

# 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 Priviledged To Serve:**  
Sunday, December 14th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 8:22-36)  
..... Eddie Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Aric Butler  
Lord's Supper ..... Mark McIntyre  
Serving ..... Jimmy Glass  
..... James McConnell  
..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Mike Rogers  
..... Stephen Stewart  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Bible Reading ..... (Proverbs 9)  
..... Mark McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Brian Word  
Lord's Supper  
..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Closing Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

Volume X

December 14, 2003

No. 50

## *By Process of Elimination*

**Dee Bowman**

"Eliminate" has an interesting history. It is from the Latin word *limen*, which meant a threshold. Add the prefix *e* or *ex* and you have "out of the threshold." So the word means to put out of doors, or get rid of something. We get our word "preliminary" from the same root. It means "before the threshold," and today has the concept of something that is introductory.

The Christian has to eliminate certain things from his life if he is to be pleasing to God. Among them, he should:

Eliminate feelings of pride. It is not out of order to care for and protect oneself, but the true child of God will always find ways to put off excessive pride and put himself at the disposal of others. The very essence of discipleship is that of self-denial (Matthew 16:24), and Paul said, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another" (Romans 12:10).

Eliminate ill will. It's easy to be overcome with evil when someone does something to us or treats us in some way we don't appreciate. But we are told that we should "recompense to no man evil for evil" (Romans 12:17), that we should "be no overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). The beginning place for such good will is to eliminate ill will before it has time to fester. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

Eliminate evil thoughts. All evil deeds begin in the mind—with evil thoughts. This elimination is actually a matter of employing the law of displacement. If our minds are taken up with good thoughts, there is no room left for the bad ones to germinate. That's why God said, through His servant Paul, that whatever things are true, honor-

able, just, pure, lovely, or of good report, that we should “think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). If a person’s mind is taken up with these noble thoughts, it is hardly possible for the evil ones to penetrate his thinking.

Eliminate evil inclinations of all kinds. “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5). To “mortify” something is to put it to death, to be separated from it—in short, to eliminate. The good Christian makes every effort to put out of the house anything that might tempt him to evil.

Eliminate all doubt. Total trust is what faith is all about. There is no room in the kingdom for doubt. We have complete trust in our Father and His assurances. God will do what He has said. His promises are sure, His word steadfast. “For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken” (Proverbs 3:26). “I will never leave you,” He said, (Hebrews 13:5), so that we may say, with confidence, “The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:6). If God said it, that settles it, no doubt about it.

Eliminating bad stuff from our lives is part of what we are all about. We try to expunge any and everything that would inhibit our progress as the children of God. It is our duty—yea, our privilege—so to do.

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

## *Devoted and Devout*

Gary Henry

The English words “devoted” and “devout” both seem to come from the Indo-European language root *wegwh* (“to speak solemnly”). One of their intermediate ancestors is the Latin verb *vovere* (“to vow”). When we say that a person is “devoted,” we mean that he has “spoken solemnly” that he will decline other commitments in order to reserve himself entirely to a certain thing. And when we say that he is “devout,” we mean that a person has a concentrated earnestness about the thing he is “devoted” to.

It is a fine thing to be devoted, and an even finer thing to be devout about our devotedness. There is simply not enough real devotion in the world. I don’t understand all the reasons why, but there is no doubt that our age is one in which apathy has become fashionable. Single-minded people who passionately pursue their causes are not looked up to anymore. Instead, they are often tagged with pejorative labels that express our social disapproval of their fervency. We stigmatize them as radicals, extremists, or fanatics. Uncomfortable as we are with those who care deeply about things, we steer clear of what we have come to call “the lunatic fringe.” And there is hardly a worse sin nowadays than being “dogmatic” about one’s beliefs.

But think about what we lose by this way of thinking. Very many of the nobler things that grace our world are the work of deeply committed people, folks who shook off lethargy and indifference and “devoted” themselves “devoutly” to the betterment of life. If the apathetic, don’t-get-too-involved spirit of the age has caused us to avoid such serious commitments, then we have cheated ourselves of the opportunity to make serious contributions to our world. It’s the passion of the commitment that drives the value of the contribution. Complacent people rarely make much of a difference for good as they pass through life.



### *Remember:*

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study  
**When?** Sunday, December 28th  
**Where?** At the home of Daniel & Marla Clemmons  
**Subject?** Building Strong Homes

Christianity — the real thing, not the things that masquerade as Christianity much of the time — has in it large measures of devotedness and devoutness. Peter the apostle wrote, “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts” (1 Peter 3:15). A part of what that means is that if we intend to be Christians we must reserve the most special place in our hearts for God. We must let Him be what He is: God! At the practical level, that requires dispensing with any loyalties and activities that compete with the exclusive allegiance that is to be given to Him. Being a Christian means “devoting” ourselves in the ultimate way possible, reserving ourselves entirely to the Lord. And it means being “devout” about the issue, maintaining a serious intensity that is worthy of this highest commitment.

In a culture where too few care deeply about anything, counterfeit brands of Christianity are readily available. If all we want is a little “religion” to make our lifestyles respectable, we can surely find that. Churches like Laodicea (Revelation 3:15-19) are conveniently located in most communities, often in the suburbs. But if we desire to participate in the life and rewards of the genuine faith, we will have to come to terms with the requirement of being devoted and devout. In fact, Jesus Christ calls us to a devotion that elevates the very concept to a higher plane. He declared that we must do more than have a lukewarm, limited love for God: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37). Heaven will not be populated by the lackadaisical. On the contrary, those who come to God must “believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). If we are too modern and too moderate to diligently seek God, then we will not see His face.

-via *Focus Magazine*, November 1998..

## Winter Quarter Begins

This past Wednesday we began our winter quarter in our Bible classes. We are looking forward to this quarter and the teachers for this quarter are as follows:

### **Nursery:**

Cindy Mosley/  
Charlotte Dickey ..... (Sunday morning)  
Cindy Mosley/  
Tisha Thomas ..... (Wednesday night)

### **Pre-school:**

Sissy Clemmons/  
Marcia Cooper ..... (Sunday morning)  
Marcia Cooper/  
Betty White ..... (Wednesday night)

### **Primary:**

Tisha Rogers ..... (Sunday morning)  
Cindy Pressnell ..... (Wednesday night)

### **Intermediate:**

Brian Word ..... (Sunday morning)  
Larry White ..... (Wednesday night)

### **Jr.-High School:**

Ray Tucker ..... (Sunday morning)  
Ronnie Phillips ..... (Wednesday night)

### **High School:**

Phil Pressnell ..... (Sunday morning)  
Rocky Rose ..... (Wednesday night)

### **Adult:**

David Cox ..... (Sunday morning)  
David Cox ..... (Wednesday night)

I want to express my appreciation to all of those who taught during the fall quarter for their work and dedication. We had a very good quarter. I am eagerly looking forward to this quarter and hope that all who can will be present and prepared for our periods of Bible study. There are classes for all ages. Won't you join us in a study together of God's word?  
(D.A.C.)

*Remember Our Evening Service at 5:00.*

### **Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

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

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Willie Ridgeway* is in the ECM hospital following his arteriogram and the implanting of a stint in his heart on Friday ... *Wynell Ridgeway* is sick with the flu at home... *Zack and Jacob Rogers* have both been sick this past week, but are now better ... *Alyssa Thomas* was sick this past Wednesday night and was unable to be at Bible study... *Jean Ray* continues at home and not able to be out... *Jerry Best* continues his recovery at home from his recent eye surgery... *Cindy, Logan and Ethan Pressnell* have all been sick this past week with strep throat. Ethan and Logan were both able to be at Bible study Wednesday ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home and is not able to be with us ... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, is not doing well at all in Ohio ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* who is at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg... *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home... *Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, who is at home... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, who is staying with family.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *June Calvert* is out of town this week end.

**SYMPATHY:** we want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Myrtie Williams and all the family* in the passing of her nephew, Hank Hammond, on Saturday.

**THE RECORD:** *For The Week of December 7th Sunday:*

Bible Classes ..... 89  
 Morning Worship ..... 100  
 Evening Worship ..... 70

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 68

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
 Evening Worship ..... 5:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

### Elders

Michael Clemmons ..... (256) 247-0836  
 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

### Deacons

Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
 Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
 Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988

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