

# 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, July 16th

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Exo. 34:18-26)  
..... Rocky Rose  
Prayer  
..... Brian Word

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Jimmy Glass  
Assisting ..... Jerry Dickey  
Serving ..... Rodney McCrary  
..... James McConnell  
..... Zach Rogers  
..... Aric Butler  
Closing Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Bible Reading ..... (Exo. 34:27-35)  
..... Andrew Gatlin  
Prayer  
..... Steve Parker  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jimmy Glass  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

Volume XIII

July 16, 2006

No. 29

## *Stealing The Thunder of the Thief*

**Bubba Garner**

I recently saw a list of some of the most famous thieves in American History. People like Bonnie and Clyde were near the top and even Robin Hood was given special mention. But there was one glaring omission. He is not famous in the sense that everyone knows his name or what he looked like. He is not known for what he stole or who he stole it from. He is simply called "the thief on the cross."

It is a favorite line that finds its way into many a conversation about salvation. "What about the thief on the cross?" I once heard a slight, yet strangely refreshing variation, "what about the crook on the cross?" And even when we were handing out literature in Jamaica, one of the shopkeepers kept arguing the case of the "teef on the cross." Different terms, same argument.

Well, what about the thief on the cross? Why is he given so much attention by our religious friends? As Isaiah predicted, Jesus was "numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12), crucified between "two robbers" (Mark 15:27). But these two men who were alike in life were separated in death. Only one of them said to Jesus, "remember me when You come in Your kingdom," to which the Lord replied, "truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:42-43). Does that prove that a man is saved by faith alone?

**What about Luke 5:24?** That's where Jesus healed the paralytic who had been let down through the roof, saying that He did so "in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." In the same gospel, He told Zaccheus "salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9). When was the last

time you heard anyone say, “what about the paralytic” or, “what about Zaccheus?” What these and other cases prove is that the thief on the cross was not the only person to whom Jesus extended salvation before His death. And it was not until after His resurrection that He pronounced with all authority, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). Why would the Lord hold the thief or the paralytic or anyone accountable to a command that had not yet been given?

**What about Romans 10:9?** “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.” People argue that baptism is not essential for salvation since the thief was not baptized. If that’s the case, then you don’t have to believe or confess to be saved either. He couldn’t believe in his heart in the resurrection because the event had not yet occurred. He couldn’t confess Jesus as Lord because it was not until God raised Him from the dead that He made Him “both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). If you want to make the thief on the cross the pattern for salvation today, you’re going to have to cut out more than baptism.

**What about Romans 6:3-4?** “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” Baptism is not just some ritual to be checked off the list. It is what connects us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. The old man of sin is buried with Christ and the new man raises up to a new life of righteousness. Even if the thief called a “timeout” and came down from the cross, he couldn’t have been baptized “in His death” or raised up in the likeness of His resurrection. This passage alone ought to put the whole argument to death.

Don’t let the thief on the cross rob you of

your own salvation. He never got to see the resurrected Christ come out of the grave as conqueror over sin and death. But we have the eyewitness testimony of those who did and heard Him say, “he who believes and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). If you respond in faith and obedience to His gospel call, this same Jesus will remember you when you come into His kingdom.

So, what about you?

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



## *Commending Immorality*

**Allen Dvorak**

I don’t watch a lot of television, but I recently saw something which disturbed me. It was one of the segments of the program entitled “20/20.” The segment to which I refer focused on the story of a young man named Corey. To introduce the segment, Corey was identified as an outstanding high school football player who had made a courageous decision to reveal something about himself to his teammates and friends.

I guess that I knew what was coming before the program revealed the details. As I had suspected, Corey was a homosexual and had decided to tell his teammates, unsure of what reaction he would encounter. In the course of the story, Corey’s unhappiness with his secret life was emphasized. Also discussed was the unflattering attitude of football players in general toward homosexuals.

I suppose that I should not be disturbed by the general message of the program. It is, after all, the typical slant of the national media in

general – homosexuality is good while sexual morality which originates from the Bible is radical, narrow-minded or homophobic. Corey was applauded for “coming out of the closet,” a decision which, according to the television program, manifested courage and character. His disclosure served also to make his coaches and teammates more sensitive to the feelings of homosexuals.

It came as no surprise to me that the teaching of the Bible on the subject of homosexuality was never even mentioned. Some have tried to defend the practice of homosexuality from the Bible, but the Scriptures are clear about the divine view of such behavior. Sodom was destroyed because of homosexuality (Genesis 19). The Law of Moses mandated the death penalty for acts of homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13). In Paul's day, homosexuality was commonplace in Gentile society. The apostle described such behavior as “shameful,” “error,” “against nature,” “vile,” and “debased” (Romans 1:26-28). He wrote to the Corinthians that homosexuals and sodomites would not inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

In America, however, we praise those who are “courageous” enough to confess publicly that they are homosexuals. We have come a long way toward Sodom. Instead of being ashamed of what the Scriptures refer to as sin and an abomination (Leviticus 18:22), we seem to be more embarrassed by those who speak out against the practice of homosexuality. Perhaps it would be good for us to read again the account of the divine judgment against Sodom.

I wonder if Corey would have been the hero of the 20/20 segment if he had announced that he practiced bestiality. Probably not, but only because the American public has not yet been conditioned to accept the idea of people having sex with animals. I am convinced that the Biblical prohibition against bestiality has little to do with it; the Bible also condemns acts of

homosexuality, but that seems to bother fewer and fewer people. When we reject the divine standard of morality as expressed in the Scriptures, anything goes...there is no logical stopping place!

- via *Mining The Scriptures*; Madison, Alabama.



*Remember our regular scheduled song service will be this evening at 6:00. Eddie J. Hammond will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we teach and admonish one another in, hymns and spiritual songs.*

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Mancel Skipworth* is in the ECM hospital with pneumonia, room 584...*Jamie Mosley's father, Andy McConnell*, continues in the Huntsville Hospital recovering from his triple by-pass surgery on Monday...*Steve Parker's mother, Sharon Parker*, was released from the ECM hospital on Friday...*Ray Tucker* was released from the ECM hospital on Tuesday...*Abbygail Chancellor* has been problems with reflux this week...*Jack Tucker* is not able to be out as much as he would like...*Larry Johnson* is confined home...*Jeremy Pounders mother, Judy Pounders*, is awaiting tests...*Freda McConnell's sister, Leta Zadigan*, has ended her cancer 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 Cooks: Angie, Will and Payton* are in Florida this weekend on vacation.

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

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** This past week we have been engaged in a Vacation Bible School. The VBS went very well. The teachers all did an excellent job in preparing and teaching the material. The children that came really enjoyed it and were taught truths from God's word as they studied the *"King of Kings"*. We averaged 102 each morning. Also, it was good to have *Harold Comer* with us for the week. He did an excellent job teaching the adult class last week. It was good to spend the week with him.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Northside church* in Lexington will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week with *Edwin Crozier of Franklin, Tennessee* preaching. Services will begin Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m....The *Elgin Hills church* in Elgin will begin a meeting this week and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Joseph Casimier* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Belgreen church* in Belgreen will be engaged in a meeting through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Paul Sheehan* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Tharptown church* in Tharptown is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Danny Fuller of Red Bay* will be speaking.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for week of July 9th

**Sunday:**

- Bible Classes ..... 111
- Morning Worship ..... 124
- Evening Worship ..... 109

**Wednesday:**

- Bible Classes ..... 90

**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

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