

# 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, September 21st

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 129)  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Jerry Dickey  
..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Mark McCrary  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 130)  
..... Aric Butler  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

Volume X

September 21, 2003

No. 38

*You Are Invited To Attend Our*

# **Gospel Meeting**

***September 28 - October 1***

(Sunday – Wednesday)

## ***Schedule of Services***

***Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.***

***Monday – Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.***

**Jeff May, Speaker**  
Gardendale, Alabama

***Anderson church of Christ***

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

# *Learn To Be Content*

**Carlton G. McPeak**

In today's world, everyone is trying to get the newest and the best things on the market. We are not satisfied with what we have; we want something different. If we have a car, we want a different one. If we have a home, we want a bigger one. If we have a job, we want one that pays more. If we have a permanent health condition, we want to have it removed. If we have clothes, we want the latest style. If we are short, we want to be tall; if we are tall, we want to be short. If we are skinny, we want to gain weight; if we are fat, we want to go on a diet. We seem to never be content but are always wanting changes. We need to learn to be content.

The word "content" carries the idea of being satisfied with what we have and where we are in life. It is willing to live with the limits, desires or actions that are placed upon our lives. The Greek word has the idea of being self-sufficient or needing no aid; making do with what we have or where we are in life.

Paul established the church at Philippi on his second missionary journey. It was established when Lydia, a seller of purple from Thyatira, and her household were baptized (Acts 16:12-15). A little later a jailer at Philippi was baptized along with his household (Acts 16:33). Several other people were converted in Philippi and a church was established.

There was a special relationship between Paul and this church. The Christians at Philippi sent to his financial needs more than once (Philippians 4:16). They were interested in his work to spread the gospel. We see them sending to his needs when he was at Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:9) and Thessalonica (Philippians 4:16).

On one occasion they "lacked opportunity" (Philippians 4:10). When Paul wrote a letter to them he told them that he "rejoiced in the Lord greatly" (Philippians 4:10) that now they were able to send to his needs again as they did before.

He goes on to say that he "had learned to be content in whatever circumstances" (Philippians 4:11) he found himself. It did not matter to Paul whether he was poor or rich, hungry or had plenty to eat, he was content. Paul knew that it was through Christ that he received all his strength (Philippians 4:13).

One time when Paul had a "thorn in the flesh" God told him, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Paul asked the Lord three times to remove the "thorn". God would not. Paul goes on to say, "I am well content" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Being content is a behavior that we learn, we are not born with it. It is an attitude we develop over a period of time. We concentrate on what we have rather than on what we do not have. Being content is the result of being grateful for what we have rather than being disappointed or discouraged because we do not have something else. It is hard to be content, but Paul said he learned how to do it. If we are going to imitate Paul "as he imitated Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1), we need to learn to be content.

Paul told Timothy that "godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment" encouraging him to be content with food and clothing (1 Timothy 6:7-8). Paul is telling Timothy that it is more important to be right with God than it is to have more of the material things in life. Satan wants us to see the material as being important, but the material will perish. Christ told a man in a crowd one day, to take notice, life does not consist of how many possessions we have (Luke 12:15).

The Hebrew writer said, "make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have" (Hebrews 13:5). He then gives the reason "for [God] Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5). Consider the birds

of the air and flowers in the field. God takes care of both of them. Isn't mankind more important than the birds and flowers (Matthew 6:19-34)?

Solomon wrote, "The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear filled with hearing" (Ecclesiastes 1:8). Solomon even pointed out that the one who does not have any dependents will work endlessly and "his eyes [are] not satisfied with riches (Ecclesiastes 1:8).

The pursuit of bigger and better things has been engrained in our generations. The inspired authors say we will never be satisfied. So what should we do?

Wanting bigger and better things is not wrong, if given the proper priority. The greater priority should be to pursue the greater things in life such as love (1 Corinthians 13:13) for Christ, our fellowman, our spouse, and our children. Love can abound even in the poorest and simplest of families.

Not in every case, but as a general rule, having a strong desire for material things ("the love of money") will cause us to wander away from the faith (1 Timothy 6:10). We cannot serve God and mammon (Matthew 6:24).

Let us place the emphasis upon the truly valuable things and then we will learn to be content.

-via *The Word at West Fayetteville*, Fayetteville, N.C.



*Remember this evening will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Ronnie Phillips will be directing the service. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we sing songs of praise to God.*

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Betty White* had surgery on her foot on Thursday ... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home...*Angie McCrary* has been sick and unable to be at services...*James Word* was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night due to not feeling well...*Claus Martel's father, Gene Martel*, went to the doctor for tests this past week...*My uncle, Willard Cox*, has been begun his treatments for prostate cancer... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, continues about the same ... *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...*Jerry 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*, who is staying with family.

### Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Tonight following our evening service
- Where?** At the home of Aric & Andrea Butler
- Subject?** Building Strong Homes



**CONFESSIONS:** Last Sunday morning, *Jerry Best* came forward asking for prayers for the forgiveness of sins and on Wednesday night *Jimmy Glass* asked for prayers on his behalf. We appreciate both Jerry and Jimmy and their desire to be what God would have them to do be. May the Lord bless them as they serve Him in this life.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Market Street church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00p.m. *Gene Tope of Chesterfield, Virginia* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Mt. Zion church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *David Deason of Fayetteville, Tennessee*, will be the speaker in this meeting.

**SONG PRACTICE:** This afternoon at 5:15 we will be having our song practice. Our young boys will each be leading a song and we will be working on learning some songs that we are unfamiliar with. I hope everyone will make their plans to be present to encourage our young in their development if possible.

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

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Mosleys Curtis, Jamie and Taylor* were out of town last weekend in Gulf Shores. They are now back home.

**THE RECORD:** *For the Week of September 14th*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 84  
 Morning Worship ..... 106  
 Evening Worship ..... 65

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 87

**Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.  
 Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

**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.

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 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

**Deacons**

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