

# 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 28th

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 133)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Brian Word  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Larry White  
..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Aric Butler  
..... Mike Rogers  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 134)  
..... Rocky Rose  
Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Lord's Supper  
..... Larry White  
Closing Prayer  
..... Monroe Pressnell

Volume X

September 28, 2003

No. 39

## *Beginning Today* **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

# *First Century Christians*

Steve Dewhirst

Our biggest challenge is not knowing how to live as Christians at the dawning of the 21st century, but knowing how to live as first-century, period. Man has a tendency to think his particular moment in time is so unique as to require special insights or guidelines. The fundamentals of Christianity are no different now than at any other time.

## **Refocusing Priorities**

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:1-2). When Paul speaks of having been “raised with Christ,” he refers to that death, burial, and resurrection in baptism (Colossians 2:11-120, and the new life that ensues, complete with new priorities.

The charge to “seek those things which are above” is generic – it’s difficult to lay out a complete spiritual regimen that fits everyone perfectly. We must continually examine our lives and the things we have determined most important.

Men have always wrestled with the competing demands of jobs and families and spiritual duties. Of course, these aren’t really competing interest; each aspect of life is to be governed by spiritual principles in God’s written word. Yet we struggle to keep everything balanced. God’s word teaches us to work in support of our families. It also teaches us to rear our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, requiring a hands-on commitment. And surely scripture instructs us to be diligent in our efforts to evangelize the lost. While we cannot set down an official schedule for all Christians, each of us must examine himself and see if he’s being a good steward of his time. The degree to which we attempt to cover all the bases should be a pretty fair indicator of our intentions to honestly “seek those things which are above.”

## **Love and Marriage**

We think that because of changing social values, marriages are now more challenged than ever before. We’re told, for example, that 50% of all unions end in divorce and that the remainder only survive by folks resigning themselves to chronic unhappiness. In a word, baloney. The actual statistical evidence indicates that one out of eight marriages ends in divorce, and while that’s still too high, it isn’t quite as hopeless as the world would have us believe.

Consider the plight of women 2,000 years ago: virtually no legal rights, prohibited from inheriting property, in some cultures husbands held the power of life and death over wives, very little chance of supporting oneself, and when left alone were often impoverished. But in spite of an environment “hostile” to women, marriages thrived. Marriages thrive in any setting when men and women respect their proper roles as God ordained them. The only factor threatening marriages today is the fact that so many men and women have lost respect for the authority of God’s word.

First century Christian husbands had to learn that true love can only be expressed in action. Nowadays, certain legal restraints have been set in place to help guarantee that women aren’t mistreated and abused; in the old days, the only thing prohibiting a man from abusing his wife was his moral conscience.

## **Moral Attitudes**

Although it’s customary for preachers to decry the decaying state of morals, we would be hard-pressed to find any culture more corrupt than that of ancient Rome. In the first century, fornication was respectable, homosexuality was practiced openly, adultery was officially illegal but usually winked at, abortion and infanticide were common, suicide was considered honor-

able, and slavery-with its horrific abuses-was an everyday fact of life, and Christians were often tortured to death.

All that's changed in man's moral depravity is the delivery systems making ungodliness more readily available. The nature of sin, itself, remains unchanged.

### **Rearing Godly Children**

It's not unusual to hear older adults say, "Boy, I sure am glad I'm not having to raise my kids these days!" Such a statement fails to take into account that every generation has been antagonistic to Christianity. Saints have always been in the minority, struggling against the prince of this world. Parents have always had to stand firmly against evil influences. Parenting has always been the most challenging, and rewarding, task on earth. Besides, if Christians don't produce children and rear them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, what kind of world will we have in just a few years?

### **Conclusion**

This life has never been without difficulties except for a brief time in Eden. It's no harder to be a Christian today than it was 2,000 years ago. It still requires the submission of the human will to the Creator.

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



## ***What Is Worship?***

**S. Scott Richardson**

Man is an incurable worshipper. All societies and cultures have had forms of worship and have had things or personalities that they worshipped. There is only One whom we are to worship and only one book—the Bible—that tells

us how and why.

Exactly what is worship? Worship according to the American Heritage Dictionary is: "Reverent love or respect...Love of or devotion to a person or things." Another dictionary makes this notes of worship: "Worship ...consists primarily in a creaturely awareness of God by means of religious exercise and moral obedience."

People tend to think of worship as only ceremony. Even Christians tend to think of worship as just the "five acts" of worship — singing, preaching or teaching, partaking of the Lord's Supper, giving, and prayer. There is more to worship than these "acts". Worship encompasses our entire lives. Notice what Paul writes in Romans 12 :1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable (well pleasing— to God, which is your spiritual (reasonable) service (worship). And be not fashioned according to this world (age): but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God (the will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect)."

Paul reinforces our definition of worship. It involves moral obedience — living our lives in service to God. We are to be a "living sacrifice" not fashioned like the world around us. The Bible gives specific commands about "acts" of worship; this is the "religious exercise" mentioned in our definition.

True worship can't exist if one of these tenets is missing. Take the "living sacrifice" out of one's life and there is no acceptable worship. Likewise, if one doesn't engage in the acts of worship and in assembling there is no acceptable worship. Neither of these aspects can be separated from the other, nor exist without the other.

-via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 28 No. 2, February 1996.

***Remember To Read and Study  
Your Bible Daily***

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home... *Angie McCrary's aunt, Oscarene Newton*, had surgery this past Monday in Florence ... *Alyssa Thomas* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend... *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.

**TONIGHT'S SERVICE:** Remember that due to our meeting starting today our service this evening will be at 7:30 p.m.

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

**THE RECORD:** *For the Week of September 21st*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 98  
 Morning Worship ..... 123  
 Evening Worship ..... 85

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 86

## 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.

### Elders

Michael Clemmons ..... (256) 247-0836  
 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

### Deacons

Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
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