

# 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 7th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 124)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Presiding ..... Rocky Rose

Serving ..... James Albert McConnell

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Ethan Pressnell

Closing Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 125)

..... Mark McCrary

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Brian Word

Volume X

September 7, 2003

No. 36

## *Hospitality*

**Jeff May**

When I look at the word "hospitality" I see the word "hospital." It seems very fitting to me. Maybe I'm just older and I notice more of the struggles people face than I seemed to notice when I was a child but I sure do see a lot of hurting people. I see people hurting in their souls and in need of spiritual bandages for their souls. That where our homes can be little hospitals as we open them to other people. That's where our visits to the homes of others can be little clinics for others people's care.

Everyone seems to need such "hospitals." Even Jesus enjoyed it in His life. Without a doubt, Jesus got tired and weary. He needed places where He could allow His soul to be refreshed. One such home was the home of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Each of these ladies brought a spiritual mix to the table that helped Jesus. There was Martha who filled the home with sweet smells as she prepared her meals for her guests. There was Mary who had the hungry soul who couldn't miss the opportunity to feed from Jesus as they discussed spiritual things. Ahh! What an oasis for any spiritually minded person! Jesus could relax enjoying these two very fine things provided by these good people. Let's not allow Jesus' criticism of Martha to make us think that her activity in the kitchen was unspiritual. Jesus didn't say a word to Martha until she grumbled about the priorities of Mary. Hospitality with grumbling will always bring a rebuke from the Lord (1 Peter 4:9). The next time, Jesus was in their home, Martha served without grumbling, Mary was at His feet again and Jesus didn't say a word to Martha (John 12:2-3). Martha and Mary were both makers of a wonderful "hospital" for the soul of Jesus.

Paul enjoyed such a "hospital" in the house of Lydia. The

preaching of the gospel opened her heart and then she opened her house. She wouldn't take no for an answer (Acts 16:15). I know her home must have been a refreshing place to Paul, but soon he would need this little "hospital" again. In Philippi, Paul's preaching caused major controversy and he was beaten with many stripes. Finally released, this man with stripes on his back found the hospitality of Lydia again. "So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed" (Acts 16:40).

If such men of great spirituality as Paul and Jesus needed these places of hospitality then certainly we do. Our schedules may not prove to be as hectic as Jesus' but they are nonetheless busy enough to need some "down time" with good brethren. Our backs may not have stripes upon them like the body of Paul but life does deal out to us some pretty tough blows. How encouraging it is to find a quiet moment and a good ear from a brother or sister.

No wonder the Lord would encourage us all to be people who are "distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality" (Romans 12:13). It just may serve to heal one who is fainting or at least give a shot in the arm to the person needing boosting. Let's do it.

-via *The Noble Searcher*, Gardendale, Alabama.

## **Gospel Meeting**

**Sept. 28 – Oct. 1**

**Jeff May, Speaking**

### Schedule of Services

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

Monday through Wednesday – 7:30 p.m.

**Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

## ***Appying It To Our Lives***

**Jim Jonas**

A common phrase heard in our prayers is that we should listen to the sermon and "apply it to our lives." This is a sensible exhortation, for the ultimate objective of the Christian is to live the precepts of God, to conform to His standards, to pattern ourselves after His image and character.

The relationship between faith and knowledge is symbiotic. True faith is produced by exposure to and instruction by the revelation of God (Romans 10:17). That faith generated by knowledge drives us back to God's word over and over again as the source of life, wisdom and solace. And thus the cycle continues: knowledge breeds faith that seeks for more knowledge.

Knowledge of God's word does involve the acquisition of data: learning names, places, dates, book content, historical flow, etc. These comprise the skeleton to which will be attached the organs, vessels and skin of inner character. Too many people have fallen for cheap knowledge: they are "religious" but know very little factual detail about the Bible.

But Christianity is not merely an intellectual pursuit. We cannot content ourselves with the belief that we either possess the truth or are exposed regularly to the truth by preaching. The most important element follows. We must ask: What does this knowledge mean to me in my daily activities? What are the implications as I face life's triumphs and tragedies?

Peter had been honored with the "keys of the kingdom," opening the door first to the Jews (Acts 2) and then to the Gentiles (Acts 10). Yet, when a threatening situation arose which demanded the proper application of the principles he had espoused, Peter failed to put them into practice (Galatians 2:11-13). Paul rebuked him publicly for neglecting to "apply it to his life."

Paul said to the Thessalonians that "you

received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13). But what result came from such “hearing” and “welcoming”? “...Which also effectively works in you who believe. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Jews” (2:14). The Thessalonians “applied it to their lives” – and paid for it.

What does it take to apply spiritual lessons to our lives? How do we get the sermon or the Bible study lesson into our hearts?

First, there must be a recognition that we are incomplete. Our character is constantly under construction. We must be searching for lessons and insight to incorporate into our thinking so that we may be making the transformation into Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Second, we must be honest. When the preacher steps on our toes or a caring brother confronts us with a legitimate concern, we must put our pride aside and ask, “Do they have a point?”

Third, there must be thought, reflection, contemplation. Frankly, we have become a people too busy for meaningful meditation upon the deeper things of life. Overcommitted schedules take us from one activity to another; we react to the appointments of the day until, exhausted, we fall into bed. The next day, we do it all over again.

Take this article and “apply it to your life.”  
-via *The Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.

### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

## The Bible Stands

T. Doy Moyer

Sir Isaac Newton once said, “No sciences are better attested than the religion of the Bible.” He was right. Science (particularly natural science) is ever-changing. What is cherished today as a theory may be spurned tomorrow as bad science.

However, the Bible has withstood all of the changing theories of science. While ideas and theories have come and gone, the Bible continues as strong as ever. To believers, this is no surprise.

Peter, by inspiration, wrote that the word of God is incorruptible, and “lives and abides forever,” because “all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Peter 1:23-25).

People may mock the Bible, but they cannot explain how it has out-lasted every human theory. Shouldn’t an honest person at the very least want to consider it? Take hold of it, for in it is the way to our own immortality.

-via *Topics For Thought*, Haleyville, Alabama..

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Mary Best* continues at home ... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* is making slow progress in her recovery from surgery at home...*Marcia Cooper* is at home following her surgery on Thursday and is doing well...*Jean Ray* was able to be back with us Wednesday night for Bible study after being out sick for several weeks...*Amber Hammond* was not feeling well Wednesday night and was not able to be at Bible study ... *Wanda Tucker’s father, Billy Letson*, continues about the same ... *Taylor Mosley* was better and able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend ... *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.

**BILLY HARAWAY:** It is with great sadness that we note the passing of brother Billy Haraway. Billy passed away early this morning and funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. We want to express our deepest sympathy to Madia and all the family in Billy's passing. We will certainly miss Billy's presence among us.

**OUR MEETING:** Our gospel meeting is rapidly coming upon us. It is only three weeks (Sept. 28th) until it will begin with **Jeff May** preaching. There are some fliers on the table in the vestibule. Remember to pick some of these up and give them to people you invite.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** Remember the business meeting the elders have scheduled with the men this evening, following our evening service. I hope all the men will be present if at all possible.

**NEW DIRECTORY:** I am working compiling the information for our new directory. If there are any changes that need to be made to what is in the old directory, please let me know. I know that for many of you I do not have your e-mail addresses and the ones I have may not be correct. I hope to complete this in the next few weeks.

**THE RECORD:** *For the Week of August 31st*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 95  
 Morning Worship ..... 120  
 Evening Worship ..... 88  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 80

**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

**Evangelist & Editor**

David A. Cox ..... (256) 247-1049  
 Office-(256) 247-5539  
 E-mail address: daco@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Bulk Rate  
 Anderson, Alabama  
 Non-Profit  
 Permit #6

**Anderson church of Christ**  
 P.O. Box 66  
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested