

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, July 27th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Deut. 13:1-5)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Steve Parker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Michael Clemmons
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Hunter Cox
..... Aric Butler
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Cecil Cox

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading (Deut. 13:6-11)
..... Mark McCrary
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
..... Michael Clemmons
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Blakely

Volume XV

July 27, 2008

No. 30

It Is Time To Say Farewell

David A. Cox

Several months ago after much reflection, prayer and discussions, Kerry and I decided that I would accept the invitation of the elders of the Market Street church in Athens to relocate and work as the evangelist with the church there. This being the case, this is the last Sunday, Kerry, Tyler Hunter and I will be here.

Decisions of this nature are always difficult. But when one has lived and been a part of the lives of so many for over thirteen years, the decision was even more difficult. The Cox family has thoroughly enjoyed our association with the Anderson church. We appreciate the encouragement that you have given to us and the opportunities the work here has given us. Tyler and Hunter have grown up to teenagers here and I am so thankful that their years have been around such a group as you are. We cherish greatly the friendships we have developed with the people here. As we leave we will miss you, but this is tempered by the knowing that we will still hear from you from time to time. It is our hope that you all will come and visit when you can.

It has been a privilege to be your evangelist; I have tried to do the work to the best of my ability. As with any work over 13 years there have been "up and downs". We have seen a good number added to the church and have grieved over the loss of others, both physically and spiritually. The make up of the church is quite different than it was thirteen years ago. We have shared many joyous occasions together such as weddings, baptisms, restorations and birth of children, but have share troubled times together in the hospital rooms and homes as sickness and even the passing of our loved ones. Through all the work, I have tried to be faithful to God and to the truth of His word.

I want to thank the many faithful readers of the *Gospel Power* each week. I have received many kind and gracious comments

from the readers. I thoroughly enjoy editing and publishing the bulletin; but your kind and frequent comments have meant much to me.

As we leave the church at Anderson, I urge you to move on with a renewed zeal for the work of the Lord. Determine to work together in peace and harmony striving to reach the lost. May you ever remember the word of Paul:

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

May the Lord richly bless all of you as you strive to live righteous, godly lives according to His will.

Let us hear from you! Our new address is:
David, Kerry, Tyler & Hunter Cox
P.O. Box 735
Athens, Alabama 35612
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(256) 232-1525 (Office)
E-mail: dacox@hiwaay.net



“Incredible” Beginning

Andy Diestelkamp

The beginnings of things always intrigue us. We often mark them with great ceremony at the time if we anticipate their importance (weddings, ribbon-cutting grand openings, signings, etc.). We frequently research beginnings if only later we realize someone’s or something’s importance (the work of historians). It is therefore of no surprise that thinking men and women have often pondered the beginning of the physical universe.

While many are content to not give it any consideration and perhaps assume that because it

is here it has always been here, most observe and realize that all physical things have measurable deterioration and, therefore, cannot be eternal but must have had a beginning point.

Essentially, there are two possibilities for how the physical began: 1) It happened by accident, or 2) It happened on purpose. Expressed another way: 1) It happened by random chance, or 2) It happened by design. Stated yet another way: 1) It began spontaneously from ignorant nothingness, or 2) It began intentionally from intelligence.

In modern parlance it is the debate between “Big Bang” and “Intelligent Design” or “evolution vs. creation.” While some have attempted to harmonize the general theory of evolution and creation theory, at its core such an attempt is futile. To borrow from the apostle Paul, “what fellowship has purpose with accident, what communion has design with chance, what accord has intelligence with ignorance, what agreement has creation with evolution,” (adapted from 2 Corinthians 6:14-16). The answer is none.

When anyone is challenged to give a historical explanation for the existence of something physical, spontaneous generation from nothing is never considered sound reasoning. Yet this is what modern science teaches is the best explanation for the beginning of all things.

However, the ancient book of books, the Holy Scriptures, offers another explanation. Many find its explanation incredible, but it is far more credible than the spontaneous generation of something from nothing suggested by atheists and agnostics. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). Indeed, mankind is without excuse for not drawing the basic conclusion that a powerful supernatural intelligence (God) is the cause of this physical existence (Romans 1:20).

Scripture reveals that God simply spoke things into existence. “Then God said...and it was so,” is an oft repeated phrase in Genesis 1. To be able to speak material things into existence demands a power that is beyond nature and beyond our comprehension. It is super-natural.

Therefore, it is understandable that atheists assume that this creation account (along with the rest of the first eleven chapters of Genesis) is mythical, legendary or, at best, allegorical, but certainly not literal. Yet, even some believers in God attempt to explain the creation using the naturalistic assumptions of unbelievers.

Forgetting that with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26), many find these accounts incredible and unbelievable. However, again borrowing from the sayings of Paul, “why should it be thought incredible by you that” God spoke things into existence in six days? Of course, Paul was addressing Agrippa with regard to Jesus’ resurrection (Acts 26:8). But beware! If you find a six-day creation incredible, you might have the same problem with the resurrection from the dead. Most people do. Whenever we doubt the power of God’s spoken word, we have no foundation for faith in any aspect of His word.

As disciples of Christ, we would do well to follow His lead concerning the authority of the Genesis account. In responding to His adversaries about a point of great controversy regarding divorce, Jesus refers to the Genesis account of the beginning (Matthew 19:3-8). Jesus’ authoritative use of Moses’ account of creation affirms that He believed it to be accurate. Indeed, we cannot claim Christ as our Lord and reject the accuracy of Moses’ words (John 5:46,47). To adapt Jesus’ words to the Sadducees and apply them to the present controversy over creation/evolution, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29). Beware, a rejection of these beginning truths undermines the whole foundation of the rest of Scripture and, therefore, our faith in God’s power to do anything.

-via *The Beacon*; Bowling Green, Kentucky

Remember Our Bible Study Periods

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

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Faye Hammond* had a MRA done on Friday on the arteries in her neck ... *Janice Glass* has been having trouble with her ears roaring constantly and is taking a round of medicine to try to correct the problem ... *Ronnie Phillips* continues to have back pain and is scheduled to see a doctor this week which will hopefully give him some relief from his pain ... *Daniel Clemmons* has been having headaches this past week and has not been able to get any relief from them ... *LouAnn Phillips* was able to be at services last weekend after a short stay in the hospital in Birmingham following a medical procedure ... *Monroe Pressnell, Phil’s father*, will be taking another treatments on Monday for his cancer... *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ... *Jackie Varnell’s father, Alvie Putman*, is at home from the hospital... *Buffy Wallen’s grandmother and James McConnell’s aunt, Nadine Thompson*, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen ... *Eric White’s father, Jim White*, continues his cancer treatments... *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.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication group C to meet. If you are in group C remember to meet with your group this evening.

CHANGES AT ANDERSON: As it has been announced *Cecil Cox* will be filling in preaching for the next couple of months along with others at times. *Aaron Andrews* has accepted the invitation of the elders to come and work with the church here. He will begin his work in October.

GOSPEL POWER: This will be the last bulletin I will be editing at Anderson. *Cecil Cox* will be editing the *Gospel Power* for the next couple

of months until Aaron Andrews arrives to begin his work with the church at Anderson. Remember to let Cecil know of the things that need to be included in the bulletin.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Words:* *Brian Lisa, Corey and Olivia* continue to be out of town in Orlando, Florida. Brian has gone to bring Lisa, Corey and Olivia back home after their extended visit... ***The Blakelys:*** *Sarah, Hayden and Brooke* are on their way to Canada for vacation.

BETHEL, TENNESSEE MEETING: It was my pleasure to be with the church in Bethel, Tennessee this past week preaching in their gospel meeting. The meeting was vary encouraging. The church is overseen by three elders and brother *Glen Keenon* serves as the evangelist. It was a joy to be with the brethren there. I appreciate *Steve Parker* for preaching last Sunday in my absence and for *Cecil Cox* for teaching my class on Wednesday night. I appreciate all those who have always been willing to fill in when I am away. Thank you.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The ***Woolly Springs church*** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00 p.m.. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting...The ***Cartwright church*** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today with *Collier Raley* preaching this morning. *Bobby Graham* will be preaching this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. and Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m....The ***New Hope church*** at Cross Key will be beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Don Miller* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: *Attendance: Week of July 20th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 91
 Morning Worship 101
 Evening Worship 71

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 76

Remember Our Service Tonight at 6:00

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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