

# 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 7th:

***Bible Classes***

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 15:25-33)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Larry White

***Morning Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Rocky Rose  
Assisting ..... Jerry Dickey  
Serving ..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Brad Hammond  
..... Hunter Cox  
..... Corey Goode  
Closing Prayer  
..... Phil Pressnell

***Evening Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Lev. 16:1-10)  
..... Brian Word  
Prayer  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Lord's Supper  
..... Rocky Rose  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jonathan Keenon

Volume XIV

January 7, 2007

No. 1

## ***Transformed By The Grace of God***

**Allen Dvorak**

Imagine the meanest, most hateful and self-centered person that you know. Perhaps this person has mistreated you or other people dear to you. Next, decide what punishment that person deserves for his/her ugly behavior. Don't be "too easy" on the person. Remember that the Scriptures teach that each man will receive according to his works (2 Corinthians 5:10).

The Scriptures also teach that "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). In other words, God offers salvation to the meanest, most hateful and self-centered people, even those who actually called for the crucifixion of His Son (Romans 5:8-10; Acts 2:22-23, 38).

The gospel is appropriately referred to as "the word of His grace" (e.g., Acts 14:3; 20:32) because it is the story of how God's favor was extended to mankind in the giving of His Son. What mankind deserved was the punishment mandated by the law, i.e., death (Romans 6:23). But God decided before time began that, in the event that man sinned, He would extend forgiveness to all those who believed in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 1:9).

The grace of God is intended to transform man from a condemned sinner to a justified saint. Through the blood shed by Jesus Christ on the cross, man can be forgiven of his sins, a manifestation of God's favor. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (1:7). Although Jesus tasted death for everyone (Hebrews 2:9) and thus the favor of God is available to all men through that sacrifice, each individual must accept this offer of grace. God desires that all men be saved (1

Timothy 2:3-4), but He will not apply His favor to anyone against his will.

The transforming power of God's grace extends beyond the forgiveness of sins. His grace does not only justify man by providing the propitiation for sin, but it also is responsible for the transformation of his character. Paul commended the Ephesian elders to "the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). Paul wrote to Titus that the grace of God teaches us "that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age," (Titus 2:12).

The working of the divine grace is not magical. It transforms man's character by the renewing of his mind through the application of the revealed word of God (Romans 12:1-2) and that requires effort on the part of man. As we allow the word of Christ to dwell richly in us by our study and acceptance of the Scriptures, it will cause us to put off the "old man" with his deeds and put on the "new man" who is "renewed in knowledge" and conformed to the image of God's Son (Colossians 3:9-10, 16; Romans 8:29).

Praise God for His magnificent grace!

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

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.

## *Fighting Against Satan*

**Randy Harshbarger**

When Jesus lived His life on earth, He was in constant conflict with Satan. After Satan's initial tempting of our Lord, it is said: "And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season" (Luke 4:1). Satan departed, but he came back. So it is for every Christian. Our lives on earth are spent in conflict with our enemy who seeks the destruction of our souls. John wrote to encourage Christians in their battle by saying: "I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father" (1 John 2:13). We can be successful in overcoming Satan; yet, we must never let down our guard. We cannot defeat Him by ourselves; we must rely on Christ. Christ did battle with Satan and was victorious. The sting of death has been removed. "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57-58). We must still remember that the devil has not conceded defeat. As a roaring lion he seeks to devour us (1 Pet. 5:8). Yes, Christ promises deliverance. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

The conquest and conflict between Christ and Satan was predicted long ago. After the fall of Adam and Eve, God made a promise that made possible a healing of the ruptured relationship between the first couple and their Creator. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). The Messiah, through whom would come God's rule of righteousness, did come. Christ, the seed of woman, did come

and dealt a death-blow to Satan. The prophet Isaiah reiterated the same promise, speaking of the “prince of peace” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Early in the ministry of Jesus, Satan tried to undermine God’s plan for salvation. Herod murdered the babies in Jerusalem. There were the early temptations in the wilderness. An enthusiastic crowd tried to take Jesus by force to make Him king. Even the apostles of Jesus tried to circumvent Jesus’ mission as the Savior. “From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee” (Matthew 16:22-23). Yet, Satan could only retreat. The demons were dismissed; sicknesses were healed; even nature obeyed the voice of our Lord.

Finally, Jesus came to the cross. “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out” (John 12:31). By Jesus’ death the final conquest of Satan would take place. Jesus would not be diverted from His mission. “Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me” (John 14:30). Satan was on his way out. “Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged” (John 16:11). The devil and sin and death were destroyed. He “despoiled” the principalities and powers. In apparent weakness, bound hand and foot, suspended between heaven and earth, Jesus could and did resist sin and Satan, and dethroned them all. The cross must never be the object of derision. It can only be the symbol of victory.

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*; Nacogdoches, Texas.

### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

## *Immortality*

**Mike Johnson**

“Death” is not a period, but a comma in the story of life.” A comma is used in a sentence to indicate a pause. A period is end punctuation. It is used to show the end of a sentence. With this idea in mind, the above quotation says a great deal. It speaks of the immortality of the soul.

There is more to man’s existence than life on earth. Man has an immortal soul. We do not live forever in our body as life on earth does end. However, the soul endures forever. The wise man in Ecclesiastes 12:7 shows a distinction between the body and the soul. It also shows the existence of the soul after death.

It is not just the souls of the righteous that are eternal. Everyone has an eternal soul. This is good for the righteous because they will dwell eternally in heaven. However, it will be dreadful for the wicked as they will dwell an eternity in hell. Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 25:46 when he spoke of the fates of the wicked and righteous. He said, “*And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*” The words “everlasting” and “eternal” come from the same word in the Greek. The word means “never ending.”

We need to keep in mind the immortality of our souls. It is important to become a Christian and be faithful in our service to God (Acts 22:16; 1 Corinthians 15:58) so we can dwell “forever” in heaven. Remember, death is not a period: it is only a comma in the story of life.

-via *Franklin Drive Bulletin*; Texarkana, Arkansas.

## *News & Notes*

**THE SICK:** *Lydia & Laura Clemmons* were able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick last week... *Lawinda Keenon* was sick and unable to be Bible study Wednesday

night ... *Virginia Lovell* has been sick this week ... *Jimmie Lovell* has been sick this week ... *Abby Chancellor* was better and able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Kerry Cox* had day surgery Wednesday and is making progress in her recovery ... *Monroe Pressnell* continues his treatments for his cancer... *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*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

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

**THE NEW YEAR:** Today is the first Sunday of 2007. I hope that as we have made our resolutions for the New Year that we have considered spiritual resolutions in our lives. 2006 was a good year in many respects, but it could have been better in other ways. Let us do everything we can to draw closer in God and be more active in His service in 2007.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Blakelys: Brian, Sarah, Hayden and Brooke* are back home after being in Ohio ... *The Hammonds: Eddie and Willodean* are in Florida on vacation.

**THE RECORD:** *Average Attendance for 2006*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 102  
 Morning Worship ..... 123  
 Evening Worship ..... 88

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 87

**Announcing...**

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Sunday, January 14th, after our evening service.
- Where?** At the home of Andrew & Marissa Gatlin
- Subject?** Searching For Truth  
About The House of God

**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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