

# 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, August 24th:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Deut. 16:18-22)

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Cecil Cox

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

Presiding ..... Jimmy Glass

Assisting ..... Aric Butler

Serving ..... Michael Word

..... Cory Goode

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Steve Parker

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Mr. E. Hammond

Bible Reading ..... (Deut. 17:1-7)

..... Rocky Rose

Prayer

..... Kevin Chancellor

Lord's Supper

..... Jimmy Glass

..... Aric Butler

Closing Prayer ..... Phil Pressnell

Volume XV

August 24, 2008

No. 34

## The Greatest Influence

Cecil F. Cox

In last weeks issue of *Gospel Power* I asked the question, Why be a Christian? I suppose this is a question that many have asked. We noted in last weeks article that being a Christian requires dedication and commitment to God and His will. Being a Christian requires sacrifice. People have concluded that being a Christ is not the easiest life one may live. Some have wondered why anyone would want to be a Christian. We started a discussion of this last week and sought to make the point that one should be a Christian to wear the grandest name. It is great that we may wear the name that God has given us. I gladly wear the name Cecil Franklin because I was named this by my parents. But as a disciple and follower of Christ, I gladly wear the name Christian, because it is the name given to us by God. And I do not desire to wear any other. How about you? So, in answer to our question: Why be a Christian? We answer ... To wear the greatest name.

I want to continue this discussion by pointing out in being a Christian, one possesses *the Greatest Influence*. He is the light of the world. This world is darkness. Men cannot see their way. Jesus said to his disciples,

"Ye are the light of the world ..." (Matt. 5:14)

What a glorious power the Christian possesses. In a world of darkness, the Christian is a **light**. Let this be clearly understood. The Christian is not the light within himself ... he is not the producer of the light ... it does not originate with him. In John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Paul wrote the church in Philippi and said:

# The SabbathDay

Gene Taylor

“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world. Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.”

As we hold forth the word of life and walk in the steps of Jesus we shine forth as lights. Paul said in Ephesians 5:8-13:

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.”

Why be a Christian? To possess this kind of an influence. This world is lost in sin. The Christian's influence is needed.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Prov. 14:34)

The power of a righteous influence is clearly seen in Genesis 18:23-32.. In this passage we learn that God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness. Abraham ask Him if ten righteous ones could be found would he destroy it. God told Abraham,

“ I will not destroy it for ten's sake.”

But ten righteous ones could not be found, so the cities were destroyed.

Concerning the destruction of the city of Jerusalem Jesus said,

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”

Let each of us do all we can to guard our influence. Remember the words of Soloman in Proverbs 22:1, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”

Many people are confused today about what they should do in relation to the Sabbath. Some feel the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, is still the day of worship. Some believe it is to be observed but that it is now the first day of the week. Others acknowledge Sabbath keeping to have been abolished and that now, under the Gospel, the first day of the week has a significance all its own and bears no relationship to the Sabbath.

With people having such diverse views, it is easy to see why there is a great deal of confusion surrounding the Sabbath. The only way to clear that confusion is to go to the Bible and see what it says.

## *The Sabbath Was for Israel*

During the Exodus from Egypt, God instituted the Sabbath for the Israelites, His chosen people under the Old Law. It is first mentioned in Exodus 16:23. The command to keep the Sabbath was one of the Ten Commandments (Ex.. 20:8). God did not, as some suppose, require its observance at the time of the creation of the world.

God commanded Israel to observe the Sabbath so that they would remember that while in Egypt they had no rest but that He had delivered them from their bondage and given them a day of rest (Deut. 5: 15). It was to be a sign between them and God so that they would never forget that it was He who had delivered them and sanctified them as a people for His possession (Ex.. 31: 13-17).

In that was a sign between Israel and God, a memorial of an event peculiar to the Jewish nation and a part of the covenant between them and God, one must conclude that only they were to keep it. If Jew and Gentile alike were to observe it, it would have had no real significance to the Jews.

It would have made no sense for the Gentiles to keep it because it would have had no meaning to them. They were never delivered from Egyptian bondage. Thus, they were never commanded to keep it or any other command contained in the law God gave to Israel through Moses.

The Jews, on the other hand, were to strictly observe it. They were not to work on it (Ex.31:13-17; 20:8-11; 23:9-12; 34:21). They were not to gather, bake or boil any food (Ex. 16:23-26). No fire was to be kindled (Ex. 35:1-3) and no sticks could be gathered for a fire (Num. 16:32-35). They were not to buy or sell (Nehemiah 13:15-21). They could bear no burden (Jer.17:21-22). They were to travel only a "Sabbath Day's journey" (Matt. 24:20). There was to be a holy convocation (Lev. 23:3) and the priests were to sacrifice two lambs of the first year without spot and blemish and two-tenths of an ephah of flour mingled with oil (Num. 28:9-10).

No one who seeks to bind the observance of the Sabbath today desires to keep it in its entirety. To attempt to keep any portion of it today, though, would put one under obligation to keep not only all aspects of the Sabbath, including its prohibitions against work and travel and its sacrifices, but also all commands contained in the Old Law. To keep the Old Law in one point makes one responsible to keep all of it (Gal. 5:3). To try to be justified by the Old Law today causes one to fall from grace (Gal. 5:4).

### *Sabbath Observance Ceased*

God intended the observance of the Sabbath to cease. As Jesus fulfilled the Old Law (Matt. 5: 17), it was taken out of the way and nailed to the cross (Gal. 5:1-4; Col. 2:14). It was taken out of the way so that Jesus could establish His new law, the "perfect law of liberty" (Jas. 1:25). Since Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18), everyone must obey His law. It does not include any command to keep the Sabbath. Therefore, to keep the Sabbath today is to act without divine authority.

### *Ceremonial Law vs. Moral Law*

Many who would bind the Sabbath today say that only the "ceremonial law" or the "law of Moses" was fulfilled and abolished by Jesus. They contend the "moral law" or the "law of God," the Ten Commandments continues to have authority. The Bible makes no distinction between the "law of Moses" and the "law of God" or between the "ceremonial law" and the "moral law" because no difference exists. For example, Ezra 7:6 says God had given "the law of Moses" while 2 Chronicles 34:14 states that the "law of the Lord" was "given by Moses."

The entire Old Law has been taken out of the way and is not to be kept today. No one is to be judged "in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths" for those things were but "a shadow of things to come" (Col. 2:16-17)..

When one seeks to bind the things of the Old Law today, he severs any relationship he might have with Christ and falls from grace (Gal. 5:4).

The only "Sabbath rest" remaining for the children of God is the one awaiting them in heaven (Heb. 4:9). It is a time when they may "rest from their labors." (Rev. 14:13)

# News & Notes

We express our sympathy to the family of *Faye Hammond* in Faye's passing this past week. Her funeral was conducted by David Cox at the Rogersville Funeral Home Wednesday afternoon. Faye was a member of the church here at Anderson. She was loved and will be missed by the church here in Anderson ... *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 ... 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.

COMMUNICATION GROUP MEETING  
Group "A" will be meeting tonight after our evening service.

TONIGHT'S SPEAKER: Mark McIntyre will be our speaker this evening. Be sure to be present not only to hear his lesson but to praise and glorify God.

THIS MORNING'S SERMON: "Me Rejoice! Why?"

## THE RECORD:

Attendance Week of August 17th

### Sunday:

Bible Classes ..... 101  
Morning Worship ..... 109  
Evening Worship .....

### Wednesday:

Bible Classes ..... 85

## 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  
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