but the head the body. Christ not only provides, as the head, control over the body, but growth, health and purity. “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16). He is the head; the church is His body. He is, furthermore, the “Savior of the body” (Ephesians 5:23).

The church is called His *building* (Matthew 16:18-f). “Upon this rock I will build my church,” He said, following Peter’s confession of His deity. He is its builder. He not only designed it in His immaculate wisdom, but He built it Himself (see Ephesians 3:9-11). His building is adorned by His name, and no other. He is its owner and He dictates what goes on inside it. He is the keeper of this building and He will care for it in His own way. There is strength in this building. It rests on a strong foundation and it will never be destroyed, for it was founded upon Him Who is Everlasting.

The church is called the *branches* (Jn. 15). Here is the figure of productivity. He is the Vine. The branches draw their sustenance from that vine: they can produce fruit only when they are correctly connected to the true Vine. The fruit we bear is not other branches; they can only come from the vine. But the fruit we bear is the “fruit of the Spirit,” mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness temperance.” Do you not see that such fruit is impossible without a connection to the Vine?

The overriding commonality in all these different figures of the church is one: intimacy.

There is an intimate connection between the Bride and His groom; a loving relation between the Father and his family; an inseparable connection between the King and His kingdom; a love and affection between the Shepherd and His sheep; a totally necessary connection between the Head and the body; a noticeable correlation between the Builder and what He has built; and an indivisible connection between the Vine and the branches.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

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Woe Is Me

Mike Thomley

Every now and then most of us get depressed. We start feeling sorry for ourselves because we look around and see others who seem to have all the things we want and they are enjoying life. We think of all the problems, mishaps and shortcomings in our own lives. We fail to see any valuable contribution we can make.

The phenomenon is not new. It is almost as old as the world. When considering Biblical examples, Elijah comes quickly to mind (1 Kings 19:9-10). One of the interesting characteristics of Elijah's misconception about his circumstance is how it affected his work for the Lord. He had just unquestionably defeated and put to shame wicked Jezebel and the prophets of Baal and had shown God to be the almighty power in the world. Now he has hidden himself in a cave and trembles in cowardly fear because he thinks everyone is out to get him. Ironic isn't it? Consider: If Elijah was the only faithful servant of God in the world (as he thought), would his fear

of man be justified? The man who has just shown the world the power of God, now shrinks back because he is afraid of the power of men. If anyone should have known that earthly power and might are insignificant in comparison to God's power, it was Elijah. Are we guilty of the same inconsistencies today? Do we sit around, at times, licking our wounds and feeling sorry for ourselves? Do we cry, Oh, Lord, it's so hard. The world is so wicked, the church is full of hypocrites, false doctrine is thriving. My family is giving me a hard time. Nobody appreciates the good I do. There are only a few of us, what can we do? Paul said that he could do **all** things through Christ (Philippians 4:13). He also said because we are at war with Satan and his forces, we must be prepared for battle (Ephesians 6:10-18). The outcome of the conflict has been determined (1 Corinthians 15:57), therefore, we should never be overtaken by depression or despair when it seems as if Satan has the upper hand. The revelation John received while he was in exile on Patmos is nothing more than a reassurance that God continues to maintain control and will, at His discretion, punish the wicked for their vile deeds. Elijah soon discovered life wasn't as bad as it seemed. Interestingly, we, too, see things in a new light when we endure or when we see things through. When life seems unexplainable and impossible to endure, remember Paul's encouragement in Romans 8:26-31. If God is for us, who is against us?

- via *Guidepost*; Riverdale, Maryland.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Caroline Parker* fell and broke her arm this past Thursday... *James Word* is at

home recovering from his open heart surgery and is doing well ... **C. L. Weathers** is to see his doctor on Monday about his tumor and the treatment ... **Lawinda Keenon** was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... **Virginia Lovell** has not been able to be at services due to sickness ... **Kevin Chancellor's father, Derek Chancellor**, had the blockages in his neck opened up on Monday and is doing well... **Steven Crunk's aunt, Joyce Stutts**, is having tests on her lungs and reports seem good ... **Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook**, is at home after spending a couple of day in hospital... **Charlotte Hall** has finished the first stage of her treatments and will not have another treatment for three weeks... **Myrtie Williams** is at home and not able to be out ... **Jack Tucker** is not able to be out ... **Larry Johnson** is confined at home ... **Faye Hammond** is at home ... **Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **New Georgia church** in Rogersville is beginning a gospel meeting today. They will have a singing this afternoon at 3:00 followed by a service at 4:00 p.m. Services on Monday and Tuesday will begin at 7:00 p.m. **Tim Sutton of Lacey's Spring** will be the speaker... The **Needmore church** in Haleyville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services will begin on Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. **Larry Bailey of Sydney, New York** will be the speaker.

OUT OF TOWN: **Cori Williams** is in Auburn this weekend.

THE RECORD: Attendance week of Nov. 5th
Sunday:

Bible Classes 96
 Morning Worship 114
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 94

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
 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

Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
 Office-(256) 247-5539
 E-mail address: daco@hiwaay.net

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