

# 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, April 2nd

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Bible Reading ..... (Exo. 21:26-36)  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Larry White  
Assisting ..... Mark McIntyre  
Serving ..... James McConnell  
..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Jim Phillips  
..... Zack Rogers  
Closing Prayer  
..... Monroe Pressnell

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading ..... (Exo. 22:1-8)  
..... Steve Parker  
Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond  
Lord's Supper  
..... Larry White  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker

Volume XIII

April 2, 2006

No. 14

## *Can The Bible Be Seen Alike?*

**David A. Cox**

Often, very little attention is given to the question of religious division, but it remains a very serious matter. There is the concept that we are not able to see or interpret the Bible alike. The scriptures teach that the Bible can be and is expected to be understood alike. The apostle Paul told the Ephesians, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but *understanding* what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). However, many times, religious division is a result of those who have not studied the Bible for themselves and have relied on others to tell them what the Bible teaches. This then results in men following what men say through their creeds, confession of faith, disciplines, manuals, etc. rather than what the word of God teaches.

### **Is It A Matter of Personal Interpretation?**

First, let us look at the question that arises, "Can we see the Bible alike or does it depend upon each individual's interpretation?" We can clearly see from the New Testament that those in the first century understood the teaching they received alike (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32). The Bible is very clear concerning the unity that should exist among those who profess to be Christians. In John 17:20-21, Christ's prayer for His disciples was, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be one is us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Christ prayed that His disciples and those that are taught, by the word, would be *one*. This includes those taught in the first century, as well as today. This does not give the idea that one's personal interpretation has anything to do with being united with God and Christ.

### **Unity Expected**

The unity that Christ prayed for in John 17, is commanded of those that follow Christ. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to “be of the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10) and further told the Philippians “...let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing” (Philippians 3:16). However, this unity is impossible to obtain while different denominational bodies teach conflicting doctrines from the various creed books, but claim to be followers of Christ. In order to achieve the unity of which Paul was speaking of and prayed for, we must all use the same standard as our authority in religious matters. We recognize this when it comes to others areas of life such as: building, cooking, and playing fields for ball games. Then why should we not think that we must follow the standard God has given? The first century Christians were united because they “continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine” (Acts 2:42). They used the only standard of authority for the things that they practiced in religion.

### **What We Must Learn**

First century Christians were united, being taught by the apostles to be of the same mind and judgment. They understood Christ’s desire for unity among those who would believe through the inspired word of God. Since this was the case then, why then do we not use the only divine rule? The answer is that many do not have the proper attitude toward the word of God. The same attitude is seen in the children of Israel as the elders went to Samuel and said to him, “now make us a king to judge over us like all the nations” (1 Samuel 8:5). The elders of Israel wanted a king to be “like all the nations”. Many times people want to believe the Bible, but they have their attitude toward what the word of God teaches altered by popularity, family relationships, preconceived ideas, allurements to the things of this world, etc.

We must understand that what is taught in the Bible is very important because it teaches us

“all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). Therefore, the Bible, God’s inspired revelation to man, teaches us what we should do to be pleasing and faithful to Him in order to receive the crown of life (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 2:15; Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:7-8). The apostle Paul made it clear to the Galatians that they should be able to understand the gospel that was taught and be able to recognize error when it was taught (Galatians 1:6-9). To do this we must heed the exhortation of Paul to “study to shew thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Therefore, knowing God’s will for us.

The Bible can be, and is understood alike when we determine to practice only the things taught in God’s word. We must endeavor to “speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11); not adding anything to or taking anything away from the word of God (Revelation 22:18). In doing this we will be following the divine rule, there will be no divisions and we will see the Bible alike!



## ***Divide and Conquer***

**Al Diestelkamp**

There is little doubt that one of Satan’s tactics, in his effort to “kill and destroy” (John 10:10), is to divide and conquer. He knows that if he can get Christians to “bite and devour one another” (Galatians 5:15) that he will not only win the parties involved, but will also turn others away from Christ.

Satan doesn’t care whether the division among Christians arises from personal disputes, cultural differences, or doctrinal issues. He’s willing to use any and all avenues of driving wedges and splintering the body of Christ, one

congregation at a time.

Knowing this to be one of Satan's devices should motivate Christians to foil his plan by being determined to "be of one mind" (2 Corinthians 13:11). Of course, in order to do this we must have "compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8).

Diverse personality traits will sometimes provoke disputes among brethren. When that happens we need to remember that we are commanded to "pursue peace with all men" (Hebrews 12:14). That means work at it! Otherwise, it is bound to result in bitterness, which will "cause trouble, and by this many become defiled" (Hebrews 12:15).

The handling of doctrinal differences is another area in which we need to work hard in order to maintain, if at all possible, peace among our brethren. There is no doubt that we must be willing to "contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3), but we can do that without being contentious. Our defense of the truth must be accompanied by a sincere desire to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Doris Newton's brother, Preston Dean*, had surgery this past Wednesday in Florence and continues his recovery at ECM hospital ... *Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips' grandmother, Vera Simmons*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Virginia Lovell* has

been able to be back at services this week after a being sick... *John Lovell* is to have some tests this week ... *Jimmie Lovell* had some tests done this past week ... *Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey*, is now at home from the hospital ... *Larry Johnson* is at home and not able to be out... Remember *Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan*, who has been diagnosed with cancer... *My aunt, Martha Morris*, continues to undergo chemo treatments... *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 one to meet. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening.

**PLACED MEMBERSHIP:** *Claus and Sanda Martel* have expressed their desire to be members of the Anderson church. We want to extend a warm welcome back into fellowship with the church here.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Gatlins: Andrew and Marissa* are out of town this weekend in Atlanta.

**NEW BABY:** We rejoice with *The Clemmons: Daniel, Marla and Lydia* in the birth of *Laura Kathryn* at 8:20 p.m. on Wednesday. *Laura Kathryn* weighed 6 lbs. 10 ozs. and was 19 inches long. *Laura Kathryn* and *Marla* are now at home and doing well. We also rejoice with *Michael & Sissy Clemmons* and *Jimmy & Sonya Blackburn* as the proud grandparents.

**OUR MEETING:** We have been blessed this past week to have brother *Sewell Hall* with us for our spring meeting. The gospel was preached and I know that all who came benefitted from the lessons. We recorded all of the lessons on CD and DVD. If you would like a set of either

one, please let us know.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Pleasant Valley church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Helton Drive church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Bryan Gibson* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Sandlin Road church* in Elkmont is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *David Hartsell* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Elkton church* in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today. The meeting will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00p.m. *Robert Fudge* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Brookhill church* in Killen is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday. The services on Monday and Tuesday will begin at 7:00 p.m. *Buc Chumbley* will be the speaker in this meeting ... The *Sunny Hill church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The services on Monday through Friday beginning at 7:00 p.m. They will have different speakers as follows: Sunday morning – *Jerry Curry*; Sunday evening – *Greg Chandler*; Monday – *Kasey Harbin*; Tuesday – *Bill Smith*; Wednesday – *Gilbert Alexander*; Thursday – *Elijah Aaron*; Friday – *Mark Nave*... The *College Place church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Glenn Jones* will be the speaker in this meeting.

**THE RECORD:** For the week of March 26th

**Sunday:**

- Bible Classes ..... 114
- Morning Worship ..... 141
- Evening Worship ..... 111

**Wednesday:**

- Bible Classes ..... 87

**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

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