

# 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, April 27th:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading ..... (Deut. 2:26-31)  
..... Brian Blakely  
Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Steve Parker  
Assisting ..... Brian Word  
Serving ..... Ethan Pressnell  
..... Michael Word  
..... Corey Goode  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Closing Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Bible Reading ..... (Deut. 2:32-37)  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Prayer  
..... Andrew Gatlin  
Lord's Supper  
..... Steve Parker  
..... Brian Word  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey

Volume XV

April 27, 2008

No. 17

## *Seeing The Hope Within Us*

**Matthew H. Allen**

Andrew is referred to twelve times in scripture. Six of those times he is referred to as Peter's brother. Only once is he mentioned without any connection to Peter. It goes without question that Andrew lived in the shadow of his brother. Natives of Bethsaida in Galilee, Andrew and Peter were fisherman. In John 1:29-34, Andrew is introduced to Jesus through John the Baptist and immediately begins following Jesus. From that moment on, Andrew worked to bring other people to the Savior. He first finds his brother telling him, We have found the Messiah! It has been said that the contents of John 1:40-42 most characterize the life of Andrew.

He brought Peter to Jesus. Peter would become the bold leader of the apostles and write two books in the New Testament, but it was Andrew that brought Peter to Christ. While Andrew may be overshadowed by the leadership qualities of Peter, he was extremely important to the cause of Christ. God needs not only great leaders, but great followers. He needs not only great preachers and public speakers; but quiet personal workers in the kingdom! He has been called "sympathetic Andrew" because of his interest in other people. He immediately shared what he learned with someone else. Let us realize that Jesus calls people to be His disciples for what they can do for Him and what He can do for them!

From time to time, we sing a hymn that says, Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today, He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way; He has no tongue but our tongues to tell men how he died. He has no help but our help to bring them to His side. Jesus can take ordinary people and use them to do great things for His kingdom! God knows that it sometimes takes an

Andrew to reach a Peter.

Each member of our congregation plays an important role in evangelism. Think of the blessings you have because of Jesus. Do you want to share these blessings with others? How important is it to you for your friends to find and experience what you have in Christ? The most important thing that can happen in a person's life is to follow Jesus! We want people to visit with us so they can see the hope that exists in serving God.

Can others see the hope within us? Our hope in Christ needs to be such a force in our lives that people see our hope and ask about it! We need to be able to explain that hope! It starts with letting Jesus control our lives through God's word. It can be seen in the way we handle trouble or suffering. It is made manifest through our gentle and reverent behavior. When people see us committed to being God's kind of person; when they see us with a living hope; they will want to come and find in Jesus what we have found!

Tradition says that Andrew preached in a province where the governor's wife became a Christian. The governor disapproved of her faith and when she refused to renounce her faith he had Andrew crucified on an X-shaped cross. It is said Andrew hung alive for two days and continued to preach the gospel—still trying to bring people to Jesus. Are we earnestly working to bring others to Jesus?

-via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana.



### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

*Come join us as we study together.*

## *I Didn't Mean To!*

**Jason Longstreth**

Often times, when someone commits a sin or does something they shouldn't do, we hear the excuse "I didn't mean to do that" or "I didn't mean to say that." Let me ask you, what kind of an excuse is that? I believe if we boil it down what the person really mean is something more like "I didn't plan for that to happen." But does that absolve the individual from any guilt? We sometimes act as if it does. Have you ever known anyone who became involved in an extramarital affair? I do. What does the person usually say when they are caught? "We didn't plan for this to happen - it just happened!" Almost as if they believe these things are beyond their control. Perhaps they do. On the other hand, have you ever heard anyone say, "Yes, I planned the whole thing - this is exactly what I hoped would happen." I doubt it!

Now, I'm not denying that things sometimes happen which we did not plan. In fact, I hope none of us intentionally sin. If we do, we have a far more serious problem. Therefore, every sin we commit should be unintentional or unplanned. However, just because we do not plan on sinning does not mean that we are not responsible for our sins. How many of you believe that when David went out on his rooftop that night he was planning to see a woman taking a bath? And planned to commit adultery with her? And planned to murder her husband? Of course not! Remember, David was a man after God's own heart. He did not devise evil in his heart. There is no evidence to suggest that he intended for those things to happen. Nonetheless, they did happen - and he was responsible for his actions. And we are responsible for our actions as well.

But the point of this article is not just to get us to accept responsibility for the things we do. Instead, let's take it one step further. Consider King David again. If we are willing to accept that David did not plan for the events which fol-

lowed, was there anything David could have done to prevent these events? Of course there was. He could have resisted the temptation when it presented itself. Anything else? Let me ask you another question. Although there may not have been anything wrong with David's actions leading up to his sin with Bathsheba, was David acting in the wisest way he could have acted? We are told that it was the time of year when the kings went out to make war - was it wise for David to stay home, especially when his soldiers were out fighting for Israel? Was it wise for him to take a walk on top of his house, where he could see down into other houses so easily? Was it wise for him to do this in the evening, when many people would be preparing to retire for the night? You see, David may not have planned for this to happen, but he put himself in a situation where it could happen. David did not think about sinning - he didn't think at all.

Too many Christians put themselves in the same position. We don't plan to sin, but we don't plan not to sin either - we just don't think. If we are going to be able to resist the Devil, we cannot make it easier for him. We cannot put ourselves in a position where it would be easier for us to sin. Let me give you a few examples. If we understand the evils of alcohol and drunkenness, why would we go someplace where alcohol is served? Won't we be more tempted to drink? If we understand that adultery and fornication are sins, why would we meet with someone of the opposite sex in a setting that is conducive to such things? Won't we be more tempted to commit such acts? If we understand that vulgar language and rude behavior are things that we should not be emulating in our lives, why would we watch programs on TV that are filled with these things? Or hang out with people who act this way? Won't we be more tempted to become like them?

You see, we could avoid a lot of problems if we just took the time to think! If something is not going to help us become a better Christian, why do it? If there is a chance that something may entice us to sin and cost us our souls, we must avoid it at all costs. "I didn't mean to!" I

certainly hope you did not! But what did you do to try to prevent it?

-via *The Beacon*; Bowling Green, Kentucky.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Marcia Cooper* is now at home from rehabilitation... *Corey Word* is doing better after his hospital stay last week ...*Brooke Phillips' grandfather, Bill Maner*, broke his hip and had surgery on Wednesday in Decatur... *Faye Hammond* is home after spending a few days in the Huntsville Hospital. She is scheduled to have surgery on Thursday ... *Lisa Word's father, Austin Dillinger*, is at home now and is dealing with his congestive heart failure ... *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ... *Eric White's father, Jim White*, continues his cancer treatments... *Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, Nadine Thompson*, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen ... *Steven Crunk's niece, Abby Vandiver*, is in Children's Hospital in Birmingham and is seriously sick with a blood disorder .. *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette.

**GWANDA, ZIMBABWE:** Remember the work we are involved in helping our brethren in the church at Gwanda, Zimbabwe.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Sarah Blakely* and *all the family*, in the passing of Sarah's uncle, *Leo Bowen*. The funeral was in Ohio.

**ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING:** There will be an elders and deacons meeting this afternoon at 4:30 at the building.

**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.

**NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES:** This morning we are beginning a new quarter in our Bible classes. This past quarter has been good and I appreciate all the teachers this past quarter for their diligence in preparing and teaching their classes. This quarter on Sunday morning, **Cecil Cox** will be teaching the book of *Philippians* in the Auditorium class. In the adult class in the back **Mark McIntyre** will be teaching a study on *The Providence of God*. On Wednesday evening the adults will all be in the auditorium and I will be teaching a *Series of Studies on the Home*.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **Jackson Heights church** in Columbia, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00. **Max Dawson** will be the speaker in this meeting ...The **Hanceville church** in Hanceville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00. **Bob Waldron** will be the speaker in this meeting ...The **Underwood Heights church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Dwight McGee** will be the speaker in this meeting.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance: Week of April 20th  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 91  
 Morning Worship ..... 103  
 Evening Worship ..... 67

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 81



**Vacation Bible School**

**July 13-18, 2008**

Frank Richey, Speaking

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

**Evangelist & Editor**

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