

# 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, January 28th:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 16:20-28)  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Steve Parker

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons  
Assisting ..... Andrew Gatlin  
Serving ..... Jonathan Keenon  
..... Aric Butler  
..... Zack Rogers  
..... Michael Word  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 16:29-34)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
..... Michael Clemmons  
..... Andrew Gatlin  
Closing Prayer  
..... Kevin Chancellor

Volume XIV

January 28, 2007

No. 4

## *The Church of God's Choice*

**David A. Cox**

As one considers their life in reference to a life that is pleasing to God, he should want to be a part of the church that God has set up for his people. One may hear slogans such as: "Attend the church of your choice" or "Join the church of your choice". They may consider visiting "different churches" so they can choose one to their liking. But in contemplating these statements and the attitude of finding what "I" want in a church, it makes one wonder if the majority of our society has forgotten that it is God's choice that we should be concerned with. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." The choice that one makes may not necessarily be the choice that God has made and God's choice should be our only concern.

As one begins to consider the church that God approves of, the questions may be asked, "Which church is right, since all churches claim to follow Christ?" Or, "Could all of the denominations (with the conflicting doctrines they teach) be pleasing to God?" To answer this, let us look to the Bible to see what the mind of God has revealed to us. First, notice the church God approves of is the church that Christ built. In Matthew 16:18, Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." It is clearly seen that Christ said that He was going to build His church, not churches. The apostle Paul stated that Christ did exactly that when he said that Christ gave himself for the church and purchased the church with His blood (Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28). Notice what the inspired apostle wrote to the church at Ephesus. Speaking of Christ he said, "And

hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body” (Ephesians 1:22-23). In Ephesians 4:4, we learn that there is one body or one church. The Bible only speaks of the church in the singular sense and the one church spoken of belongs to Christ. Since the church belongs to Christ, it should wear His name. In Acts 4:12, as Peter spoke to the rulers of the Jews, concerning Christ, said, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Therefore, a church that claims to have been built by someone other than Christ, or a church that follows the teaching of some man other than Christ, is not the one church approved of in God’s sight.

The question then follows, “How can one identify the New Testament church?” The church that God approves of will be the church that we read about in the Bible. It will be the church that began at Jerusalem, on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2). Therefore, the church that is pleasing to God will be one that uses only the inspired word of God as its rule of faith with regard to its practices. It is evident that conflicting doctrines are taught by the various religions that exist. These conflicting doctrines do not originate with the word of God, but by the creeds and traditions of men. In Matthew 15:9, Christ said that the Jews were worshipping him in vain because they taught for their doctrine “the commandments of men.” The gospel of Christ is sufficient; this is seen in Paul’s statement to the Galatians that “though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8). God is pleased with those that abide in the pure gospel; those who “speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11). The church that follows the word of God, in all that its practices, can be identified from what we learn from the Bible about the worship, work and organization of the church in the New

Testament. The church that uses only the Bible will bear fruit whereby it can be identified. Christ said in Matthew 7:20, “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” Any group that teaches any point that is not in keeping with what the Bible teaches, is not the one church that God approves of.

There is no doubt that there is much confusion in the world concerning religion. However, this confusion comes from men and not from God. God desires that men do His will. This is exactly what Christ taught in the sermon on the mount when he said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Doing the will of God is imperative if we are to be pleasing to Him. Many people may have good intentions, engage in works that they believe are good and attend a church that they have chosen by their standards, but Christ said that if they did not do the Father’s will, they would be classified as workers of iniquity (Matthew 7:22-23). We should never attend the church of our choice, but we should always insist that the church of God’s choice be attended.

Let us examine the scriptures to learn what the church of God’s choice is. May we never seek our own choice, but only God’s choice.



## ***Drink Responsibly??***

**Allen Dvorak**

Public image can make or break a business and thus businesses must be interested in promoting a positive image of themselves and their products or services. I believe that public image is exactly why during the holidays the beer companies become concerned with people exer-

cising “self-control.” They run television commercials which warn us to use alcohol with caution. “If you drink, don’t drive. Don’t ride with someone who has had too much to drink.” “Friends don’t let friends drive drunk.”

I believe such commercials give good advice—as far as they go. Please forgive my sarcasm, however, if I observe that these companies who are so concerned with people acting responsibly are the same ones who sell a product which, by its very nature, lends itself to a “lack of self-control.” That is like giving a red-hot poker to a child and telling him not to burn himself. Why give it to him in the first place? Makes no sense to me.

I agree that it is important to know when to stop drinking. The safest time is before you begin! The American Medical Association has said, “There is no minimum BAC (blood alcohol concentration) which can be set at which there will be absolutely no effect.” Ethyl alcohol is an in-toxi-cant; it is a poison and even in small quantities affects one’s moral judgment and physical reaction time.

The commercials do not advise people to refrain from alcohol. That would be the sure way to avoid the suffering that alcohol causes. However, the commercials are funded by companies who make money selling alcohol—and the more people drink, the more money these companies make. For beer companies to lead the fight for self-control is like putting the fox in charge of guarding the hen-house.

The commercials suggest that one should not drive while drunk. The impression left is that I can get totally drunk, but as long as I do not drive a car, society tells me that I am a “wise drinker.” Makes no sense to me. What about all the suffering caused by those drinkers who do not drive? Alcohol lowers inhibitions, meaning that drinkers will often do things that they normally would not. That includes sexual immorality and domestic abuse. Instead of humorous commercials, perhaps the beer companies

should show pictures of people and families destroyed by “the brewer’s art.” Those commercials would not sell much beer, but at least they would give a clearer picture of the fruits of alcohol.

Satan has always specialized in lies (John 8:44). The idea that one can drink and be acceptable to God as long as he/she doesn’t get totally drunk is a **lie**.

Do people really drink most alcoholic beverages for taste? Or do many people drink for the “buzz,” that feeling of gaiety that permits them to disregard responsibility or problems? Must we be “anesthetized” against the reality of life by the use of alcohol or other drugs in order to enjoy ourselves?

—via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.

## *News & Notes*

**THE SICK:** *Brooke Blakely* is doing better, but has not been able to be out... *C.L. Weathers* came home from the hospital after having his tests done... *Erica Crunk* was able to be at Bible study after being sick... *Deidra Williams* received a good report from her stress test on Wednesday... *Scottie Goode* has been sick this past week and not able to be at services... *Ronnie Phillips* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday after being sick over the weekend... *Claus Martel* is scheduled to meet with a neurologist... *John McIntyre* has been sick this past week... *Samuel & Molly Kate Phillips* have been sick this past week... *James Word’s brother, J. T. Word*, had a procedure done on his heart on Friday... *James McConnell father, Albert McConnell*, has been released from the hospital... *Kerry Cox’s father, Travis Lowman*, had an arteriogram done on Thursday and is to go to Birmingham to have a stint inserted... *Monroe*

*Pressnell* continues 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.

**NEW QUARTER:** Today we are beginning our new quarter in our Bible classes. We are looking forward to this quarter and the teachers are as follows:

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Nursery:</b>      | <b>K- 1st Grade:</b>    |
| Laurie Chancellor    | Suzette McIntyre        |
| <b>2 Year old:</b>   | <b>2nd - 3rd Grade:</b> |
| Lawinda Keenon       | Kerry Cox               |
| Amber Hammond        | <b>4th -5th Grade:</b>  |
| <b>3 Year old:</b>   | Brian Word              |
| Lisa Word            | <b>Jr. High School:</b> |
| <b>4-5 Year old:</b> | Jerry Dickey            |
| Brooke Phillips      | <b>High School:</b>     |
| Cori Williams        | Daniel Clemmons         |
| <b>Young Adult:</b>  |                         |
| Mark McIntyre .....  | (Sunday morning)        |

- Adult:**
- Steve Parker ..... (Sunday morning)
- David Cox ..... (Wednesday night)

I want to express my appreciation to all of those who taught during the fall/winter quarter for their work and dedication. We had a very good quarter. I am eagerly looking forward to this quarter and hope that all who can will be present and prepared for our periods of Bible study. There are classes for all ages. Won't you join us in a study together of God's word?

**THE RECORD:** Attendance – Week of Jan. 21st

- Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 105  
Morning Worship ..... 119  
Evening Worship ..... 90
- 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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