

# 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, September 10th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 1:10-17)  
..... Brad Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Larry White

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Rocky Rose  
Assisting ..... Andrew Gatlin  
Serving ..... Jim Phillips  
..... Hunter Cox  
..... Mark McCrary  
..... Steve Parker  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 2:1-10)  
..... Jonathan Keenon  
Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Lord's Supper  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
..... Rocky Rose  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brian Word

Volume XIII

September 10, 2006

No. 37

## *The Second Coming of Christ*

**David A. Cox**

The second coming of Christ is a central theme in the New Testament. According to statistics, the second coming is mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters in the New Testament. In our religious world there is much debate and many questions concerning the second coming of Christ. Because of all the misconceptions that are taught about the second coming of Christ, let us look to the Bible to see what it has to say about the second coming and the end of time.

### **When Will The Time Be?**

This question has intrigued some to the point that predictions have been made as to when the return of Christ would be. Dates such as 1833, 1843, 1914, 1919 and 1988 have been predicted and this list is not a complete one at all. Of course, these years have come and gone and Christ has not returned, but this does not diminish from the fact on the certainty of His return. Notice what the Bible says about the time of the second coming of Christ: *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night"* (1 Thessalonians 5:2). *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;..."* (2 Peter 3:10). *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my father only"* (Matthew 24:36). It is clear from these passages that the second coming of Christ will be unannounced, so it is needless for anyone to try to predict the time or an approximation of Christ's return. We should not put our faith in any prediction that comes from man.

### **The Glorious Appearing of the Great God**

When Christ returns, the Bible tells us that it will be glorious.

As Paul tells Titus about the grace of God that teaches us how we should live says, *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”* (Titus 2:13). The appearing will be glorious because when Jesus returns in the clouds everyone will see Him. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, describing the events of the second coming of Christ, says, *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* This glorious appearing will be announced with a shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God. Also, the Lord will return in the clouds. The clouds have always been symbolic of nobility and grandeur. Again, in Revelation 1:7 we read, *“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.”* Notice that this second appearing of Jesus will be known to all. It will not be a secret appearance that is unknown to people, but it will be observed by all.

#### **What About Christ Coming Back To Earth?**

The second coming of Christ does not include Christ setting His foot back on earth and setting up His kingdom. As 1 Thessalonians 4 and Revelation 1 mentions, Christ’s return will be in the clouds. We are also told that those still living on earth will be *“caught up...in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16). The second coming of Christ is not for Christ to set up His kingdom on earth. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul, discussing the fact that Christians will be raised to be with Christ, says, *“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 power”* (1 Corinthians 15:24). This verse does not mention anything about setting up a kingdom on earth, but says that Christ will give the

kingdom to the Father. Christ will lay down all rule and authority which the Father has given to Him (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). When Christ returns, the dead will be raised and given bodies of immortality (1 Corinthians 15:50-53). Our hope and desire for Christ’s return is not for something to happen on earth, but for that which is beyond this life and beyond this earth. Peter writes concerning our hope in Christ second coming says, *“Looking for a hastening unto the coming of the day of God wherein that heavens being on fire shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”* Peter then gives the reason of the great expectation of Christ return is for our eternal home.

We do not know when Christ will return, but it will be a glorious day if we are prepared and are in Christ. On the other hand, how fearful will the return of Christ be for those outside of Christ. Knowing this, it should move each one of us to look at our life and compare it to the word of God. If we find that we have not obeyed the gospel of Christ according to the scriptures, then we are still in our sins and outside of Christ. In that condition, we would not enjoy that home in heaven that Christ has prepared. Let us look seriously at our lives and prepare for the second coming of Christ, so that it will be a blessing for us.

## **Gospel Meeting**

**September 24-28, 2006**

**Bill Hall, Speaking**

**Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

# *Make Me A Servant*

**Edwin L. Crozier**

We have started singing a song from our supplemental book entitled, “Make Me a Servant.” I wonder if we realize what we are singing.

For my part, I am happy to serve. That is, as long as it fits in with my schedule and doesn't get in the way of my goals and my favorite activities and tv shows. I am happy to serve on my terms, when it pleases me and when I will get credit for it from others. I am happy to serve when others are watching and take notice.

But am I really happy to be a servant? A servant doesn't serve when it is convenient. A servant is one who serves because the master says to (cf. Luke 17:7-9). A servant simply serves because that is his job. He doesn't stop to ask if it fits in his schedule. He doesn't stop to ask if it meets his terms. He doesn't stop to see if anyone is looking. He simply serves.

I don't mind serving as long as I get to remain in control. I get to choose when, where and how far I am going to go in my serving. Once I lose that control, I become vulnerable. If I take this serving thing too far, you might take advantage of me. I certainly don't want that to happen. Surely God doesn't expect me to let that happen, does He?

Do I really want God to make me a servant, just like His Son? Do I really want to spend my life in the service of God and others knowing full well that most of the people I strive to serve won't appreciate it, won't care about me and might even turn on me? Do I really want to be a servant knowing it will cost me my life in more ways than one?

That is the struggle we face when we become Christians. According to I Peter 1:22, we were purified for a sincere love of the brethren. One of the reasons we obeyed the truth and

received cleansing was so we could love God's children. Further, in Philippians 2:3-4 we are told to view others as more important than ourselves. Being a servant is merely a natural response from those who truly love and truly see others as more important.

The next time my wife wakes me from a doze asking me to do something I know she could do for herself, I must not gripe and complain. I must not lash out. I should serve. After all, I am to be a servant.

The next time a brother or sister puts out a plea for help, I shouldn't rely on everyone else to get the job done. Rather, I should be there to love and serve. After all, I am to be a servant.

Don't get me wrong. I am not saying I have this servant thing down. I am growing in it as well. However, if we are going to sing “make me a servant just like Your Son,” then I am going to have to be ready for the consequences. I am going to have to quit serving on my time and become a servant.

~ via *Franklin Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee.

## News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Lou Ann Phillips* is at home following her surgery this past Tuesday... *Ashley Goode* has not been able to be out as she would like. The doctors continue to monitor her blood pressure... *Charlotte Hall* was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night due to not feeling well ...*Myrtie Williams* came home on Tuesday from rehabilitation ...*Carson Crunk* was able to be Bible study Wednesday night after being sick last week ... *Monroe Pressnell* received a good report on his body scan...*Jack Tucker* is not able to be out ... *Larry Johnson* is confined at home ...*Faye Hammond* is 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.

**CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL:** Next Sunday evening we will begin a children's Bible drill at 5:30 p.m. I hope that all of our children will plan to be here at 5:30 p.m.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Eastside church* in Athens is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday. Services will begin on Monday and Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. *Steve Klein* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Centerview church* in Franklin county is having a gospel meeting and song leader's instruction this week through Friday. The Song leader instruction will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. *R. J. Stevens* will be the singing instructor and the speaker in the meeting.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Clemmons: Michael and Sissy* are in Gulf Shores this weekend on vacation... *The McIntyres: Mark, Suzette, Sadie, Luke, and John* are in Gulf Shores as well on vacation... *The McConnells: James and Freda* are in Maggie Valley this weekend.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the time for Communication Groups two to meet. If you are in Group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance week of Sept. 3rd*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 108  
 Morning Worship ..... 126  
 Evening Worship ..... 90

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 84

**Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

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

**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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