

# 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 Privileged To Serve:**

Sunday, October 14th:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Bible Reading ..... (Num. 17:8-13)  
..... Andrew Gatlin  
Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Scottie Goode  
Assisting ..... Ronnie Phillips  
Serving ..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Brian Blakely  
..... Brad Hammond  
..... James McConnell  
Closing Prayer  
..... Eddie J. Hammond

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading ..... (Num. 18:1-7)  
..... Rocky Rose  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Lord's Supper  
..... Scottie Goode  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Closing Prayer  
..... Steve Parker

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No. 41

## *The Purpose of Water Baptism*

**Lanny Smith**

In Matthew's account of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), Jesus gave four commands to His apostles: (1) "Go" (2) "make disciples" (3) "baptizing them" and (4) "teaching them." It is evident that He refers here to water baptism, for it was to be administered by His apostles. Men can baptize in water, but only Jesus can baptize with the Holy Spirit (John 1:32-34). Furthermore, Jesus clearly indicated that this baptism is for "all the nations." But what is the purpose of water baptism? In this short article, we will focus our attention to this matter.

In Mark's account of the Great Commission, Jesus answered this question, when He said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). There is no need for "guesswork" about the purpose of baptism, for it is clearly stated by Jesus Himself. We need not argue with Jesus about this, for such shows not only a lack of faith, but borders on blasphemy. Baptism (along with faith) is a condition of salvation, and it is essential to salvation, having been commanded by Jesus (Hebrews 5:8-9). We shall see this truth repeatedly reinforced throughout the New Testament.

In the book of Acts, when the apostles began to carry out the Great Commission, Peter also stated the purpose of baptism: "Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). It is very interesting to note that this is also the very same purpose for which Jesus shed His precious blood (Matthew 26:28). This means that there is clearly a connection between baptism and the blood of Jesus! Indeed, it is at the point of baptism that we appropriate the benefits of Christ's death (cf. Romans 6:3). Thus, if you can understand why Jesus shed His blood, then you can understand the purpose

of baptism. It is folly to argue with the apostle Peter, an inspired man. Baptism is essential to salvation.

After Saul of Tarsus saw the risen Lord, he went to Damascus to find out what Jesus wanted him to do (Acts 22:6-10). Ananias told him to “Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Once again, the purpose of baptism is clearly stated, and it is folly to argue with Scripture. Baptism is essential to salvation.

When Paul (formerly Saul of Tarsus) wrote to the Christians in Rome, he reminded them that they had “died to sin” (Romans 6:1-2), and that they had “buried” that old man of sin in the watery grave of baptism (v.3-6). Then, when they arose from baptism, they were to “walk in newness of life” (v.4). Notice carefully the order: (1) Death to sin (v.2), (2) Burial of the old man of sin (v.3-4), and (3) Rise to newness of life (v.4). There is no “newness of life” until **after** baptism! Once again, it is folly to argue with an inspired apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is essential to salvation.

Paul also wrote to the saints in the churches of Galatia, and said, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27). Notice first, that they were called “sons of God,” which is another way of saying that they were brothers and sisters in the family, house, or church of God (cf. 1 Timothy 3:15). The church of God is that which God promises to save (Ephesians 5:23). Next, notice that they were sons “through faith in Christ Jesus.” This means that faith in Christ was the condition of becoming sons of God. But how is faith manifested? Listen: “For (i.e., because) as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Genuine, saving faith is shown through our obedience to the will of God (cf. James 2:14-26). To summarize, Paul said we must have “faith,” then be “baptized into Christ,” and then we become “sons of God.” Once again, why would any believer argue with an inspired apostle? Baptism is essential to salvation.

On yet another occasion, Paul wrote the Ephesians, and said, “There is...one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5). While there are many baptisms recorded in the Scriptures, only “one baptism” is common to all believers. Let Paul tell us which one: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:25-26). Notice that “the church” (i.e., the saved) is “sanctified and cleansed” from sin “with the washing of water by the word.” Clearly, they were cleansed from sin as a result of being baptized in water. Why argue with this? Baptism is essential to salvation.

Once again, Paul wrote to the Colossians about their cleansing from sin. He said, “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.” Note that our “circumcision” is not the literal removal of the male foreskin, but the removal of sin—an “operation” performed by Jesus Christ Himself! Now, when does this “surgery” take place? “Buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working (operation, KJV) of God, who raised Him from the dead” (Colossians 2:11-12). I hate to sound like a broken record, but why argue with Paul? Baptism is essential to salvation.

The Hebrew writer said we have “our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:22). The “sprinkling” to which he refers is the “sprinkling of the blood of Jesus” (1 Peter 1:1-2; cp. Hebrews 9:19-22). This “sprinkling of the blood of Jesus” is directly tied to having “our bodies washed in pure water,” or baptism. Compare this to Romans 6:3, where we are said to be baptized into the death of Jesus. Indeed, baptism is essential to salvation.

Finally, the apostle Peter indicated that the salvation of Noah’s family in the ark was a “figure” or “type” of our salvation today. It is clearly stated that those in the ark were “saved through water” (1 Peter 3:20). Now we all

understand that **God** saved them, but He did it “through water,” as the water carried the ark high above all of the destruction below. Then, Peter says, “the like figure” (KJV) or “antitype” (NKJ) which now saves us is baptism: “the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us” (1 Peter 3:21). This statement is clear, and is in harmony with all the other statements we’ve noted on the purpose of baptism. Why argue with Peter? Baptism is essential to salvation.

Many people neither believe, teach, nor practice baptism as it is revealed in the New Testament. But let me ask you: Why would a person deny all of these Bible passages, and then, in effect, call Jesus, Peter, Ananias, and Paul all liars? Inquiring minds want to know!

-via *The Pearl of Great Price*; Fishers, Indiana



## *Can We See The Bible Alike?*

**David O. Lanius, Jr.**

Can we all see the Bible alike? Is there a way that all mankind can have unity based on understanding the truth? If a hundred men can read a set of plans to build a house and build the same house in a hundred different places, then we can also read God's blueprint, the Bible, and build local churches which are identical to those of the first century.

Paul told the brethren at Ephesus that they could understand his words if they would but read (Ephesians 3:1-7). He also said to the Corinthians that they too could understand his words (1 Corinthians 1:13). In the very last book of the New Testament John said, “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those which are written in it; for the time is near” (Revelation 1:3).

Jesus prayed that there be unity among the believers (John 17), and Paul commanded the Corinthians to speak the same things (1 Corinthians 1:10). If unity is impossible then God has asked us to do something that we cannot, but yet he shows us how there can be unity (Ephesians 4:1-7).

Yes, we can know the word of God, but it might be that we are unwilling to submit our minds and wills to God's. The Bible itself says that we “have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God” (1 Corinthians 2:12). Let us determine to study God's will, both to learn it and to do it.

-via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia

# *News & Notes*

**THE SICK:** *Lawinda Keenon* has been sick this past week, but is now doing better ...*Erica Crunk* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday after being sick last week ...*Sanda Martel* has been sick and has not been able to be at services ...*Ashley Goode's step-father, Thomas McCoy*, continues in the Huntsville hospital ...*Myrtie Williams* continues in Glenwood Convalescent Center in Florence ...*Helen Trousdale* is at home and hopes to be at services today...*Signa Skipworth, Catherine Parker & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher*, is now at her home...*Jack & Onzell Tucker* are confined at home ...*Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Jackson Drive church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services

will be Monday through Friday evenings at 7:00.. *Gary Kerr* will be the speaker in this meeting... The **College Place church** in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m.. *Leon Mauldin* will be the speaker in this meeting ... The **Isbell church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with services at 7:00 p.m.. *Jackie Richardson* will be the speaker in this meeting... The **Elgin Hills church** in Elgin is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday with services at 7:00 p.m.. The speaker on *Sunday – Charles Maples; Monday and Tuesday – Barney Keith; Wednesday and Thursday – Eugene Britnell* ... The **West Madison church** in Pulaski, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m.. *Connie Adams* will be the speaker in this meeting.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Sandra Glass** in the passing of her uncle, *Billy Jackson*, this past week. His funeral was yesterday in Athens.

**MARKET STREET MEETING:** It was my privilege to be with the **Market Street church** in Athens last week in a gospel meeting. It was good to be with the church there and the see the work they are doing. The church at Market is overseen by four elders. The church has two evangelists, *Warren Glass, Jr.* and *Kasey Harbin*. There were several from Anderson that came to the meeting and I appreciate you coming; it meant a lot to me. I also appreciate *Steve Parker* and *Mark McIntyre* for preaching in my absence.

**OUT OF TOWN: The Whites:** *Mark and April* have been on vacation in Texas... **The Chancellors:** *Laurie and Abby* are back home after being away in Louisiana... **Shelia Moore** is back home after being in Michigan last weekend.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance–Week of Oct. 7th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 85  
 Morning Worship ..... 99  
 Evening Worship ..... 86  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 87

**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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