

# 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, Janaury 21st:

***Bible Classes***

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 16:20-28)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Andrew Gatlin

***Morning Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Steve Parker  
Assisting ..... Mark McIntyre  
Serving ..... Tyler Cox  
..... Mark McCrary  
..... James McConnell  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

***Evening Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 16:29-34)  
..... Rocky Rose  
Prayer  
..... Aric Butler  
Lord's Supper  
..... Steve Parker  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Closing Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

Volume XIV

January 21, 2007

No. 3

## *Perilous Times*

**Dale Smelser**

We live in divisive times. When an American thinks of such, he painfully thinks back to the 1960's and 1970's and the Viet Nam Era. I think it possible that we are more deeply divided now. Some of the "activists" of that time have changed their destructive ways. They have become a part of the system and life styles they once despised. Some have written recantations, and actually oppose the things they once championed in their riotous youth. I do not expect today's activists who worship at the altar of the Woodstock generation, ever do that. For one thing those back then were young, although spurred on by those who should have known better. Those who follow in their steps today are older and more European in outlook, and very bitter because they have not captured the numbers of young people they think they are entitled to.

By European, I mean secular socialism. I am not concerned here with the "socialism." That is a subject for debate elsewhere. I am concerned with the secular aspect of their affections. They want every element of moral advocacy abolished from public life. How did a country that began as this country began with such strong religious roots and motivation, get to where the culture is now? Before exploring that, the populace we are discussing is very bitter in its realization that the victory they thought would come about so easily seems to be stalling. It is not that their ideas are dying. It is simply that they are meeting more successful opposition. So, in spite of all their efforts, of all the civilized and industrialized countries in the world, the United States still stands as the most religious. The current is running strongly in two directions. We live in divisive times. As for those opposed to righteousness, we see a demonstration of Paul's words when he said to Timothy, "Evil men

and impostors shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:13).

It might be interesting to view what has happened in the just past century, probably the bloodiest the world has ever known, where besides two World Wars, two nations, China and Russia, were responsible for the deaths of 80 millions of their own people.

I was recently writing something about a Christian in the 1950’s and her strong moral values, and noted that some might think those values were just typical of the 50’s. I then recalled that the 50’s were anything but puritanical. As George Will once commented, the 1950’s were pregnant with the 1960’s. The nation for some time had been headed toward relaxed morality. “German Rationalism” had affected theology by the beginning of the 20th Century. Religion lost some of its moral impact. American writers were expressing sexual permissiveness. World War I probably delayed what would come later to be known as the “new morality,” though what the soldier boys brought back from Europe certainly found expression in the Roaring Twenties. And that roaring was only subdued by the Great Depression and World War II. But after two world wars where we became involved in Europe’s affairs, America now, after charting its own course and leading the world in development, and relishing its separation from Europe, was looking back at Europe’s ways.

For all the problems of war torn Europe, there was a kind of sophistication in behavior the newer nation seemed now to covet. Given lessened inhibition, occurring because religion had become less serious and more pragmatic and social, and given the prosperity that followed the war, these allowed the occurrence of what had been fomenting for half a century. Quite religious people were practicing things and allowing a liberty to children that many at the beginning of the 21st Century are beginning to curtail.

So while some are growing ever more lax,

others are beginning to stoutly oppose such perilous tendency. This only intensifies the spiritual and cultural divide that now exists. But I am seeing Christians with more strength than many had in the 50’s. I see parents who are rearing their children more strictly with higher values. I see young people with greater strengths than I did in the 50’s. So while wickedness increases, so are efforts of righteousness. This battle is not over yet. I hope you are enlisted.

-via *Riverdale Bulletin*; Wildercroft, Maryland.



## *The Household of God*

**Dee Bowman**

One of the truly expressive figures used to describe the church of our Lord is the terminology, household of God. The implications of that metaphor are several and very expressive. It calls to mind family, relations, kinspeople, home and hearth, and all that is connected to these great terms.

A house is made a home when there is love in it. A good home is founded on love. The household of God is a house filled with love. God is the Father and He is love (1 John 4:8). We are the children of God (1 John 3:1). The house of God is filled with His love, so we ought also to love one another. “...for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7). Love is the basis for this household; it is the essence of this household; it is the bond of this household; it is the divine motive in this household. Without love there is no household of God.

A home is a place for instruction, a place for growing. The household of God provides a place to receive the instruction necessary to “grow in

grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:18). It is here that the children of the Father are furnished with the “sincere milk of the word,” the nutrition they need to grow to maturity. The church of the Lord has as one of its major missions the promulgation of the gospel message, not just for the world, but in order to edify itself, to build up the body (Ephesians 4:11-13), to make the household stronger. I should not have to remind you that a home without love in it inevitably shrivels up and dies. Need I make an application to the church?

A good home must have discipline, lovingly administered, in order to function properly. A home where there is no penalty for disobedience will soon either deteriorate from internal putridity or it will implode, one or the other. We need to know how to “behave in the house of God” (1 Timothy 3:15). When each member of the family just “does his own thing,” sure chaos is the result. Discipline is necessary to order. Discipline is necessary to good health. The local church that does not practice legitimate and scriptural discipline is inviting disaster. The family is subject to the father. That’s God’s eternal plan. Discipline, properly and lovingly administered produces the highest sort of results (see 2 Corinthians 7:9-11). “Children, obey your parents” (Ephesians 6:1) is not a suggestion, it is an imperative. And to disobey it regarding your spiritual Father is the same as disregarding your physical father. Both are a sin. Discipline in the home—or in the local church—is necessary to orderliness, to the development and maintenance of unity.

Finally, a home is a retreat. It’s a place to go to get away from the pressures and intimidations of the so-called “daily grind.” It’s a place to which you escape, a place to rejuvenate, a place to rest from the arduous tasks, to retire from the constant pressures, to know peace and tranquility for a time. It’s amazing how some people see no need for assembling with the saints—being

with other members of the family—when there is so much to be gained from it. It’s self-deprivation, that’s what it is. It makes no sense. “Let us consider one another to stir up love and good works” (Hebrews 10:23). That’s what being with the family is all about. It’s about stirring up the good stuff. It’s about reciprocal encouragement, mutual comfort, deriving strength from knowing there are others who are battling the immoral rages, others who are seeking to overcome the decadence in the workaday world, others who are struggling with nagging health problems or temptations of some sort, all of whom are headed in the same direction, pressing toward the same goal, persevering to the same end, entertaining a common hope. How wonderful for the family to get together. The church is a spiritual haven in a turbulent time.

When you get right down to it, there’s no place like home.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

## *News & Notes*

**THE SICK:** *Brooke Blakely* has been in the Huntsville hospital with RSV... *C.L. Weathers* is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Erica Crunk* has been sick and unable to be services... *Deidra Williams* has been sick this past week and is to have a stress test on Wednesday... *Steve Gatlin* had some kidney stones broken up at Crestwood Hospital in Huntsville on Wednesday night... *Claus Martel* is to hear from his doctor this week concerning the pain in his neck... *Sanda Martel* was sick and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *James McConnell's father, Albert McConnell* is in the hospital in Florida and is doing better... *Kerry Cox's aunt, Betty League*, had surgery in Birmingham on Friday... *Monroe Pressnell* con-

tinues his treatments for his cancer...**Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips' brother-in-law, Michael Olive**, is continuing his radiation treatments ... **Myrtie Williams** is at home and not able to be out ...**Jack Tucker** is not able to be out ...**Faye Hammond** is at home ...**Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, continues in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL:** This evening at 5:30 p.m. will be the time for our Children's Bible Drill. I hope that as many as can will be here for the drill and to encourage our children.

**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.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **Leota Springer** is out of town this weekend visiting her son in south Alabama.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance – Week of Jan. 14th

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 109  
 Morning Worship ..... 131  
 Evening Worship ..... 92

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 78

The Anderson  
 church of Christ

website at:

[www. Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

**On the Site You Will Find:**

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The **Gospel Power** in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Windows Media Player.

**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: [dacox@hiwaay.net](mailto:dacox@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