

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, June 18th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Exo. 31:12-18)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Eddie J. Hammond
Assisting Rocky Rose
Serving James McConnell
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Exo. 31:1-10)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
..... Eddie J. Hammond
..... Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Volume XIII

June 18, 2006

No. 25

How Do We Come Across?

Matthew H. Allen

Practically every day of Jesus' ministry found him either opposed by or opposing error and sin. We read of conflicts with the Pharisees in Matthew 12 and 23. And, in Matthew 16, Jesus even found Himself in conflict with his disciples. Jesus taught His followers to expect trouble, opposition, and controversy. It has been said that in all of the history of our Lord Jesus Christ, we never find him out of controversy. There is no doubt that Jesus powerfully and honorably stood against error, and in doing so He exposed the false teachings and hypocrisy of His day.

The New Testament writers were not afraid to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Paul wrote about how he was set for the defense of the gospel, Philippians 1:16. Acts tells us of how he spoke boldly and reasoned from the scriptures. Jude boldly warned believers to stand up against religious error. He made it perfectly clear of our need to engage in whatever controversy the forces of the devil make necessary. Christians should contend earnestly for the faith, Jude 3. There is an unmistakable concept presented in the gospel: Christians have the responsibility to stand for truth and defend God's ways against those who are willing to compromise.

While there is a clear need to stand for God's way of doing things, Paul also wrote: Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person, Colossians 4:5-6. When communicating the fact of religious error to those who are outside of the body of Christ, or to those who are new Christians, how do we come across? What is the perception we leave? We must

exercise caution with the words we speak, lest a few careless words slam shut the doors of opportunity to teach. Sometimes we can leave the impression that our religious friends in denominations are less than smart, insincere, and at best, willfully deceptive. And with an overwhelming majority of cases, that is simply not the case. While I'm sure we know that, is this always the impression that comes across? We need to be on guard lest our bible classes or sermons denigrate into little more than discussions of us verses them and of our disbelief of how anyone could believe the bible that way. While our intention is noble, in that we wish to objectively contrast denominational doctrine with Christ's, we must not make the conversation personal. And things can go that way in a hurry. I like Guy N Wood's writing. He once said, an alleged defense of the truth at the expense of a sincere heart and peaceful disposition is illogical and irrational. It is absurd to attempt to do right by doing wrong. Men have made themselves murderers on the pretense of doing God's will. Remember Paul didn't make his argument personal, he reasoned from the scriptures, Acts 17:2.

Some are governed by the mentality that having the truth somehow excuses them from using tact and godliness in the way they speak of others. However, Christians are to be governed by the principles found in Colossians 3:12: put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. While the truth may be on the side of the New Testament Christian, truth does not excuse him to judge motives, doubt sincerity, and treat issues with brute force that should be handled in love. When speaking about denominational doctrine or other religious errors propagated by those outside of Christ, God's kind of person will make sure God is glorified by the way truth is shared with others.

Accomplishing this takes wisdom. Christians need to pray for wisdom, James 1:5. In James 3:17 the writer describes how those with wisdom conduct themselves: the wisdom from

above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. This is the effect New Testament Christianity is to have upon our heart and life, and it will be revealed by the way we speak! We have been created to have this kind of disposition. Wisdom understands that gentleness is not always to be equated with weakness. Wisdom knows that we must speak the truth in love, Ephesians 4:15. Place yourself in the shoes of an average guest from the community who visits bible classes and services. What would you think of the conversations that take place in some bible classes? Are there impressions cast that would cause a person to come away thinking of those in Christ's Church as being arrogant and condescending?

While speaking the truth in love, some will be offended by an objective effort to contrast truth with error. And when truth is explained in the spirit of Christ, we make no apology. God calls everyone to treat His word honestly and soberly, 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Some persons are in no way interested in truth or making correction. These have closed their hearts and they will answer to God for that. But let us be aware of how we come across and always keep the words of Jesus near our hearts: In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets, Matthew 7:12.

-via *New Living*: Brownsburg, Indiana



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Attitudes Toward Evil

George Hutto

One of the great moral problems in America today is that people have not learned to hate sin.

Indeed, some have even advocated that we should abolish the concepts of “good” and “evil.” After all, when a deed is labeled “wicked”, it signifies guilt. The feeling of guilt is not an enjoyable emotion. However, there are still many who are willing to accept the consequences of good and evil based upon faith in God and the teachings of the Bible.

How is it that people embrace things that destroy them? Smoking is a good example. It causes emphysema with the horrible breathing problems that accompany it. It causes cancer. It is unclean. It is expensive. It is offensive to others. Yet, people still smoke. Other examples could be cited, such as drinking, pre-marital/extra-marital sex, and drug abuse.

Sin is like that. It does serious damage to the souls of men, and they keep right on sinning. It destroys their relationship with God. It ruins their relationship with their neighbors. It robs them of hope in this life and in the world to come (Romans 2:3-11).

One known to the author was told by his doctor that if he did not stop drinking and smoking he would die. The reply was that he may as well go ahead and die, for drinking and smoking were all that he had to live for. Something is wrong when people live for the very things that kill them.

The Bible does not hesitate to expose and condemn every form of sin. But it also offers a cure for sin, with guidance to overcome, and further to avoid. For those who will accept the message, confess their faith, repent of their sin, and be baptized for remission of sin, there is hope (Acts 2:37-38; Acts 8:38-39). “As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the

death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live...” (Ezekiel 33:11).

-via *Gospel Guide*; vol. 34 No. 5; May 2002

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* is in the ECM hospital in Florence...*Janice Moody* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services...*Steve Parker* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Jack Tucker* is not able to be out as much as he would like and we have missed him and Onzell at services... *Jeremy Pounders mother, Judy Pounders,* will be undergoing tests soon to check some difficulties see is having...*Larry Johnson* is at home and not able to be out ...*Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan,* has ended her treatments... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and unable to be out... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Phillips: Jim, Broke, Samuel and Molly Kate* have been out of town this past week ... *The Phillips: Ronnie and Lou Ann* are back in town after being away the first part of the week... *The McCrarys: Rodney, Angie and Mark* have been out of town on vacation... *The McIntyres: Suzette, Sadie, Luke and John* have been in Russellville at Rustic Youth Camp this week... *Cori and Judy Williams* has also been at camp this week.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication Group three to meet. If you are in group three remember to meet with your group this evening.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY This morning *Claus Martel* will continue the taking of pic-

tures for our new pictorial directory. If you have not had your picture made, get it made as soon as possible so we can get the updated directory published.

ELDERS MEETING: The elders will be meeting this afternoon at the building at 4:30 p.m.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* in Athens will have a meeting this week through Friday. The services will begin at 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be: *Connie Adams of Brooks, Kentucky* ... The *Russellville church* in Russellville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m. *Mark White of Florence* will be the speaker... The *Centerview church* in Russellville has a meeting beginning today and continuing through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Isbell church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Bob Waldron* speaking. Services will begin nightly at 7:00.... The *Newburg church* east of Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Lonnie Oldag* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: For the week of June 11th

Sunday: Bible Classes 111
 Morning Worship 127
 Evening Worship 83

Wednesday: Bible Classes 96

Vacation Bible School

July 10-14 – 10:00 a.m.

Harold Comer, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

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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