

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 3rd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Lev. 12:1-8)
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Mark McIntyre
Serving Jonathan Keenon
..... Jim Phillips
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (Lev. 131-8)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume XIII

December 3, 2006

No. 49

What Is The Church?

Dale Smelser

Often when we say that the Bible teaches there is one body, or church, of Christ, people are incensed and pull out all their overly stretched prejudicial terms like "bigoted" and "intolerant." But Jesus did build a church, and it is his: "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). If one believes the Bible, that should be no problem. Next, Jesus is the savior of that body or church (Ephesians 5:23). He is not the savior of some other body. So there is one church of which Christ is savior. Again, that should be no problem to anyone who believes the Bible.

The real problem is in understanding what the church is. What does the expression "church of Christ" refer to? Of course some think this applies to any who claim to be Christians, or virtually all of the people and organizations grouped together as "Christendom." And they think when we speak of the church of Christ we are speaking of our denomination. They don't seem to be able to think in any other way. Really, when we use the term scripturally we are not speaking of a denomination or organizationally connected group. We are speaking of the people of God. If that is correct, we are speaking of the saved. And all not found among the saved, are axiomatically not the people of God, his church.

Who is that? The church consists of those purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). The church has been cleansed by the washing of water with the word (Ephesians 5:25-27). That allows of no sensible interpretation other than speaking of those who, instructed by the word, put their faith and trust in God, have repented, and have been baptized for the remission of their sins

(Acts 2:38). Paul was told three days after believing and repenting (Acts 9:9-11), to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins (Acts 22:16). He believed. He still had his sins. He had repented and prayed. He still had his sins. Not being cleansed of his sins, he was not part of the church of Christ. And that continued for 3 days until he called on the name of the Lord by being baptized to wash away his sins. That being done, he now being saved would have been added to the saved number, or the church (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23).

Being purchased or loosed from his sins by the blood of Christ, he became a priest, a living stone in the house of God, the church. People anywhere on earth who thus obey the word of God are saved and come into the church or body of Christ. Those who do otherwise and yield to human religious organizations that reject that, are not the church of Christ. It is that simple.

Then, God's people are to worship in spirit and in truth; in truth (which is the word, John 17:17), not in just any way they choose. The essence of worship is to please not the self, but the one worshipped (Hebrews 12:28). His word shows us what that worship is. Humanly originated religious traditions render worship unacceptable and vain. Jesus said so (Matthew 15:7-9). There is a lot of religious activity claiming association with Jesus which he does not accept (Matthew 7:31-23).

The church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23). A body obeys its head. To find the body of Christ, or his church, find the people on earth obeying Christ. Those following the traditions developed through the centuries are obeying someone, something, other than Christ. They cannot be the body of Christ. Wherever on earth there are people following Christ as his will is set forth in the New Testament, the church of Christ exists. This is not a description of "Christendom" with all its diverse doctrines, morals, and resulting diverse practices. If the parts of my body took off on their own and did

their own thing out of control of my head, I would be a monstrosity. The body, the church, obeys the head. That is the unifying principle. Those thus complying are the church. The congregations you see calling themselves churches of Christ are not organizationally connected. They are just groups of Christians following Christ. And when they fail to do that, they are not what they call themselves.

-via *Wildercroft Bulletin*; Wildercroft, Maryland



Trusting God

Edwin L. Crozier

If the Sermon on the Mount were boiled down to one major challenge, it would be "Trust God." From beginning to end, the Sermon challenges us to let go of those things the worldly trust and cast ourselves into God's arms.

The first sentence is "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This is one of the hardest. I have to learn to quit relying on me. I am not rich enough, strong enough, good enough to be part of the kingdom of heaven. So long as I rely on me, I won't ever make it.

That is tough. What are we taught in our society? If I want something done right, I have to do it myself. I have to pull myself up by the bootstraps. I have to blaze my own trail, chart my own course, guide my own destiny. I have to be in control. That is great. It will probably help me succeed in business, but it won't get me to God's kingdom.

How can I gently submit to God and other

people, unless I trust God's way for my life? If I am constantly divided thinking I need some other master or comfort or aid, I will never wholly submit to God. It takes real trust. Especially when submitting to God means facing persecution.

It is counter intuitive. Why would I do the very things that cause others to despise and ridicule me? I do them because I trust the promises of God that He who sees me even in secret has a better reward waiting for me. I will submit to Him even when others scoff because I trust Him above all others.

How can I abandon the eye for an eye mindset of personal retaliation and revenge? In the same way Jesus did. Committing myself to the Father (Luke 23:46; 1 Peter 2:23). How can I abandon the get all the accolades and honor I can mindset? By trusting God's reward is better than man's (1 Peter 1:3-5). When will I pray for God's will to be done? When I trust God's will. When will I pray that God provide me with my daily needs? When I trust God knows what I need. When will I ask for His guidance in righteousness? When I trust His righteousness is best for me.

How can I look past my daily worries? When will I not be anxious about food and clothing? We aren't talking about luxuries here, but necessities. I will overcome this when I trust God really does take care of His own. I will overcome this when I trust that the death of those who die in the Lord is blessed instead of thinking I have to hold on to this life as long as possible (Revelation 14:13).

When will I walk Jesus' narrow path, building my house on the foundation of Jesus' word? Only when I trust God above all. Proverbs 3:5 teaches us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding." That is what the Sermon is all about. Do you trust God?

-via *Franklin Church Bulletin*, Franklin, Tennessee.

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 in Real Audio.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Lou Ann 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 ...*Corey Word* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Mike Rogers' mom, Alice Rogers*, had surgery this past Tuesday and the reports are good. She will continue in the hospital there for a few more days... *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, continues in the ECM Hospital in Florence, room 558... *Luke , Mark and Sadie McIntyre* have been sick this past week ...*Virginia Lovell* has been sick this past week ...*Monroe Pressnell* began treatments for his cancer this past Monday and has been doing very well. He will be continuing these treatments through January... *Charlotte Hall* is to continue her chemo treatments on Monday ...*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.

TUESDAY CLASSES: Remember the Tuesday night class at 7:30 p.m. In these studies we are looking at the *Kingdom of God* with emphasis on Premillennialism. This week's study will be concerning Matthew 24 and Revelation 20. *Bill Hall* is teaching the classes.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Keenons: Jonathan and Lawinda* have been in Florida on vacation... *The Clemmons: Michael and Sissy* have been in Gatlinburg this past week... *The McConnells: James and Freda* have been in Florida on vacation.

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

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Belgreen church* in Belgreen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. Services will be Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. *Robert Harkrider* will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: *Attendance week of Nov. 19th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 99
 Morning Worship 121
 Evening Worship 89

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 76

Remember...

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Tonight after our evening service.
- Where?** At the home of
Aric & Andrea Butler
- Subject?** Searching For Truth
About The Church

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
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