

# 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.*

Volume XV

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No. 8

**Anderson  
church of Christ**  
5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, Alabama

**Visit Us On The Web**  
Anderson-church.org

## **Men Priviledged To Serve:**

Sunday, February 24th:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Num. 33:1-12)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Steve Parker  
Assisting ..... Kevin Chancellor  
Serving ..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Michael Word  
..... Corey Goode  
..... Jonathan Keenon  
Closing Prayer  
..... Phil Pressnell

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Bible Reading .... (Num. 33:37-49)  
..... Brian Word  
Prayer  
..... Brian Blakely  
Lord's Supper  
..... Steve Parker  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Closing Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

## ***Does Your Religion Have Substance?***

**Allen Dvorak**

I am a snacker. Like hordes of other folks who also believe that chips and salsa are one of the basic food groups, I like to snack on something as I relax by reading or watching television. Snacking, however, has an unfortunate consequence—weight gain! In search of healthy foods on which to snack, I have tried rice cakes. Rice cakes are inexpensive, attractive looking, a good source of fiber and low in calories, but eating them is like eating air; there is no substance to them! Those rice cakes remind me of the religion of some; it looks good at first glance, but there is not much substance to it!

Jesus taught that verbal claims to allegiance unaccompanied by obedience are useless. He said, "But why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). The word "Lord" is one which indicates a person who possesses the authority to command. Jesus asked why some were calling Him "Lord" as though recognizing His authority and yet not obeying Him. Such religion may "sound" good, but it lacks substance. We can demonstrate that Jesus is our Lord by letting Him rule in our hearts and others will know of His rule by the way we live.

Many people advertise their love for Jesus Christ on the bumper of their car or various other places. They like to talk about "loving Jesus Christ" and to the casual observer they appear pious, but they actually pay little attention to what Jesus had to say. Jesus affirmed that there is no love without obedience. He said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments... He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me" (John 14:15, 21a). Religion which consists only of verbal claims "to love the Lord" without determined obedience to His word certainly lacks substance.

Sometimes people surround themselves with religious items such as crosses, pictures of Jesus or Bible verses on plaques. Observing these exhibitions of supposed religious fervor, one may think that such people are interested in spiritual things, but this is frequently not the case. Often their behavior indicates that such items are merely window-dressing. Their religion is purely external, having little to do with their heart, nor has it affected their lives in any concrete way. It is superficial and lacks substance.

Verbal claims to love Jesus Christ and even the surrounding of oneself with religious symbols mean little if we ignore what Jesus commands through His inspired writers. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). It is imperative that we investigate the Scriptures to determine the will of our heavenly Father. Any “religion” which does not leave the stamp of Jesus’ teaching on our life through obedience to the Father’s will is not worth much. Does your religion have substance?

—via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama



## *Throwing Away The Key*

**Dan Shipley**

*“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).*

Sin is bad, but covering sin is even worse. If deliberate sin is like putting oneself in jail, then covering such sin is like throwing away the key.

The covered sin — the one a man attempts to hide and refuses to confess — shuts one off from spiritual prosperity and divine mercy. “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them

will obtain mercy” (Proverbs 28:13). There can be no trading on God’s mercy because it does not ignore sin. It is not a question of whether His mercy saves the sinner — but whether the sinner will allow it by confessing and forsaking his sins.

In covering sins the sinner spurns the mercy through which forgiveness and salvation are possible. If a merciful God provides the feast, sets the table, and invites all to partake, then how can He be faulted by those who choose to starve themselves? No, “the Lord’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save,” neither can limitations be placed on His mercy — except by the rebellious sinner who refuses it. What sin could be more pernicious than the one a man will not acknowledge nor repent of? Little wonder God says such a one “shall not prosper.”

But not only does the covering of sin preclude forgiveness, it easily becomes the launching-pad for yet other sins. Nothing encourages sin like sin. Lies and deceitfulness are popular camouflage for hiding evil. This in turn leads to the development of a compromising attitude toward all sin, both in self and others. This is an unwholesome attitude that permits one sin will soon permit another. Why? Because it involves more than one’s disposition toward a certain unlawful act; it involves his attitude toward God Himself — the One whose law is violated!

When tempted by Potiphar’s wife, Joseph reminds her of his obligations to his master then asks, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9) To wrong his master was bad; to wrong God was worse. How men need Joseph’s perspective of sin and regard for God. Ungodliness is essentially a wrong attitude toward God, the expression of which is lawlessness which is sin (see 1 John 3:4).

No sin can be considered as isolated or insignificant. Notice carefully James 2:10–11 in this connection, especially “For He who said” in verse eleven. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have

become a transgressor of the law.

One might just as well talk about the size of God as to make distinctions in “sizes” of sins — for the deliberate practice of any sin constitutes a rejection of Him and His law.

“Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 4:8). It is not difficult to understand why no man can prosper while perpetuating disrespect for God in the covering of sins.

Finally, and logically, the practice of covering sins has the effect of hardening the heart (see Hebrews 3:13). How could it be otherwise when one persists in violating a truth-trained conscience? Who could court such ungodliness without a corresponding adverse effect on the inner man? “Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?” (Proverbs 6:27). Surely anything that can harden a man’s heart while causing him to dishonor God and shun His mercy is a dangerous sin. It may be that the worst sin is to hide.

-via *Plain Talk*; Bunett, Texas.



## *Distorting The Scriptures*

**Stacy Crim**

The Bible must be respected for what it is, the inspired Word of God. Paul told Timothy that the Scriptures are able to make one wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15). Jesus rebuked the Saducees for not knowing the Scriptures and thus the direct cause for their own error (Matthew 22:29). Many people today are erring for the same reason; they do not know the Scriptures.

Peter wrote “Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him bath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these Things; in which are some things hard to be

understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as They do also the other Scriptures unto their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:15,16).

Some people plain and simply distort or twist what has been written. Willingly or unwillingly, Scriptures cannot be reworded, retranslated or ignored to favor one’s situation, religious practices, likes or dislikes. The Word of God must not be distorted.

“I like instruments in worship, and it doesn’t say you can’t have one.”; “You don’t have to be baptized to be saved.”; “That doesn’t mean what it says.”; “That’s your interpretation.”; Yes but my situation are all perverted reasons to justify what one wants to do, is going to do, or is already doing.

Distorting the Scriptures only leads to one’s own destruction.

Jesus said, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not My words, bath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

-via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.

## *News & Notes*

**THE SICK:** *Marcia Cooper* continues in NHC Scott Center in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee for her rehabilitation. She is in room 111...  
...*Lisa Word’s father, Austin Dillinger*, is not doing well at his home in Orlando, Florida  
...*Brandon Dickey* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be out ...*Rodney McCrary* had cateracts remove from his eyes this past Tuesday ...*Cindy Pressnell* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...  
...*Sarah Blakely* was sick and uanble to be at Bible study Wednesday night...  
...*Taylor and Ava Mosley* have borth been sick and have not been able to be at services ...*Charles Glass* has not been able to be with us this week due to not feeling well ...*Harrison Phillips* was able to

be back at services on Sunday ... **Lisa Word** was sick and unable to be at services Wednesday night... **Jonathan Keenon** has been sick this past week and has not been at services ... **Billy Wallen's grandmother, Alvis Hooie**, is now at home following her stay in the ECM hospital in Florence with pneumonia ... **Cindy Pressnell's mother, Nancy Hagood**, is now home following her rehabilitation for her knee replacement ... **Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt** has been suffering mini strokes and is at home... **Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner**, is at home and not doing well... **Jack and Onzell Tucker** continue to be confined at home ... **Eric White's father, Jim White**, is continuing his cancer treatments ... **Steven Crunk's niece, Abby Vandiver**, continues chemo treatments for her blood disorder ... **Signa Skipworth, Catherine Parker & C.L. Weathers' cousin, Hilda Fincher**, continues at her home ... **Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

**GWANDA, ZIMBABWE:** Remember we are continuing to collect food and other items to send to the brethren in the church at Gwanda, Zimbabwe. We Will be making another shipment next week. Let us remember this effort.

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

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Hammonds: Eddie and Willodean* are in Florida on vacation.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance – week of Feb. 17th  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 95  
Morning Worship ..... 105  
Evening Worship ..... 72

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 70

**Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

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

**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  
Brian Word ..... (931) 565-3799

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