

# 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, May 4th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 101)

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Presiding ..... Rocky Rose

Serving ..... Aric Butler

..... Curtis Mosley

..... James Albert McConnell

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Bible Reading .... (Psalm 102:1-11)

..... Jimmy Glass

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

Volume X

May 4, 2003

No. 18

## *Never Too Late To Begin Again*

**Dee Bowman**

Nightmares are horrible. They invade the sanctity of our peace, rouse us out of our sleep, and cause us fear and anguish. Like a pale rider of terror they scream across our tranquility. We have trouble escaping their horror. We awake with a start, a sheer feeling of panic, hoping that what we've just experienced was only surreal.

But then comes the morning. The first rays of sunshine that creep across the patchwork quilt seem to just wash away all the apprehensions, all the distress and fright. There's just nothing like a new beginning.

New beginnings are part of life. We make resolutions at the beginning of the New Year, we look forward to a new start, a new marriage, a new baby, a reconciliation after an angry exchange, a new job or a new grade in school. New beginnings are everywhere.

Think about what is involved in this greatest of all new beginnings, a new life in Jesus Christ.

**It is not available anywhere else.** Forgiveness, with all that it entails, is not performed by a priest or by some clergyman or by submitting to some creed, discipline, or manual. It can be accomplished only when one submits to the authority of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). He is the final authority, the only source of forgiveness. There are no new beginnings without doing as He has said.

**Truth is absolutely essential to each new start.** The gospel and the truth are synonymous. "Contend earnestly for the truth once revealed" (Jude 3) is the same as "I am not ashamed of the gospel of

Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:17). It is the practical manifestation of Christ's complete authority. When someone offers God's new start by recommending more or less than what the gospel says, it is an empty promise. Only God knows when forgiveness takes place; and he has told us that it is when we are converted—by the gospel. That is, when we give ourselves to exactly and precisely what it says for our redemption we are forgiven, not before. Not when some man says, not when the church says, not when some conclave says, but when the gospel says—no sooner and no later.

**It is just that—a new beginning.** This new beginning is not an end itself, but a means toward an end. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son cleanseth us from all sin." It's hard to continue to walk in the light; but it is nonetheless necessary. You have to keep on keeping on. You can't begin anew and then go immediately back into the world and think you have a secure future. This new beginning is just that—a beginning. It must be translated into a new life. "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

**The conscience is man's nightmare.** Man is brought under condemnation when he realizes that he sins — does wrong. His conscience, a sort of moral compass, tells him he's on the wrong course. Only when he submits to the salvation that is in Christ can he have the relief of his conscience and the new beginning that such obedience assures. "The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us...the answer of a good conscience toward God" (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism, the final act in the new birth process, changes our relationship from the world and into Christ, while simultaneously relieving our conscience by the knowledge that we have done what God said to have His forgiveness. Talk about a new beginning!

**Every day can be a new beginning for the Christian.** First, because everyday he has the right to petition his Father for forgiveness. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). And second, he knows that the Lord is ever before the throne to plead his cause. "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17).

How foolish to let the nightmare reign, to let all the fear and anxiety of sin rule in our lives. The gospel is plain: whoever believes, repents, and is baptized can be saved from sin and have the new beginning. Get rid the horror of hell. Let Him have His way with you.

-via *Folsom View*, Folsom, California



## *“Jesus: Human and Divine”*

**Randy Harshbarger**

If Jesus Christ was not who and what He claimed to be, then nothing else matters. If we cannot accept the truth He spoke about Himself, then we have no Savior. If Jesus was not God in the flesh, then those identified as antichrists were correct. But if Jesus was God in the flesh, then we have a Savior. We have a High Priest. There is one in heaven who understands and sympathizes with us as we struggle here on earth.

Some object to the deity of Jesus, appealing to Matthew 24:36. "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son but the Father alone" (NASV). If Jesus, who claimed to be God, did not know something, then His claim was false (as the argument goes). The comments of Marcellus Kik are

helpful. “The exact day and hour of the second coming is unknown not only to mortal man and immortal angels but was unknown to Christ while he was upon earth. As the Son of man, Christ did not seek that knowledge as it had no immediate connection with his work on earth” (4n, Eschatology of Victory, 161). Jesus said that the Father was greater than He was (John 14:28). Jesus did only the Father’s will (John 5:30). These statements must be understood as part of Jesus’ voluntary humility or emptying Himself as described by Paul in Philippians 2:5-8, rather than some attempt to negate Jesus’ power as deity. Jesus in His earthly role appears in a subordinate relationship to the Father. Jesus, possessing the essence of deity, never ceased being who He was. As deity, Jesus suspended the law of gravity; sometimes, though, He rode in a boat (John 6:19; Mark 4:36). Jesus was God in the flesh-divine!

Jesus, without ceasing to be God, took upon Himself human flesh (John 1:14). He was born of a woman (Galatians 4:4). He grew in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52). He suffered on the cross (John 19:28). As a human being, He could be and was tempted (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Jesus was God in the flesh-Deity! He was and remains the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8). The angels worshiped Him (Hebrews 1:6). When men looked upon Jesus, they were looking upon God (Colossians 2:9; 1: 19). He was Emmanuel – God with us!

Paul said: “And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory” (1 Timothy 3:16). Without question, Christianity is tied to the proposition that Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, was made flesh – God in the flesh. The claims Jesus made concerning His deity are testified as true by His Holy Spirit. The angels of heaven were interested in His work on earth (Matthew 4:11). Christ was preached to the Jew first and then to the

Gentile. The preaching of Christ's word produced faith in Him as Savior. Can we explain it fully? No! Can we accept it completely? Yes!

~via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*, Nacogdoches, 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.*

# News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Billy Haraway* continues his treatments each Friday in Florence ...*Henry Trousdale* was not able to be out Wednesday due not feeling well ...*Jean Ray* fell last week at her mother-in-law’s house and hurt her back and has been unable to be out ...*Faye Hammond* is seeing some results from the botox shot she received last week ...*Margaret Weathers* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend ...*Hubert Goode* is at home ...*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.

**ACTIVITY FORMS:** Remember, if you have not already picked-up and filled out an activity form, please pick one up today and fill it out and return to Phil Pressnell or place in the white box in the vestibule. The forms are on the table in the vestibule.

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

**GOPEL MEETINGS:** The **Beulah church** in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be **Greg Chandler**.

**THE RECORD:** *Averages for April 2003*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 93  
 Morning Worship ..... 115  
 Evening Worship ..... 72

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 76

## Vacation Bible School

June 2-6 – 10:00 a.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South  
 Anderson, Alabama

### 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

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