

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 Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 9th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (Num. 14:39-45)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Jonathan Keenon

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
Presiding Steve Parker
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Jim Phillips
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Steve Parker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Num. 15:1-13)
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Prayer
..... Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper
..... Steve Parker
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XIV

September 9, 2007

No. 36

Conspiracy Theorists

Gardner Hall

“Richard Nixon is a communist!” the man told me with certainty. “Why do you say that” I asked. “He went to China to talk to them. Must be one of ‘em,” was the response.

Another man told me something to the effect that all politicians, except for George Wallace, were either communists or communist sympathizers, and sometimes he wondered about George.

I remember hearing from many conspiracy theorists during my teenage years in north Alabama. They were certain that communists from the Soviet Union were about to take over America with the willing complicity of most politicians. Those politicians were attacked with all kinds of exaggeration, innuendo, and quotes out of context. Thousands were convinced that Nixon, Kissinger, and other politicians of the 70's must at least have been fellow travelers.

“Conspiracy Theorists” in the Bible

Some tried to paint the apostle Paul as advocating, “let us do evil that good may abound” (Romans 3:8). Paul was no softy, but his teaching on God's grace and his efforts to humble himself and avoid a harsh presence made him the object of unfair attacks, 2 Corinthians 11:7-15. Many were sure that Paul was the leader of a great conspiracy against truth. He was the subject of personal attacks on his physical presence and speech, 2 Corinthians 10:10.

Diotrephes could find fault in almost everyone, including the apostle John. He prated against John and other faithful brethren with “malicious words” (2 John 10).

The Difference Between Vigilance And Unfair Fault-finding

Aren't we to be vigilant and watch for signs of apostasy?

Absolutely! “The devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Some arise from within the ranks of Christians “speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after themselves” (Acts 20:30). Immodest clothing, ungodly entertainment, looseness on divorce, alcohol, dancing and other worldly practices are eating away at the moral fiber of the saints.

And yet in this battle it is possible to do more harm than good with reckless cries of wolf. Wild, unchecked and undocumented accusations distract the focus from the real enemy and cause brethren to “bite and devour one another” (Galatians 5:15), rather than directing their energies against Satan.

How can we distinguish between the vigilance that God commands and the ungodly fault-finders: Love for truth, fairness, and love for brethren.

The vigilant lover of truth will check out facts before rushing to judgment. If possible, he will contact a brother whose teaching is being questioned before launching a broadside. He realizes that he must understand a position before he can deal with it properly. If he feels he must expose compromising doctrine, he will present that doctrine accurately without trying to embellish it.

The fault-finder will pass along rumors. I once heard from a young Christian that a godly Texas preacher “believed in abortion.” Of course the young Christian hadn’t contacted the preacher, but I did. The preacher was aghast that such rumors were being circulated against him and sent me a cassette tape to pass on to the young man in which he plainly presented Bible teaching against abortion.

An older preacher harshly accused a group of editors of not wanting many scriptures quoted. If he had taken the trouble to look at the most recent copy of the magazine they publish, he would have seen over 200 scriptures referenced in just that one issue. However, fault-finders are seldom interested in facts or in fairly representing those who are the objects of their attacks. If

they read their writings or listen to their preaching it is simply to find fault, and not to understand objectively what is being said. They pass along rumors and hearsay, which they may sincerely believe. However, the bottom line is that they don’t have enough love for the truth or their brethren to check out facts. They stir up those inclined to be suspicious, but actually are very ineffective in fighting worldliness and loose thinking.

While brethren bite and devour one another, Satan continues to sweep away disciples into the world. To fight him, God needs vigilant, sober, and loving servants – not hypercritical, fault-finding and unfair conspiracy theorists.

-via *The Stonegate Standard*; Pasadena, Texas.



The Lord’s Supper

Bubba Garner

We are creatures of habit. We generally like some sort of routine or pattern where we can know what to expect and when it is coming. There have been many afternoons that I have driven home from the building and not remembered making any turns or stops; I had just done them out of habit and not out of concentration. Scary? Not half as much as when we do that with the Lord’s Supper.

We must be careful that in all of our half-hearted daily routines that we do not just “go through the motions” in our worship. Some have been Christians for several years and some are relatively new babes in Christ, but we must all have the same attitude and the same spirit of genuineness that the apostles had the first time they ever celebrated the memorial of our Savior’s

death.

The Lord's Supper involves a look backward. On the night of His betrayal, Jesus celebrated the Feast of the Passover with the twelve, divided the bread and the cup, and said "do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19). It is a memorial feast in which we replay the scenes of Calvary and take our minds back to the cross where ruthless men drove nails through the hands and feet of the Son of God. Don't forget to look back.

The Lord's Supper involves a look within. "Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:27-28). The church in Corinth made a mockery of the Lord's Supper by turning it into a giant feast and social function. Paul warned them that they were not properly discerning the body and the blood and that whoever did not partake in a worthy manner were as guilty of sin as those who nailed Jesus to the cross. Don't forget to look in.

The Lord's Supper involves a look forward. Paul said in the same letter, "for as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). Just as the rainbow was a sign of the covenant between God and man, our partaking of the Lord's Supper demonstrates our faith in Him that He will keep His promise and come again to take us home. Remember to keep looking ahead.

Let us share in this memorial feast and show reverence to the Father for providing us freedom from the bondage of sin and to the Son for subjecting Himself on our behalf.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.



What? Young Adult Home Bible Study
When? Saturday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m.
Where? At the home of David & Kerry Cox
Subject? Family Matters

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Helen Trousdale* is in the Athens Convalescent in Athens for her rehabilitation ... *Helen Trousdale's son-in-law, Wayne Kent*, is home following his by-pass surgery last week ... *Jerry Best* was sick and not able to be at services last week ... *Amber Hammond* has had experiencing difficulty breathing due to her lung being partially collapsed and she has not been able to be at services ... *Myrtie Williams* is in Glenwood in Florence ... *Trinity Thornton* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Signa Skipworth, Catherine Parker & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher*, is in Glenwood in Florence ... *Jack & Onzell Tucker* are confined at home ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday. The services Monday and Tuesday nights will be at 7:00 p.m. *Wayne Partain* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Newburg church* in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Bobby Robinson* will be the speaker in this meet-

ing.

DEACONS APPOINTED: Last Sunday morning *Eddie J. Hammond* and *Steve Parker* with appointed to serve as deacons of the Anderson church. We are thankful for these two men and their willingness to serve. May the Lord bless them along with our other deacons in their work.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Erica Crunk, Lawinda Keenon, Theresa Gatlin* and all the family in the passing of their aunt, *Barbara Hagood*, this past Monday. Her funeral was Thursday in Huntsville.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The children's Bible drill will be this evening at 5:30 p.m. I hope everyone will be making their plan to be present.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight Communication Group C will be meeting. If you are in group C, remember to meet with your group.

WORKDAY SCHEDULED: A work day to clean and work around the building has been scheduled for next Saturday, September 15th.

THE RECORD: Attendance—Week of Sept. 2nd

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 103
- Morning Worship 115
- Evening Worship 85

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 83

Gospel Meeting

Sept. 30 – Oct. 4 2007

(Sunday – Thursday)

Dee Bowman, Speaking

Schedule of Services

Sunday – 9:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

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
- Eddie J. Hammond (256) 247-3038
- Mark McIntyre (256) 729-8316
- Steve Parker (256) 247-7843
- Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
- Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
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