

# 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, December 30th:

### ***Bible Classes***

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading .... (Num. 27:12-23)  
..... Aric Butler  
Prayer  
..... Steve Parker

### ***Morning Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Ronnie Phillips  
Assisting ..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Serving ..... James McConnell  
..... Ethan Pressnell  
..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Hunter Cox  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jsmes Word

### ***Evening Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Tyler Cox  
Bible Reading ..... (Num. 28:1-8)  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Lord's Supper  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Closing Prayer  
..... Kevin Chancellor

Volume XIV

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No. 52

## ***Investing In Heaven***

**Mark Mosely**

Compound interest is an amazing thing. I am not a finance whiz, but I know that whether you save or go in debt a small amount of money – regularly, over time – the results are staggering.

If you do a search on the web for “compound interest” you will be directed to a number of web sites that offer compound interest calculators. Go ahead and play around with one. You’ll be amazed at how a small amount quickly snowballs into an avalanche of dividends.

It isn’t a stretch to think of our spiritual investments as sort of a heavenly investment group.

First, there is the “buy in”. Everyone must initially invest a principle amount. This requires turning over all that you are and have to God. Don’t worry about how small or large that amount may be.

The truth is we are all spiritually bankrupt when we come to Christ. Do a study of “blessed are those who are poor in spirit” sometime. Still, we are required to surrender whatever there is of us over to God. Like the old hymn says, “All to Jesus I surrender”.

Now what? Start investing. Start laying aside treasure in heaven. Don’t fret over the fact that your deposits seem to be a pittance. Remember the widow and her two mites? Just muster up whatever you have and bring it to God.

Understand, what I’m talking about has little to do with whatever monetary offerings you may give into the church treasury. I want you to think on a grander scale.

Make some small daily investments in your marriage and family. Pay a compliment. Lend a hand. (I hear my son-in-law

was doing some dishes last night. A wise investment indeed!) Play a game with your children. Discuss their Bible lessons with them before they go to bed.

Make a small investment in spreading the gospel. Sow a seed of kindness. Tell someone how thankful you are to be a Christian. Invite them to come rejoice in worship with the saints.

Make a small investment in encouraging the saints. Send a card. Make a phone call. Throw a party (we call them “get-togethers” in the South). Attend a ladies’ retreat or a men’s night.

Say a prayer. Send a small contribution to a worthy charity.

Share a smile.

You’ll be amazed at how these investments will compound and grow to the glory of God and the salvation of many.

Today’s Prayer: “Holy Father, I want to invest my life in You. I surrender everything I am and hope to be into Your hands. I am persuaded You will guard faithful all that I have entrusted into Your hand. You can feed a multitude of thousands with a young lad’s lunch! Take what I have and multiply blessing, Lord.”

-via *Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama



## *The Cost of My Salvation*

**Jason Cicero**

*“And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him”* (Luke 23:33). In 1972, Paul S. Minear wrote: “If it is true that Jesus never had a better press than today, it is also true that rarely has there been less knowledge of His commands and less inclination to obey them. Recognition of His greatness has served as

a substitute for reckoning the costs of discipleship” (Commands of Christ, p. 11).

Many today rebel at the very idea of “the cost of discipleship” as if it were a denial of salvation by grace. But it was Christ Himself who first called attention to the sobering demands of following Him. Salvation is both free and costly.

**Salvation is free.** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). This gift (charisma) is of grace. I deserve to be punished for my sins. My God and Father will give me what I don’t deserve by His love, grace and mercy which are in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:4-9). Salvation is free.

**Salvation is costly.** The grace of God is not cheap. The “High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy” (Isaiah 57:15) sent His only begotten Son into this world to shed His blood on a cross for the purpose of bringing unholy folks like me into fellowship with Him. As I rejoice in my salvation, I need to remember daily the cost. God gave His Son. The Son gave His life. I have been redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:19). Salvation is costly.

**Immediate death of self.** As I come to understand that Christ died for me, my faith is to lead me to submission, repentance, confession of Christ as my Lord and Savior and baptism. In baptism my “old man” is “crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with” (Romans 6:6). To be a disciple of Christ is to put my sinful self to death. To be “born again.” To start over in Him.

**Daily death of self.** As I begin my life in Christ, I am to understand that “it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). Everyday I am to take up my cross and follow Him. The “life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20).

I have died with Christ in baptism, risen with Him to walk in newness of life, and continue to put myself to death for Him daily for

one reason: He “loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” The “love of Christ compels me” to deny myself, take up my cross daily and follow Him (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

—via *The North Jasper Seeker*; Jasper, Alabama



## *The Perspective of Trust*

Dan Chaney

Isn't it amazing how two people can view the same situation and see it completely different? What that suggests is that our biases and beliefs influence the way we see things. It's the age-old question of whether the glass is half empty or half full.

Read the story of Joshua and Caleb in Numbers 13-14. The Lord commanded Moses to send spies into Canaan; that group included Joshua and Caleb. They were to bring back information concerning the condition of the land, its fruit and its people.

All the spies agreed on what they saw; the land flowed with milk and honey as suggested and the people were strong and of great size. Joshua and Caleb were different from the others because they saw that the land could be entered. Caleb said, “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it” (Numbers 13:30). The other spies disagreed. They gave a bad report, saying that they would not be able to enter the land.

Upon hearing their report the people rebelled. Even after Joshua and Caleb reassured them of the land's goodness and God's willingness to give it to them, the people were still unwilling to enter the land. They even suggested stoning Moses and the others.

These people were a stone's throw away

from the land God had promised to them. They missed their opportunity and privilege of entering into it. Why? They were unable to trust in God as they should have. After God pronounced their punishment, some tried to enter the land on their own. Without God as their help they were slaughtered by the Amalekites and Canaanites.

The other spies saw the same thing as Joshua and Caleb; so why the difference in their actions? Joshua and Caleb trusted in the Lord and His willingness to aid them. They remembered God and His faithfulness to deliver what He promised. They were not afraid to put all of their hope and trust into God's hands.

The other spies failed to do that. They let their own thoughts and opinions cloud their perspectives and eventually paid the price for their lack of trust. “Even those men who brought out the very bad report of the land died by a plague before the Lord” (Numbers 14:37).

Our perspectives are clouded by biases, opinions, and beliefs. The other spies didn't really see the same thing as Joshua and Caleb. They didn't see that they should trust in God, and they left God out of their evaluation of the situation. How you perceive your need to trust in the Lord will affect the way you serve Him. If we don't have a true understanding of our need to trust, we'll be in the same situation as these people -- we will not trust God as we should, and we will fail in our service to Him.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

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

## *News & Notes*

**THE SICK:** *Marcia Cooper* continues in CCU at ECM hospital in Florence and hopes to be in a room soon... *Signa Skipworth* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Laura Clemmons* was sick and unable to be

at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Hayden Blakely* was also sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Jonathan Keenon's father, Glen Keenon*, has spent several days in the Huntsville Hospital with congestive heart failure ... *Jimmy and Charles Glass' sister, Janice Moody*, continues at home recuperating from a broken hip ...*Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner*, is at home and not doing well...*Myrtie Williams* continues in Glenwood Convalescent Center in Florence ...*Onzell Tucker* continues at home with her compression fractures ...*Steven Crunk's neice, Abby Vandiver*, is in Children's Hospital in Birmingham and is seriously sick with a blood disorder ...*Shelia Goode and Lou Annn Phillips' father, Archie Slaton*, had a stint inserted on Wednesday... *Signa Skipworth, Catherine Parker & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher*, is now at her home ...*Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

**LAST SUNDAY NIGHT:** It was good to have *Paddy Kendall-Ball* with us last Sunday evening informing us of the work in Zimbabwe and the needs the brethren have there.

**GWANDA, ZIMBABWE:** We are gathering food and other items listed in *The Anderson Communciator* to be sent to the brethren in the church at Gwanda, Zimbabwe. Let us remember this effort.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Chancellors: Kevin, Laurie and Abby* have been in Lousianna this week on vacation...*The Hammonds: Eddie and Willodean* are on vacation in Florida.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** This evening will be the time for Communication Group C to meet. If you are in group C, remember to meet with your group this evening.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance—Week of Dec. 23rd  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 93  
Morning Worship ..... 112  
Evening Worship ..... 80

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 74

### 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

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Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

#### Deacons

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Eddie J. Hammond ..... (256) 247-3038  
Mark McIntyre ..... (256) 729-8316  
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