

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 25th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Exo. 32:19-27)
..... Brad Hammond
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry Dickey
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Corey Goode
..... Jacob Rogers
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Exo. 32:28-35)
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
..... Jerry Dickey
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Larry White

Volume XIII

June 25, 2006

No. 26

Whose Authority?

David A. Cox

As Jesus continued his personal ministry and His teaching, we read, “And when He was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto Him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority” (Matthew 21:23). Although we later find out that the chief priests and the elders were not honest in this inquiry of Jesus, by their own admission, (vs. 25-28), it does not diminish the fact that it is a question of utmost importance. Authority means “the power or right to command, make decisions, enforce obedience.” Whose authority are we following? It is a good question that all God-fearing people should ask and consider as they seek to worship and serve God pleasingly (John 4:24; Colossians 3:17).

The Misplacement of Authority

Man places authority in religion in many different things. Man places authority for what he does religiously in his own conscience and feelings; and sometimes in other men such as Joseph Smith, Martin Luther, and John Calvin. Sometimes men look to a council, convention, the majority or even his ancestors. It is when man looks to the wrong place for his authority that division is created in the religious world. We see an example of this in First Corinthians 1 when those at Corinth were saying, “I am of Paul, and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ (verse 12). It due to the misplacement of their authority that caused the church to be divided. Paul, seeing this division, told them in verse 10, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and

the same judgment.” Paul told them that unity was expected and that it is possible. How? As they would recognize and heed the one true authority, unity could be had.

The One True Authority Is Christ

We can see that Christ is the authority that we are to follow. Just before Christ’s ascension into heaven he told His disciples, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he explained the position of authority that the Father had placed Christ in “when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:20-22). Paul used very similar language of Christ’s authority when writing concerning the end and the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:24, “Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and all power.” In these passages we are given abundant proof that Christ now has all authority. He is the one true authority and will continue to have this authority until this word comes to an end.

In John 12:48, Christ declared that the word that He had spoken would be the standard by which men will be judged. In Hebrews 5:9 the writer, speaking of Christ said, “And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey Him.” Salvation is conditioned upon one’s response to the commands given by our authority, Christ.

Christ is our authority today. He has the right to give commands, make decisions and enforce obedience. We must then, be obedient to the gospel of Christ. For in the day of judgment, we will be judged according to how our lives measure up to the gospel given. Our

destiny will be determined on whether we have been obedient or disobedient to the gospel. Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ and submitted your life to His authority? If not, why? “Now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).



Climatized

Don Truex

No, “climatized” isn’t really a word. But it should be. It expresses an obvious idea, namely, folks from the North (me!) are warned that after a while in Florida, you become so accustomed to the warm that occasional, moderated cold front will seem truly cold.

It is easy to get used to things, isn’t it? We get so comfortable with surroundings that they inevitably begin to make an impression, whether we want them to or not.

For example, have you ever listened to a type of music for so long that you no longer give it any real thought? The result is that at times we may find ourselves humming or singing words which we would never utter in more sober moments. There is a message in that. The same holds true for what we allow into our living rooms via television. Particularly is that true with the advent of cable. Words and scenes that originally shocked us can easily become commonplace. The stench of trash loses its offensiveness the longer it is entertained.

Or consider an old illustration: Isn’t it amazing how quickly our eyes adjust to the darkness when we walk into a movie theater? It just doesn’t take very long to get used to the dark.

Remember (if this applies to you) how badly that first life, or first drink, or first illicit act, or first forsaking of worship – how badly it hurt your conscience. Remember how much guilt it brought. And if you have continued in any of these, think how little it now hurts – how little guilt you now feel. You see, it’s easy to adjust to the dark.

The antidote? Listen to the conscience God has given you. That conscience will not be easily, willingly, eclipsed by the darkness of unrighteousness. It will fight you until it so “seared” by repeated violation that it can fight now more (1 Timothy 4:2)

Becoming “climatized” to the weather really doesn’t matter. Becoming accustomed to sinful behavior makes all the difference in the world – this and the world to come.

-via *Think On These Things*, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Vacation Bible School

July 10-14 – 10:00 a.m.

Harold Comer, Speaking

Sunday July 9th

Harold Comer, Speaking

9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after her recent surgery and another stay in the hospital...*Ava*

Mosley has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services...*Lou Ann Phillips* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Jack Tucker* is not able to be out as much as he would like ... *Larry Johnson* out some out-patient surgery done this week and is doing well ... *Claus Martel's father, Gene Martel*, is heart problems with his heart rate and will be going back into the hospital...*Jeremy Pounders' mother, Judy Pounders*, is awaiting tests soon to check some difficulties she is having...*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 Crunks: Steven, Erica and Carson* have been out of town this past week ...*Glenda Phillips and Andrea Butler* have been in Florida this week...*The Words Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia* left on Friday and are in Orlando for several days visiting family...*Sanda Martel* will be leaving Wednesday for Cape Canaveral for the shuttle launch due to her work.

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

PREACHING TONIGHT: *Jimmy Glass* will be preaching in my absence tonight while I am away preaching at the *College View church* in Florence. I will be there in the VBS through Wednesday night.

NEW BABY: We rejoice with *Kevin and Laurie Chancellor* on the birth of their baby girl, *Abbygail Leigh*. She was born Wednesday evening at 6:00 at Huntsville Hospital. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 ozs. and was 21 inches long. She is now at home with her mother and daddy.

BILL HALL TEACHING CLASSES: As was announced last Sunday, Bill Hall will begin work in July preaching for the *Cason Lane church* in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on Sundays for a period of time. During this time he will be worshipping with us on Wednesday evenings and will be teaching classes. The plans are for brother Hall to begin teaching in our next quarter on Wednesday nights in the adult class. There will only be one adult class next quarter. In addition to this, there will be other classes taught at some other time which will be determined later for those that would like to participate. I am looking forward to this arrangement and I know that we will profit from it.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The *Wilson Dam Road church* in Muscle Shoals will have a meeting this week through Friday. The services will begin at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be: *David McClister of Tampa, Florida* ... The *College View church* in Florence is beginning a Vacation Bible School tomorrow morning and it will continue through Wednesday. The study will begin at 9:30 am. & 10:30 a.m. for all ages. Then in the evening, there will be a study for High school/College at 7:00 p.m. It is my privilege to be the speaker for the adult classes and evening class for the young people... The *Piney Grove church*, south of Tusculumbia, has a meeting beginning today and continuing through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Lonnie Oldag* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Midway church* in Greenhill is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Gary Patton* speaking. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m.... The *New Georgia church* will be having a Vacation Bible School beginning tomorrow and continuing through Friday at 10:00 a.m. *Greg Chandler* will be speaking to the adult class.

THE RECORD: *For the week of June 18th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 108
 Morning Worship 123
 Evening Worship 78
Wednesday: Bible Classes 93

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

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