

# 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 Priviledged To Serve:

Sunday, April 20th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 95)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Presiding ..... Rocky Rose

Serving ..... Michael Clemmons

..... James Albert McConnell

..... Mark McIntyre

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 96)

..... Jimmy Glass

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

Volume X

April 20, 2003

No. 16

## *Correcting The Evil World*

**Joe Fitch**

It is easy to pick up preaching themes from the world news. There is much that is shocking -- and shockingly wrong. We get caught up with evaluating the world -- correcting the world -- fixing its ills -- reforming society. Actually, little needs to be said about the character of the world. It is evil --- always has been.

Preaching like the first century? Which apostle preached about corruption in the Roman government? Where is the New Testament's expose of the decadent, cruel, and insane policies of Caesar -- or Herod -- or Agrippa? Who led a crusade for justice and fairness in the Roman government? Who demanded liberty? Who opposed the oppressive taxes? Christians, small and great, were noticeably absent from all attempts to revamp society or to restructure nations.

There were no sermons defining how to vote -- of course, there was no vote. No one even demanded the right to vote. Democracy was not interwoven into first century Christianity. No patriotic sermons. No Christian led revolts against the system because of its evil. They understood being in the world but not of the world (John 17:14).

Yet, we feel compelled to fix the world where we live -- without any biblical principle or precedent. Quit the nonsense! Abandon the impossible task! You will not change the evil world.

### **What Shall We Do?**

*Submit as a citizen* -- "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities" (Romans 13:1). God expects it -- even when rulers are far from good. "For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who

resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Romans 12:1). Rebelling against government may be appealing, but it is not a recommendation to God. You must obey – not only to avoid civil punishment, but also for “conscience sake” (v.5).

*Exercise your rights as a citizen.* Paul did -- occasionally. “Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?” (Act.27:25). “For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar” (Acts 25:11). Paul was a Roman citizen, but it was not his obsession. He was much more concerned with his heavenly citizenship. “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,…” (Philippians 3:20). As a citizen, seek the protection of law, enjoy liberty, vote as you are allowed. You may even complain a little. It is allowed, but lead no crusade about it.

*Work with people.* What can you do – effectively? You can often effect change in an evil person. Convict them with the word of God. Show them sin in all its ugliness. Let them see the judge -- and the fearful and eternal judgment upon sinners. Repentance – a change of life's direction -- may result. For centuries, Christians have been doing that – and dramatically changing lives.

Report the good news of redemption for sinners -- even the worst of sinners. Show them the great mercy of the Lord of heaven. Let them envision a new and grand life open before them – with heaven's gates open at the end. This news will be all the more precious after they realize what it means to be lost. For them, be sure to answer the question: “What must I do to be saved?”

Report the good news of God's power to transform the character of men. Those who were once “conformed to this world” -- pressed into

the world's mold – can be fully “transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). That transformation is exactly what God seeks in man. That transformation demonstrates “what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” It is possible to be a new man! – a completely different man! It is possible to be transformed into the very spiritual image of Jesus. “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The world is an impossible challenge to correct, reform, or materially influence. Jesus came and went back to heaven; the evil world was little different. Christianity in its height -- its most powerful and influential stage -- did not change the character of the evil world. And yet from Jesus until now, men have been changed -- one by one. Forget reforming the evil world! Do something worthwhile. Be an Andrew; bring a lost soul to Jesus.

-via *Bible Comment* Coppell, Texas.



The Anderson  
church of Christ  
website at:

[www. Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

**On the Site You Will Find:**

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The **Gospel Power** in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.  
The Sermons Preached In Our Recent Meeting with Robert Harkrider on-line.

*Please Visit Our Site Regularly.*

# *Dealing With Life As A Christian*

Troy Nicholson

While some differences may exist between those trying to live for God in the first century and those of us trying to do it today, in many ways things are still the same. We still have to take life one day at a time. Consider an example from then in Acts 12:1-11.

## **Problem**

In Acts 12:1-4 we find an example of Christians facing a problem. Herod arrested several of them, harassing some and killing James. The Jews delighted so much in his deeds that he decided to arrest Peter as well and planned to kill him.

And we think that we have problems! Some Christians have a problem putting the assemblings of the saints ahead of the activities of the world (Philippians 2:21). Others have a problem resisting entertainment that is not wholesome and pleasing to God (Psalm 101:3). If we cannot overcome these and similar problems, then how would we hold up if faced with the problem of being arrested and even killed if we confessed the name of Christ?

## **Prayer**

When faced with a problem, the early Christians turned to God in prayer (Acts 12:5). They prayed constantly and fervently. They realized that they needed help dealing with their problem and that God was the ultimate source of help.

How do we respond to a problem? Do we let it draw us closer to God or drag us further from Him? The Psalmist says, "It is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God" (Psalm 73:28). "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

## **Peace**

Even though death was imminent, Peter was at peace and could sleep (Acts 12:6). He knew that as long as he put God first in his life that even

if he lost his life there was no need to lose sleep or worry (Matthew 6:25-34).

If we will turn to God in fervent prayer when problems arise, then we can be at peace. We can gain His peace which is beyond our comprehension and will guard our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:6-7).

## **Power**

God demonstrated His power when He sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison (Acts 12:7-11). Peter's chains fell off his hands, he walked right past the guards, and the gate leading to the city opened by itself! He knew God was with him.

While He may not miraculously deliver us from death, God will still demonstrate His power in our lives and give us His peace if we will constantly take our problems to Him in prayer. That is the only way to effectively deal with life.

-via *The Lakeview Lamp*, Hendersonville, Tennessee.

## **N**ews and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Billy Haraway* is now at home after spending several days in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Jean Ray* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be out ... *Faye Hammond* continues at home and continues her rehabilitation during the week ... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, in the Beverly Health Care Rehabilitation in Florence... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, has cancer and is being treated ... 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 ... *Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is 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.

**ANDERSON COMMUNICATOR:** Remember to pick-up a copy of the Anderson Communicator on the table in the vestibule this morning.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the time for Communication group three to meet after our evening service. If you are in group three, plan to meet this evening.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Market Street church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be *Oscar Miles* ... The *New Georgia church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Bruce Hall* will be the speaker...The *Hickory Heights church* in Lewisburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will also continue through Friday *Robert Harkrider of Orlando, Florida* will be speaker.

**CARTWRIGHT MEETING:** It was a joy for me to be with the brethren at the *Cartwright church* near Owens this past Tuesday and Wednesday in their gospel meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to be with them. *Rodney Britton* is the preacher there and he has done his work very well there. I want to thank *Mark McIntyre* for teaching my class on Wednesday while I was away. We are so blessed to have people here at Anderson that are willing to do the work that needs to be done.

Remember tonight is the time for our regular scheduled song service. Phil Pressnell will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we sing songs of praise to God.

### 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

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

#### Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox ..... (256) 247-1049  
 Office-(256) 247-5539  
 E-mail address: daco@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Bulk Rate  
 Anderson, Alabama  
 Non-Profit  
 Permit #6

*Anderson church of Christ*  
 P.O. Box 66  
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested