

# 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, December 31st:

***Bible Classes***

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 14:10-20)  
..... Ray Tucker  
Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass

***Morning Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Claus Martel  
Assisting ..... Brian Word  
Serving ..... Rodney McCary  
..... Jacob Rogers  
..... Trent Thornton  
..... Michael Word  
Closing Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode

***Evening Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 14:21-32)  
..... Mark McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Steve Parker  
Lord's Supper  
..... Claus Martel  
..... Brian Word  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey

Volume XIII      December 31, 2006      No. 53

## ***Be All That You Can Be***

**Carl McMurray**

When David was still a warrior, before he became king of Israel, days were hard for him because of the constant efforts of King Saul to destroy him. For about 20 years he was pursued and hounded. I'm sure one thing that encouraged him however was the number of good men who came to join his army, some of them even from Saul's own house and kinsmen. I Chronicles 12 records some of those who came to him at Ziklag and at Hebron "to turn the kingdom of Saul to him," i.e. to help him take over as king as the Lord had declared. It is an interesting study in warfare dynamics and I believe it has some lessons for us today in our spiritual warfare.

In those that came to be joined with David there were experienced soldiers who could draw up in battle formation. These understood the necessity of discipline and order if an army was going to function properly to achieve victory. There were men who could shoot a bow or sling stones with either the right hand or left. I used to wonder about this until it occurred to me that this would have been a valuable asset in the case of an arm or shoulder wound. These men would stand near the rear and loose their missiles to thin out the ranks of the enemy. There were men who were physically quick and ferocious and are named as men of valor who bore the shield and spear. They are described as mighty men and their job was the close-in, hand-to-hand, look-em-in-the-eye style of fighting that belonged to the front line. There were captains in David's army who were captains not by reason of an officer's appointment after attending school, but by their fighting ability. The least of them was the equal of 100 men and the greatest was said to equal 1,000. These are men who crossed the Jordan in flood stage and cleared out the valleys of Israel's enemies. These men were not

farmers, writers, or politicians. They were mighty men, men of valor, trained men, and famous men who came to fight for David and the Lord's side.

There was also a different type that came. I Chronicles 12:32 says, "...of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do..." So then, not only soldiers came to David, but strategists also. Men who understood the times and could advise David in other areas besides sharp spears and strong bows. Two lessons might be drawn from this God blessed array for God's army, the church, today.

The first is that obviously all types of soldiers are needed in the Lord's army. Front line men and men who guard the flanks are all needed. Men who grasp the importance of order and discipline and men whose "faces are like lions" and are "swift as gazelles." We also need men who are specialists (in bow, sling, spear and shield) and those who can handle "all kinds of weapons."

Sometimes our battle will be in print, sometimes in a class. It might be in public debate, a TV commercial, an article on our web page, in a mail out, on a short video, or face to face over a handshake of greeting. The Lord's battleground is sometimes at a card party, on a coffee break, in a hospital room, at a barbecue, or washed in the tears of discouragement or loneliness. Wherever our Lord presents us with an opportunity to defeat Satan and his temptations, we need soldiers who are trained and observant and ready to go.

The second lesson has to do with the "sons of Issachar" and it actually can be looked at from 2 viewpoints in itself. The first is the idea itself that God included these strategists in the army he brought to David. Everyone has a talent. As in the time of David, we need a few who "know the times." That sounds simple, but it isn't. It's much too easy to be fooled into thinking that our

horizons are the world's horizons. On the other hand, each of us needs to try and be a strategist in a more personal sense so that we are planning our personal campaign constantly. What are your spiritual goals? What is our aim? How will you measure achievement? What have been your accomplishments and what do you hope to accomplish soon? Do you understand the times and have you thought about what you should do?

The second aspect of this lesson is that planning, goals, vision, etc. are necessary to achievement and victory. This is why God included them when He put David's army together. We see God's wisdom today in laying out qualifications for men today to be strategic planners, overseers, if you will, of His church. They are men and as such they will make mistakes, but they have a task to do that is God driven and we need to support their efforts just like we would if we were delivering stones to the slingers and arrows to the archers. Their jobs will not draw them commendations like "valorous" and "mighty men." but it is necessary nonetheless. It will be easy to look with hindsight and second guess their strategies later, but resist that. Instead, pick up the weapon that God has put in your hand and face our common enemy -- Satan.

Together, in Christ, our victory is guaranteed and our king is glorified on His throne.

-via *Good News*; Anderson, Indiana.



## *Trusting In Providence*

**Bubba Garner**

Is God really in control of His creation? Can He see all that is going on in the world, that His people are suffering while the scum of the earth seem to prosper and flourish? How could this happen in a world where, having spoken every-

thing into existence, He said, “it is good”? Are our lives left to fate or chance or some other random chain of events? If He has the power to change things, does He just not care to do so?

If you’ve ever asked these questions, you’re going to have to stand in line behind Christians of every age who have wondered about the seemingly unbalanced scales of justice. Jesus addressed this problem to His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount, attempting to calm their anxiety and uncertainty of the future with the simple knowledge that God provides.

If God has given us life, will He not sustain it? Jesus asked, “Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing” (Matthew 6:25)? Why would He create us in His image and according to His likeness and then abandon us to provide for ourselves? Why would He give life but not the things necessary to maintain life—things like what we’re going to eat, what we’re going to drink, and with what we’re going to clothe ourselves. He has placed us here for a specific purpose that will surely be worked out through His providence. “Just as you do not know that path of the wind and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things” (Ecclesiastes 11:5). Trust Him that He is furnishing your every want and supplying your every need.

If He feeds the birds, will He not nourish His children? “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?” Jesus continued (Matthew 6:26). If the smallest and humblest of God’s creatures are given such rich provision, what, then, for the pinnacle of creation who have become His children through the blood of His Son? Surely a God who has given Jesus to satisfy our spiritual needs has sought out ways to provide for our physical needs. And if He has gone to great lengths for our

salvation, He has earned our trust to solve the problems of every day life. “The eye that sees each sparrow fall, His unseen hand is in it all.”

If He clothes the flowers who live but a day, will He not clothe those who will live eternally? “If God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith?” (Matthew 6:28-30). There are some flowers whose story is told in one day; the seed, the sprout, the growth for just one day of bloom. Since the God of heaven has tended to those flowers whose life is but a breath and a sigh, will He not clothe with righteousness those whose destiny is eternity? Suffering, persecution, and mistreatment may be ours now, but glory awaits those who wait on Him and seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.

I may not be able to explain the extent to which the Lord is involved in our lives; I just know that He is involved. Life may be out of our hands, but it is not out of His control. The wise man said, “although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly” (Ecclesiastes 8:12). He’s still on His throne, He’s still working His plan, He’s still leading you home.

Let Him provide.

—via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas

## *News & Notes*

**THE SICK:** *Lydia & Laura Clemmons* have been sick this past week and were not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Wynell Ridgeway* was sick and unable to be Bible study Wednesday night ... *Samuel & Molly Kate Phillips* were sick and not able to be Bible study Wednesday night ... *Abby Chancellor* was sick

and not able to be Bible study Wednesday night ...**Larry & Dyanne Johnson** have been sick with the flu this past week ...**Jerry Dickey** was sick this past Wednesday and unable to be Bible study ... **Monroe Pressnell** continues his treatments for his cancer... **Myrtie Williams** is at home and not able to be out ...**Jack Tucker** is not able to be out ...**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.

**THE CREELS:** It was good to have the Creel family visiting with us last week. Richard preached here at Anderson from 1977- 1983. I know that many of you were glad to see Richard, Beth and the girls. Richard preached for us Sunday morning and had an excellent lesson on *Love Without Hypocrisy*.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Angie McCrary** and *all the family* in the passing of Angie's father, **Bufford Shook**, this past Thursday morning. His funeral was Saturday in Center Star.

**REJOICE:** We rejoicing over the two recent marriages among us at Anderson. **Jason White** and **Joy Caldwell** were married on December 16th in Athens. Last night, **Eddie Garner** and **Katy Goode** were married in Killen. We wish the very best for these two couples as they begin their lives together as husband and wife. May the Lord richly bless them.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **The Chancellors:** **Kevin, Laurie & Abbygail** are in Corinth, Mississippi... **The Blakelys:** **Brian, Sarah, Hayden and Brooke** are in Ohio today and will be returning on Tuesday... **The Hammonds:** **Eddie and Willodean** have gone to Florida on vacation.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance week of Dec. 24th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 118  
 Morning Worship ..... 132  
 Evening Worship ..... 80  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 76

**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: dacoxx@hiwaay.net

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 P.O. Box 66  
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

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