

# 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, July 6th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 117)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons

Serving .... James Albert McConnell

..... Ronnie Phillips

..... Rodney McCrary

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 118)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

Volume X

July 6, 2003

No. 27

## Comfortable?

Dennis Carrow

Comfortable. The word itself seems to cause one to draw a deep breath and allow the tension of the moment to pass. Our culture is filled with “creature comforts.” From the “easy chair” to the Jacuzzi—we seek comfort. One interesting characteristic regarding comfort is the greater our pain, the more fervently we seek comfort.

God considers the comfort of His children. He is identified “as the God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3). The comfort from God is unique from that which we seek for our tired bodies or physical aches and pains. The comfort from God sustains us *in* our infirmity. It is something we receive from within that sustains us while we experience tribulation, pain, and anguish. This comfort is also communicated from one to another. “God, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Corinthians 1:4).

Whether our pain is a result of the aging process, a debilitating disease, or some stressful circumstance—we can receive comfort. We must open our hearts to the promises of God. Jeremiah 31:15 speaks metaphorically of one who faced a great tragedy *refusing to be comforted*. The Lord then instructs us to refrain from weeping, extending comfort in the promise—*there is hope in your future* (v. 17). Proverbs tells us the “spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity,” and therein reveals where our comfort will be received.

In this life we will experience discomfort, and we will seek to be comforted. We must first realize pain is part of life’s experience. However, God dries the tears of our eyes and comforts the pain in

our hearts by filling us with hope. The central characteristic of hope is comfort. Hope is a result of submissive trust in God and His word. We must humble ourselves before Him – casting our care upon Him (1 Peter 5:7). We must trust in His promises. Through this we come to understand no pain or tribulation can darken the light of our hope. “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul” (Hebrews 6:19).

Regardless of life’s circumstance we can receive comfort from God through His eternal promises. We are to comfort from God through His promises. *We are to comfort one another with these words.* Let us be reminded to *comfort and edify one another, just as you are doing* (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18; 5:11).

In Christ — there is hope in your future. Are you comfortable?

—via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.



## *A Crown of Thorns*

**Jim Jonas**

“When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head” (Matthew 27:29-30).

This brutal scene was played out in the Praetorium, the residence of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. It is constantly appalling, though not surprising, to think of what human beings are capable of doing to others. Think of it: When Jesus came, storms, diseases, animals – and even death – bowed to the will of the Almighty Maker. But not these bloodthirsty men. Mistaking Jesus’ restraint for weakness, the soldiers, like a pack of savage wolves, move in for the kill.

What is revealed about the respective natures of men and God in this event?

First, men don’t even need a good reason to be cruel toward a fellow human being. Jesus had done nothing to these soldiers personally nor had He committed a crime against the Roman state. Perhaps to some degree Jesus fell victim to the hypocrisy of the Jews, for they seem to have been reviled by many. “For ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,’ as it is written” (Romans 2:24). The Roman soldiers would have relished the opportunity to torture a prominent Jew considering the constant irritation the Jews were to the occupying force.

Second, humans can become callous to the suffering of others. In first century Rome, men were killed for sport in the arena. Slaves were treated as property and could be disposed of at the discretion of the owner. Crucifixions were not uncommon. It was undoubtedly an occasion of great hilarity to see this “king,” humble and subdued, bleeding from the wounds of His “coronation.” And for good measure, they drove the thorns even deeper into His scalp by bludgeoning Him with his “scepter.”

But if these cruel soldiers illustrate what wicked men are capable of doing to others, Jesus demonstrates what God was willing to endure for others. Having seen the illustrious crowns of both the British and Russian monarchies, surely Jesus deserved to wear no less as the King of all creation! And as human royalty revels in the pomp and circumstance of dignitaries, surely Jesus deserved some token of honor from these lowly soldiers!

But no, Jesus received thorny branches, mockery and a universal expression of contempt – the sputum of His captors. How did Jesus endure such reviling and ridicule without erupting in righteous indignation and divine wrath? After all, would He have not been justified in defending His honor since it was God Himself who commanded death for blasphemy? Make no mistake: Jesus will exact vengeance for His mis-

treatment, but then was not the time. Jesus submitted to these indignities for the same reason He submitted to John's baptism: "for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).

The crown of thorns, to man a cruel joke and diadem of derision, was honorable in the sight of God. It is yet another indication that the values of heaven and earth often clash. Let us be careful not to judge by appearance.

-via *Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.



## *Before I Speak...*

Carl McMurray

In James 4:9, James writes, "Do not complain brethren against one another..." It is pointed in a different direction, but the thought is still the same in 1 Corinthians 10:10 where the apostle instructs Christians not to grumble. Surely we understand God's admonition not to complain or grumble, but when we are unhappy about something, how many of us stop to consider if we are about to sin with our tongue? An article by Cathy Miller in Discipleship Journal, May-June 1998, addresses this problem with seven questions to help us break the complaining habit.

1. **Am I the problem?** If I were quiet would there be a problem at all, or am I just being self-centered and wanting things to suit me?
2. **What is my real motive in complaining?** Does my complaint glorify God or help me to serve others in some way? Wanting to make someone else look bad or desiring attention would be impure motives.
3. **Am I being humble, gentle, patient and forbearing with others?** (Ephesians 4:1-3).
4. **Am I genuinely interested in submitting to the church's elders?** (Hebrews 13:17). Be careful lest our complaint be little more than a thinly disguised case of rebellion.

5. **Am I demanding that others be perfect?** If not, exactly what mistakes will I allow others to make without complaint? Matthew 7:12 indicates that I should first consider how I would feel if someone took this same complaint to the elders about me.
6. **Can I state my complaint in the form of an encouraging suggestion rather than a hurtful criticism?** (Colossians 3:12-14).
7. **Am I willing to be part of the solution?** Your willingness to help and be active in solving the problem gives validity to your recommendation. It says you are willing to do more than grumble. Back up your words with actions (James 1:23-25).

Consider the above before you speak against another and God will bless you for your self-control and thoughtfulness toward His family.

-via *The Brooksville Bulletin*; Brooksville, Florida.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Billy Haraway* continues at home ... *Corey Word* is feeling better now after not doing well over the weekend... *Mary Best* continues at home and will be returning to the doctor on Thursday... *Yvonne Pressnell* was able to be back with Wednesday night after suffering a fall last weekend... *Hubert Goode* has not been doing as well, but is doing some better after having another procedure done this week on his throat ... *Eddie Hammond's father, Berl Hammond*, is now back at home after his stay in the hospital and beginning his chemo therapy treatments ... *Cindy Pressnell's aunt and Billy Haraway's cousin, Cornie Carter*, has been diagnosed with stomach cancer... *James Albert McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, has been experiencing some fainting spells this week... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, is continuing his treatments for his cancer ... 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 ... *Faye Hammond* 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 at home.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Bulters: Aric and Andrea* are away this weekend visting with family in Florida... *Chase Williams* is away this weekend in Florida... *Claus Martel* has been away this week in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky with his work.

**SYMPATHY** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Shelia Goode* and *Lou Ann Phillips* and all the family in the passing of Shelia and Lou Ann's mother, *Shirley Slaton*, this past Tuesday morning. Her funeral was Thursday in Center Star.

**BAPTISM:** We rejoiced this past Tuesday morning when *Mark McCrary* expressed his desire to be baptized into Christ. We are happy over Mark's decision and pray that he may have a long and faithful life in service to God.

**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.

**NEW BABY:** We want to congratulate *Corey and Ashley Goode* on the birth of their son, *Austin Cole*, on Wednesday night. He weighed 6 lbs. He is doing well and is now at home. This also makes *Scottie and Shelia Goode* the proud grandparents...Also, on Wednesday morning *C.L. and Margaret Weathers* became the proud grandparents of a baby girl, *Abigail Cassandra*. She weighed 7lbs. and is now at home with her parents *Mark and Melody Campbell* and her big brother, *Dusty*.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Tharptown church* in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services each evening at 7:30. The speaker in the meeting will be *Greg Chandler of Athens*.

**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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