

# 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, December 10th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 13:18-28)  
..... Steve Parker  
Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Larry White  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Jerry Dickey  
Assisting ..... Phil Pressnell  
Serving ..... Trent Thornton  
..... Mark McCrary  
..... Tyler Cox  
..... Corey Goode  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 1329-37)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Brian Word  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jerry Dickey  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass

Volume XIII

December 10, 2006

No. 50

## *Running The Race Set Before Us*

**David A. Cox**

*"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds" (Hebrews 12:1-3).*

The Hebrew writer had just concluded listing the great men of faith in chapter 11. He begins the 12th chapter by referring to the life before us as a race. He gives several important points for us to remember as we run the race (our life) that is before us.

### *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

The great cloud of witnesses of our race are those that the writer referred to in the 11th chapter. He reminds us of how these great men of faith had run their race. Each had run carefully and according to the will of God. This should behoove us to be careful how we run and to run the race by the rules that have been given to us in God's word.

### *Lay Aside the Weights and Sin*

Anyone that begins to compete in a contest will put off any weights that will hinder them in their participation of that event. In the same way, as children of God, we must lay aside any encumbrance that will impede our running the race and seeking first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). Our hindrance in service to Him may be our job, hobbies, or people that we associate

with. Regardless of what our weights are, we must lay them aside in order to run the race and endure to the end. We must have faith in God and allow His revealed word to direct us through this race which we are running. When we lack faith and transgress God's law, then we sin (1 John 3:4). If we will rid ourselves of the weights of sin, our faith will help us to not turn away from the faith we should possess as God's children.

### ***Reminders for Us As We Run***

*Patience.* The writer first reminds us to run with patience. Patience here is the idea that in this race we must have endurance and perseverance. We must be faithful, and true, to our service regardless of what obstacles we may have in this life. It is going to take effort to live in this life and not be turned to the side. Without patience in the race, the glorious prize will be forgotten and we will not remain faithful when the hard times come.

*Look To Jesus.* We are also told that it is necessary to look to Jesus. If we are going to gain the prize we must keep our minds set on Jesus. This is the same idea that Paul had in mind as he said, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14). Paul makes it clear that as he is running the race, he forgets the things of past and looks forward to the things that are before him. As Christians in the race, let us determine that we are not going to look at all the problems and hindrances there may be in our race, but to "Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

*Endurance.* As we look to Jesus, the Hebrew writer reminds us of the endurance of Christ two different times. In verse two, he tells us that Christ endured the cross. Jesus willingly gave up his life upon the cross that we might receive the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:39). Paul said concerning the death of Christ that "he

became obedient unto death, even the death on the cross" (Philippians 2:8). Jesus suffered and died a cruel death upon the cross. By doing this, Jesus endured the cross in obedience to the Father's will. In verse three, the writer mentions Christ's endurance among those that falsely persecuted him. In our lives, there may be times that we will suffer some persecution, but we must remain faithful to God if we are to obtain the prize. Jesus was faithful to the end, even though it meant His own death. We are promised that if we are faithful to death we will receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). It may be that we are never faced with giving up our lives for the faith. But our disposition should be that if it were necessary, we would be willing to die. Commitment is stressed when the writer tells us to "look to" and "consider Jesus" in the life that He lived.

*Why?* The Hebrew writer then gives us the reason why we should remember Jesus while running the race. It is so that those running the race do not become "weary and faint in your minds." Fainting along the way is a problem for many. Life is not easy and there are many trials and tribulations that we must face. But if we continue to look to Jesus, keeping our eyes focused upon Him, we can say with Paul, who looked unto Jesus, "For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good faith, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at the that day: and not unto me only, but to all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).



### **Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

# *Can You Be Forgiven?*

**Ethan R. Longhenry**

There are many times when people recognize the truth of the message of the Gospel, yet believe that they cannot be forgiven of sin. Perhaps you feel that you have sinned so terribly that you could never be forgiven of it. Is this so?

It is understandable why many people feel this way. Sin is a terrible matter, and many times you feel great guilt when you have wronged someone. That guilt can be healthy if it is a “godly grief”, one that leads to repentance from sin (2 Corinthians 7:10). If, however, the guilt leads to you sin further or try to hide, it will lead to death!

It is good for all of us to remember that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), and there is no evidence from the Scriptures that God considers some sins to be “worse” than any other sins. We can have confidence from this, then, that all of us are on the same playing field, and no one is any worse off than anyone else: we have all sinned, and we all need redemption.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Paul teaches that even though some had committed great sin, whether through sexual immorality, lust for money, etc., they were still saved! The blood of the Lamb could cleanse them of their sins!

Paul himself is a great example from the Scriptures of one forgiven of great sin. He tells Timothy of himself in 1 Timothy 1:12-16: “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.”

Paul sheds some light on the reason why

God would use such a violent enemy of the church as one of its messengers: so that you and I would be able to see an example of one who had sinned greatly and yet found salvation in Christ Jesus. Paul considered himself the foremost of sinners; certainly you cannot consider yourself worse than Paul, who persecuted those who tried to follow God!

We are blessed to have an awesome God as our God, and we can have full confidence that He is able to forgive us of any wrongs we have committed. I do not believe that you want to believe that God is not capable of forgiving you of your sins, and I hope that you accept the witness of the Scriptures in that God is willing to forgive you of your sins. Is the issue, then, not that you are concerned that God will not forgive you of your sin, but in fact that you cannot forgive yourself for your sins? If this is the case, hear the witness of John in 1 John 3:19-20: “Hereby shall we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before him: because if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”

If God can forgive you of your sins, and He certainly can, you can also forgive yourself of your sins. God will not hold them against you, and if you continue to hold them against yourself, they can lead to your condemnation (1 John 3:21). In Christ Jesus you will be able to end your past and begin your future.

Please, dear reader, hearken to the words of the inspired apostles and obey Christ today!

~via *Good News For Norwalk*, Norwalk, Ohio.

## **N**ews and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Ronnie Phillips* has been sick and unable to be at services this past week...*Noah Lane Hammond* was sick and unable to be at

Bible study Wednesday night ... *Charles Glass* fell last weekend and was unable to be at services ... *Caroline Parker* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Mike Rogers' mom, Alice Rogers*, continues to recover from her recent surgery... *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, came home from the hospital on Monday ... *Monroe Pressnell* continues his treatments for his cancer... *Charlotte Hall* is coming to the end of her chemo treatments ... *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.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the time for Communication Group two to meet. If you are in Group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

**COMMUNION PREPARATION:** There is a new sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the vestibule for those that would like to prepare the communion for the year 2007. I appreciate all that have done it this past year. If you would like to do this please sign-up soon.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance week of Dec. 3rd

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 104  
 Morning Worship ..... 124  
 Evening Worship ..... 92  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 80

**Announcing...**

**What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study  
**When?** Sunday, January 14th, after our evening services.  
**Where?** At the home of Andrew & Marissa Gatlin  
**Subject?** Searching For Truth About The House of God

**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

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