

# 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, June 1st

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading . (Psalm 106:28-39-)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Presiding ..... Rocky Rose

Serving ..... Ethan Pressnell

..... Curtis Mosley

..... Jerry Best

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 106:40-48)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

Volume X

June 1, 2003

No. 22

*Beginning Tomorrow*

## **Vacation Bible School**

**June 2 -6**

Monday – Friday

10:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.

### **The Adult Class:**

Day

Adult Class Speaker

Monday

Frank Richey

Tuesday

Randall Hammock

Wednesday

Norm Webb, Jr.

Thursday

Rodney Britton

Friday

Grant Caldwell

There will be classes for ages Nursery through Adult.

**Sunday, June 1**

9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Gary Patton, Speaking

***Anderson church of Christ***

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

# *Our Authority In Religion*

David A. Cox

Why do you do what you do in religion? Many may say, "Because mother and daddy did it." Others may say, "My preacher said it was this way." Even others may reply, "Because I just like it this way." It is not an unknown fact that there are many differences in the religious faith and practices in our world today. Often in discussing these differences with individuals the above answers or similar type of answers are given. What is and should be our authority in religion? Indeed, we surely understand it is not self or chaos would result.

## **Our Authority**

Authority simply means "the power or right to command, make decisions, enforce obedience." Who has this authority? Who has the right to give commands, make decisions and enforce obedience? Clearly, the answer is our creator, God. All authority extends from Him. God's order of authority is seen when Paul writes "the head of every man is Christ; and the head of he woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3). God ultimately has the authority, but has delegated all authority to Christ (Matthew 16:18). In the affairs of men God ordained that there be governments, but their authority is only good as long as it does not violate the teaching of God. In Acts 4 we see this illustrated when Peter and John had been commanded "not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:18-20). Later, they were threatened again for continuing to teach about Jesus, "But Peter and John answered and said unto them Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye." So it is clear, Peter and John understood that the ultimate authority in all things is God.

## **The Necessity of Authority**

Throughout the scriptures we see the need for practicing in religion only that which we have authority from God to do. The sacrifice of Cain in Genesis 4 when he offered a sacrifice of the fruit of the ground is one example. The Lord was not pleased because that was not what He had authorized. In Leviticus 10, Nadab and Abihu offered "strange fire that the Lord commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord (Leviticus 10:1-2).

We continue to see this need for authority stressed in the New Testament. In the sermon on the mount Jesus mentioned on the day of judgment there would be those that would have practiced many things in their religion calling Him Lord. But Jesus said, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:22-23). Jesus points out here that even though they were practicing and doing many things in the name of God, they were doing these things without the proper authority. Notice Jesus said that they were "workers of iniquity" or "lawlessness." Again we see Jesus as he is in the temple and the chief priests and the elders of the people asked as He was teaching, "By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?" (Matthew 22:23). Here we see that in the matters of religious faith and practice, that the proper authority for what we do is necessary.

## **What This Means To Me**

Understanding that Jesus is the one who has all authority and that authority is necessary for what we do in the faith and practice, what must we do? We must look into God's word and see what it teaches about the Lord's will. The

Lord has given us all things that “pertain unto life and godliness” (1 Peter 1:3). This means that as we go through life we can look to the word of God and find all that God wants for us to do. As we then seek to please Him we do what the scriptures teach us and do not rely on what others say, or what our parents believed, but we act upon our own faith that comes from the word of God (Romans 10:17). We do what God authorizes us to do in the way He would have us to do it. In doing this, we are then practicing things by the authority of God; the proper authority for us.



## *Promises*

**Billy Norris**

*“By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature...”* (2 Peter 1:4).

The promises of God are exceedingly great not only because of the greatness of Him who made them but also because of the greatness of that which he has promised — the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38); His presence and providential care and oversight (Psalm 34:7; Matthew 28:20); the joys of heaven throughout eternity (Matthew 25:34-46).

It is to be understood that God’s great promises are conditional, based upon obedience to the gospel (Romans 1:16). We do what He tells us to do, and without fail He will keep His promises, for it is impossible for God to lie” (Heb. 6:18).

Further, the promises of God are exceedingly great because of the powerful, motivating influence for good they can have upon our lives. Peter says, “that through these (God’s promises) you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

-via *Gospel Guide*; Vol .26 No. 3; March 1994

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Billy Haraway* continues at home ... *Henry Trousdale* is in the rehabilitation at Mitchell-Hollingsworth in Florence...*Mike Rogers* has been sick this past week with pneumonia and has not been able to be at services but is now doing better...*Charlotte Dickey* is scheduled to have surgery this coming Thursday morning in Florence... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ...*Eddie Hammond’s father, Burl Hammond*, is at home battling cancer ...*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...*Janice Glass’ grandmother, Emma Ray*, who is at home.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *June Calvert* has been away this past week...*The Clemmons: Daniel and Marla* are in Gulf Shores this week...*The Wallens: Billy, Buffy, Anthony, Ethan, Emma, Ella and Ivy* are in Gulf Shores this weekend...*The Bulters: Aric and Andrea* are visiting with Aric’s grandparents this week.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to Sam Noles and all the family in the passing of Sam’s brother, *Larry Noles* this past Friday in Lexington, South Carolina. The memorial service will be this afternoon.

**ACTIVITY FORMS:** If you have not already filled out an activity form and returned it, please pick one up today and fill it out. There are some forms on the table in the vestibule.

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

**AFTERNOON SERVICE:** Remember our service will be this afternoon at 4:00 with Gary Patton preaching. This early time will give our VBS teachers time to make final preparations if they need to.

**OUR VBS:** Remember our Vacation Bible School will begin tomorrow morning. Be sure to remind those that you have invited to be with us. Our teachers have put a lot of work into this already and will continue to work hard all week in their classes. Let's all make every effort to be present at all the services possible. Remember this is a part of our work here at Anderson and the success of it will be dependent on our support and work in it.

**VBS/GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Northside church* in Lexington is having a Vacation Bible School beginning Monday at 7:00 p.m. It will continue through Friday. The speakers in the adult class will be as follows: *Monday – Collin Stringer; Tuesday – Lowell Sallee; Wednesday – David Cox; Thursday – Jeff McCrary; Friday – Frank Richey...* The *West Rogersville church* in Rogersville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Bill Hall of Rogersville* will be the speaker...The *Quinn Memorial church* in Spruce Pine is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *David Hartsell of Auburn* will be the speaker ...The *Piney Grove church* south of Tuscumbia is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Dwight McGee of Killen* will be the speaker...The *Parkway church* near Trinity is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Eugene Britnell of Athens* will be the speaker.

**THE RECORD:** *Averages for May 2003*

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 86  
 Morning Worship ..... 102  
 Evening Worship ..... 72

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 66

**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  
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