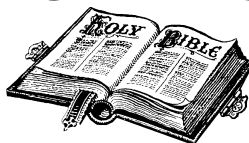


# Gospel Power



*"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, August 10th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (Psalm 119:113-120)

..... Claus Martel

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Presiding ..... Mark McIntyre

Serving ..... Scottie Goode

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Mark McCrary

Closing Prayer

..... Brian Word

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Psalm 119:121-128)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

Closing Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Volume X

August 10, 2003

No. 32

## *Let There Be Light*

**Evan Lancaster**

Throughout the New Testament, there are many references and allusions concerning one of God's very first creations – light. Light is a very intriguing topic. Its usefulness and its purity are discussed by Jesus and the apostle Paul, who both used light as illustrations revealing how we as Christians should view God's Word, the Son of God, and even ourselves.

### **Light's Usefulness**

*Light keeps us from stumbling over unseen objects.* In John 11:9-10, Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him" The light of Jesus keeps us on the right path to heaven and illuminates any obstacles that might be in our way, so that we are not tripped up by the affairs of this world.

*Light can help us find things that are lost.* Luke 15:8-9 gives the parable of the woman and the lost coin. The Bible reads, "What woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'" Jesus goes on to explain the analogy in verse 10: "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Sinners are saved through the light of God's Word and the light of Jesus.

### **Light's Purity**

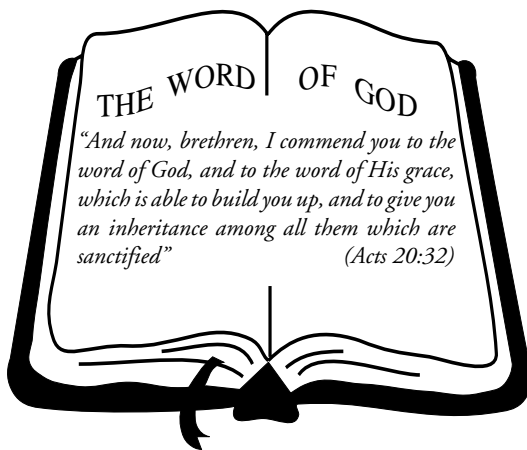
Paul, in 2 Corinthians 6:14, makes the statement, "What

communion has light with darkness?” He is saying that darkness and light cannot mix. They are mutually exclusive. Darkness cannot mix with light, and vice versa. Light is completely pure. But what is Paul’s point here? Well, if we read the context of the passage, we see that he is talking about Christians. He says, “Do not be unequally yoke together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?” (vs. 14-16)

Jesus tells us, just as he told His disciples, that we are the light of the world, too. As such, we must be pure, just as light is. We cannot be mixed together with unbelievers, any more than light can be mixed with darkness.

We must always remember that we are lights in this world. And if we are to be lights, then we must have the same usefulness and purity as light.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.



### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

## God's Invitation

Randy Harshbarger

Is it overstating the case to say that we have all made excuses at one time or another for not doing what the Lord expects us to do? Students are good at making excuses. Efforts to relieve oneself of culpability run the gamut from “the dog ate my homework” to “I overslept” to “I didn’t know we were having a test,” etc. You get the picture. The excuses brethren make are as varied and as ingenious as those made by unprepared scholars. “I couldn’t come to services; I had a bowling tournament.” “I couldn’t come to the gospel meeting; I was on vacation.” “I couldn’t come to midweek Bible study; my dog died.” On it goes.

In the parable of the great supper the Lord invites all who will to come to Him and feast of the spiritual food of the kingdom (Luke 14:15-24). Those invited quickly began to make excuses as to why they would not accept the gracious invitation.

“And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come” (vv.18-20).

One excuse appealed to business first. Did this man buy the field sight unseen? Was it an absolute necessity to go right then and see the field? The second appealed to things—in this case, oxen. He didn’t plead any necessity; he simply wanted to go see his animals. Or, was that his real reason? The third made an appeal to his wife; he makes no excuse other than saying: I am not coming.

Jesus teaches us that some who needed to come were simply delaying their actual journey

toward the great kingdom feast. Would it be true that after these three men took care of their “pressing obligations” they would then begin to follow Jesus? Most people who have thought just a little about the Lord do not reject Him outright; they simply put off doing what is right; they delay their coming. The danger is that one day the invitation will be withdrawn. That is one danger of earthly concentrations. Pursuit of this world to its ultimate end will result in the revocation of the invitation.

Do we reason that God is lucky to have us at His table and our coming to Him must be on our terms? Clearly, those who made the excuses were the Jews (Luke 14:1ff). They were the very ones who so desperately needed the Savior but didn’t realize their need. Their refusal to bow before God indicated a problem with pride. Their refusal to come and dine indicated a lack of understanding about their real need. Their belief was that the banquet was beneath them; they were self-seeking rather than God-seeking.

Note the use of “their” in the words above. Change “their” to “me” or “you.” Do you and I stubbornly refuse to come to the table? If so, Jesus is speaking to us. When God says: “I’m giving you a party,” we must get up and go.

~via *Stalling Drive Bulletin*; Nachodoches, Texas.

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Mary Best* continues at home, but continues to go to Columbia each morning for her treatments ... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* had surgery this past Friday afternoon, in Florence, to relieve her pain from her compression fracture. She is planning to be released from the hospital this morning... *Jean Ray* is in the ECM hospital in Florence, room 152...*Billy Haraway* is to go to the doctor on Tuesday to get the results of how his treatments have been doing...*Sissy Clemmons and Ronnie Phillips’ great niece, Amberly Williams*, has been diagnosed with Lupus. She is taking medication and is at home now after spending several days at Children’s Hospital in Birmingham ...*Wanda Tucker’s father, Billy Letson*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence room 166 ...*Lou Ann Philips* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Robyn Goode* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *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 ...*James McConnell’s mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home... *Mary Best’s nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues 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*, is staying with family.

**NEW BABY:** We want to congratulate *Daniel and Marla Clemmons* on the birth of their daughter, *Lydia Grace*, this past Wednesday night in Huntsville. She weighed 8 lbs. Marla and Lydia came home from the hospital yesterday and are doing well. Also, we want to congratulate *Michael*

## Gospel Meeting

Sept. 28 – Oct. 1

Jeff May, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

*Come join us as we study God’s Word.*

and *Sissy Clemmons* on becoming grandparents again.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *O'Neal church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services each evening at 7:00. *Don Miller* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Hays Mill church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services each evening at 7:30. *Mark White* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Leon Mauldin* preaching... The *East Florence church* is beginning meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Maurice Barnett* will be the speaker in this meeting.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *Mark McIntyre* has been away this week with his work...*The Coopers: Curtis, Marcia and Erin* have been on vacation this past week in Gatlinburg...*Claus Martel* has been out of town this week with his work.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the night for Communication group two to meet following our evening service. If you are in group two remember to meet with you group this evening.

**THE RECORD:** *Aveerage Attendance for July 2003*

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 87  
Morning Worship ..... 108  
Evening Worship ..... 73

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 76



Remember our regular scheduled song service will be next Sunday evening, August 17th. Jerry Dickey 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

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