

# 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, August 17th:

### Bible Classes

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Bible Reading .(Deut. 15:19-23)  
..... Aric Butler  
Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons

### Morning Worship

Song Leader  
..... Kevin Chancellor  
Prayer  
..... Mr. E. Hammond  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Mark McIntyre  
Assisting ..... Ronnie Phillips  
Serving ..... Mark McCrary  
..... Jim Phillips  
..... Brad Hammond  
..... Ethan Pressnell  
Closing Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode

### Evening Worship

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading ... (Deut. 15:7-11)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Brian Word  
Lord's Supper  
..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brian Blakely

Volume XV

August 17, 2008

No. 33

## The Grandest Name

Cecil F. Cox

I want to ask you a question. Why be a Christian? Many times people reason, being a Christian requires very much of one. This is true. Being a Christian requires dedication and commitment to God and His will. Being a Christian requires sacrifice. It is not the easiest life one could live. As one looks at these things he may be tempted to rephrase the question: Why would any one want to be a Christian? Well, I can think of a number of good reasons and we plan to discuss these in future issues of *Gospel Power*. One of them I shall discuss in this article.

One reason to be a Christian is **to wear the greatest name**. Let me ask you, How does it feel to wear the name "American"? or to be an "American"? At the mention of this thrills us and we rejoice. How grand and glorious it is to be an "American." But may I emphasize that this grandeur and glory is multiplied again and again when we think about wearing the name "Christian." In James 2:7, speaking of those who persecuted Christians, James said, "Do not they blaspheme that worthy (honorable, ASV) name by which ye are called." We want to emphasize, the name "Christian" is a "worthy" name! The name "Christian" is an "honorable" name.

Someone may ask, "WHY?" Some believe the name "Christian" was given to Christians by their enemies. They tell us the name was given in derision or ridicule. This is not the case. Acts 11:26 states "...the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.." The words "were called" in this verse are from a word meaning a "divine calling." So

according to this passage God was the one who did the calling. J. H. Thayer in defining the word here translated "*were called*" says, "to give divine command or admonition, to teach from heaven, to be divinely admonished, instructed." So, ladies and gentlemen, this calling was not by their enemies in derision or ridicule but rather it was given to them by God. When we wear the name "Christian" we wear the name God gave to His people. It is a shame that many people today wear a name in religion that has come from man and not named by God. When we are Christians we can wear the greatest name.

This is the name in which the apostle Peter strongly affirms in which we can glorify God. "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (1 Peter 4:16) In your work for Christ do you glorify God in the name Christian or do you call yourself by some other name? All men need to give this his serious and sober consideration.

The apostle Paul said that the name of Christ is above every name. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name..." (Phil. 2:9) And zealously and earnestly sought King Agrippa to become a Christian. "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28)

We must realize that there is something in a name. We should gladly wear the name God has given us. In religion we need nothing *more*, nothing *less*, and nothing *else*.

## *Impressions From Leviticus*

Bobby Graham

Reading through the Bible can be an enlightening experience for one who has never done it before. In recent days my

personal reading schedule has taken me through the Book of Leviticus. The book was a revelation of God's law for the priests of Israel in their priestly service. It instructed them in matters like the feasts during the year, their clothing for priestly duties, the offerings they made for the people and themselves, and divine service in other areas. One cannot read the book seriously without gaining some distinct impressions, some lessons that surely apply to New Testament service by God's current priests, Christians (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

First, the seriousness of divine service. Throughout the book the Lord made it clear that only the holy, that sanctified for divine service, was acceptable to Him. Anything else would be rejected. Sanctification under the Law of Moses was done by the priests' use of the blood of animals to make the offering or the individual acceptable to the Lord. Under the New Testament system, the blood of Christ is applied to persons obedient to the gospel; and practices of worship and service have been sanctified by the endorsement of God's Word. Divine warrant already exists for whatever God has approved, but the introduction of anything else in worship or service is unwarranted. The unholy should never be offered to God.

Second, the nature of divine law. God's law has ever been given for the good of man, who must be directed by God for he cannot direct his own steps. One can easily see that God's law is both positive and negative, in that it instructs one in what he ought to do and what he ought not to do. The negative is not some dreaded area to avoid in one's study, but an integral part of the divine revelation. The positive is not something to approach carelessly, in an almost trifling manner. It all is for man's benefit. It is given to guide people into acceptable conduct that pleases and honors God.

Third, the law shows a clear connection between law and love. These two matters are not the inseparable and unrelated elements that many think them to be. The law was designed to show people how to love God and how to love their neighbor (fellow man). Love is not some indefinable abstraction that one can never pin down. It behaves in certain ways, according to the One who says that love is obedient to Him. Love always holds God in high esteem and tries to honor Him in those ways approved by Him. Love also holds other human beings in high esteem and does for them what is for their good. Apart from God's law, there is no knowledge of how to conduct oneself in relation to either God or man.

These indelible lessons underscored in the Book of Leviticus are just as important for New Testament believers, for they are clearly set forth in the New Testament scriptures. The basis of acceptable service has never changed, though the details of different arrangements (Patriarchal, Mosaic, and Christian) have changed in keeping with God's progressive revelation, which reflects the developing of His eternal plan. Because that plan has been completed in Christ Jesus, no additional revelation need be expected. The New Testament plan is God's final plan for mankind (Jude 3. 2 Peter 1:3).

• Weekly Bulletin, Market St. church, Athens, Ala., May 4, 1995

### ***Bible Classes***

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

We had 96 last Sunday. We hope you will be in one of our Bible classes Sunday.

Classes for all ages!

## *Let Us Illustrate*

"Now the ones that fell/among thorns are those who, when they have heard go out and are are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity'" (Luke 8:14)

Brazil is home to a vine plant which forest-dwellers call the "murderer." At first the murderer's slender stem creeps along the ground, but once it meets a vigorous tree, it cleaves to it and begins to climb it. As it climbs, it sends out arm-like tentacles that continue to grow larger and clasp tighter. Within time the once lively tree is killed by the murderer which has completely smothered and strangled it. The murderer, from the summit of the strangled tree, as if in triumph, shoots out a huge, flowery head from which it scatters seed to repeat its work of death all over again.

Like the murderer vine, the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life can choke and smother the spiritual life of a Christian. Let us be on guard lest we, too, are choked and strangled by the things of ~is world

• THE RUSSELLVILLE REMINDER, Russellville, Ala., June 22, 2008

## *News & Notes*

*Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home ... *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 ... *Ronnie Phillips* was to undergo some medical procedure on his back in Huntsville on Friday ... *Fay Hammond* was admitted to the hospital Wednesday ... We extend our deepest sympathy to *Jackie Varnell and all the family* the passing of *Alvie Putman* ... *Signa Skipworth* went to see her doctor Wednesday and got home late ... Wednesday night we also missed *the Wallens* and *the Weathers* .. *Phil and Ethan Pressnell* left home Saturday for Missouri ... *Phil* expects to be back home Wednesday ... I am sure I am leaving some things out of these notes that should be included. I need your help to supply me with the things that need to be included.



Join us  
as we  
sing songs  
of praise  
to God.

## Congregational Singing

Friday, August 22, 2008  
7:00 p.m.  
**Anderson church of Christ**  
Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

### THE RECORD:

Attendance Week of August 10th

**Sunday:**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Bible Classes   | 96  |
| Morning Worship | 121 |
| Evening Worship | 82  |

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes

### 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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