

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, April 16th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Exo. 23:20-26)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Eddie J. Hammond
Assisting Steve Parker
Serving Jacob Rogers
..... Jim Phillips
..... Brad Hammond
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Exo. 23:27-33)
..... Larry White
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
..... Eddie J. Hammond
..... Steve Parker
Closing Prayer
..... Phil Pressnell

Volume XIII

April 16, 2006

No. 16

So What Is The Church, Anyway?

Dee Bowman

There is continual confusion about what the church is in this generation. People want to “up-grade” the church, to make her more culturally acceptable, more “up- to-date.” Please allow me a few minutes of your time to examine what is and what is not the church. And please be advised, I am not answering this question as it pertains to what man thinks, but what God says. After all, the church didn’t originate in the mind of man, but in the mind of God, according to His eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:9-11).

The church is not an institution. While it is an institution in the sense that it was divinely instituted, it is not some corporate entity like a business, one where the rules of incorporation are different from the people who comprise the enterprise. Rather, the church is a relationship, a relationship between God and His saved people, those who have complied with His terms for salvation. The church is saved people (Acts 2:47). You are not in the church to be saved; you’re in the church because you are saved. The church is the saved.

The church is not a country club. The church of our Lord is a spiritual entity, not a physical one. It never was God’s intention to make the church an organization to provide for the social needs of men. It has no assignments that pertain to meeting men’s aesthetic propensities—like providing musical entertainment or parties for the enjoyment of its members. Now that is not to say that music has no role in the church, for according to God it is an important part of the worship He deserves, as well as “teaching and admonishing one another” (Ephesians 5:19). And the gatherings

on the Lord's day, as well as on other occasions deemed expedient for coming together, are certainly socially agreeable to men, for they edify and build up the membership.

The church of our Lord is an edification society (Ephesians 4:12; Romans 14:17-19; Hebrews 10:23-25). But it is not the duty of the church to provide for "Mother's Day Out," or counseling for those needing psychological help, or for Boy Scout Troops, or softball teams. The church is not in the restaurant business. The church has a spiritual mission, not a mundane one.

The church is not a law-making body. That is, it does not have the right to make its own laws. The church belongs to Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27); He governs it. Man cannot add to nor can he diminish from the things of God without incurring His disfavor. "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God" (2 John 9). The church does not dictate its own course. The Scriptures are sufficient to "furnish the man of God unto every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible is complete and needs—nor will it tolerate—more or less than it is. The church does not make laws, it merely practicalizes what has already been made law by God.

The church is not a benevolent society. It is not the business of the church to take care of the world's poor. That sort of benevolence is the work of individuals (James 1:26-27; Galatians 6:10). In the first place, such an endeavor would quickly demand all the time and resources of the church (consider the *Salvation Army*); and in the second place, there is absolutely no authority for such an endeavor. Nowhere in Scripture will you find where the church saw as its mission to feed and clothe the less fortunate, unless they were needy saints—and then only until the need was finalized (Acts 11:27-30). You will search in vain to find where the New Testament church ever built a permanent organization to feed the hungry or provide care for un-wed mothers or aged

saints.

The church is a preaching, teaching, worshipping organization—built to honor God, to propagate the gospel message, to edify itself, to care for its own. In short, the church of Christ is meant to bring glory to God, and to help men get to heaven by doing, in every thing they do, what God has said.

-via *Southside Sunday* Pasadena, Texas.



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.

Plant The Pure Seed

Allen Dvorak

Springtime is just around the corner and the occasional warm days are making the gardeners restless. Soon we will be tilling the ground, buying seeds and planting our gardens. Imagine our surprise if we were to plant green beans and

corn sprouted. What a shock it would be to find that my lettuce seed produced watermelon plants. What if I planted cucumber seeds and they produced prize-winning pumpkins? Gardening would take on a whole new flavor (pardon the pun!).

Fortunately we do not encounter such surprises. I cannot predict how much rain will fall or how much fruit my plants will yield, but if I plant corn seed, I know that it always produces plants which bear corn seed. Cucumber seeds **never** produce pumpkins! The reason for this agricultural reliability is found in the biblical story of the creation. When God created the plants, He commanded that each should yield seed "according to its kind" (Genesis 1:11-12).

Jesus claimed that the Word of God is also seed. In the parable of the soils, He declared that the type of ground determines how much fruit, if any, is produced (Matthew 13:3-9). All of the soils in the parable received the same seed and all fruit produced was of the same kind. We read in the book of Acts that Jesus' chosen apostles planted that seed, the gospel, and it bore fruit in the lives of those who had "ears to hear" (Matthew 13:9).

Just as with garden seeds, God's law of reproduction is evident in the spiritual realm also. The gospel preached in the first century always produced Christians, disciples of Jesus Christ. Together they constituted the spiritual family of God which we know as the church. Every time the gospel seed is planted, if it does indeed produce fruit (see Matthew 13:18-23), it will always produce the same kind of fruit. This is God's inexorable law and remains in effect today.

As a child helping my mother to garden, I can remember having the occasional corn plant in among the beans or vice versa. It was not because bean seeds were producing corn plants, but because we had carelessly gotten some corn seed mixed in with the bean seed. We can easily

see why there are so many differences among the churches in our community. Not everyone is planting the same seed! If mixed with human ideas and prejudices, the gospel of Jesus Christ will produce a different plant than it did when preached in its purity and simplicity in the first century. But is this bad?

Allow Paul to answer the question. He wrote to the Galatians that anyone, even an angel, who preached a different gospel would be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9). Jesus said this way: "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted" (Matthew 15:13). The Bible confirms that we must strive to plant the pure, unadulterated seed of the gospel in the hearts of men.

~via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.



News and Notes

THE SICK: *Chalotte Dickey* had out patient surgery on Friday in Florence ...*Mark McIntyre's & Tammy Bryant's mother, Oakie Choe*, had some tests done this past week and the preliminary reports were not good. They will get final results on Monday...*Jimmy Glass' sister-in-law, Joan Glass*, has been in the hospital this past week in Huntsville undergoing tests ...*Henry Trousdale* suffered a fall this past Monday, but is at home... *Jimmie Lovell* had some tests done on Wednesday and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Laurie Chancellor, Isabella Hammond, Caroline Parker, Erin Cooper, and Corey Word* have been sick this past week and were not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...

Mattie B. Word's son, Billy Word, is in the Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville...*Doris Newton's brother, Preston Dean,* is now at home recovering from his recent surgery ...*Larry Johnson* is at home and not able to be out ... Remember *Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan,* who has been dignosed with cancer... *Myrtie Williams* is at home unable to be out... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ...*Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire,* continues in a nursing facility in Fayette... *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 is the night for Communication group three to meet. If you are in group three remember to meet with your group this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: *Cori Williams* is in Toronto, Ontario this week visiting with Ray and Judy.

ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING: There will be an elders and deacons meeting this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. here at the building.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Underwood Heights church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00p.m. *Truman Smith* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Jeff Himmel* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: *For the week of April 9th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 106
 Morning Worship 131
 Evening Worship 95

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 89

Remember our service tonight st 6:00.

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
 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

Evangelist & Editor

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

U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Bulk Rate
 Anderson, Alabama
 Non-Profit
 Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ
 P.O. Box 66
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested