

# 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](http://Anderson-church.org)

**Men Priviledged To Serve:**  
Sunday, October 24th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 38:1-8)  
..... Curtis Mosley  
Prayer  
..... Andrew Gatlin

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Larry White  
Assisting ..... Rocky Rose  
Serving ..... Brad Hammond  
..... James McConnell  
..... Mike Rogers  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 38:9-22)  
..... Stephen Stewart  
Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Lord's Supper  
..... Larry White  
..... Rocky Rose  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey

Volume XI

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No. 42

## *Peace Like A River*

**David Posey**

We are a people seeking peace. The popularity of a Thomas Kinkade painting – a cottage or a bridge or a gazebo in an exquisitely peaceful setting – is one piece of evidence. One look at the picture and we are transported into another world where nothing can trouble us and all is well. Perhaps your vision of peace comes from a quiet walk in the woods or standing on the banks of a river or lake or ocean or listening to soft music. Wherever our search might lead us, we all want peace.

We tend to look for peace in the wrong places though, sometimes literally. Travel agencies profit from the search as people seek the perfect vacation, to “get away from it all.” Others seek peace in reading or in watching TV or movies as less expensive ways to “escape” everyday problems or the drudgery of life. Still others are so torn up inside that they’ll use liquor or drugs for the ultimate “escape.” Finding no real peace, many slip into a deep depression; and some even commit suicide, ignorantly, and sadly, hurling themselves into an eternal abyss of conflict and discord.

Even as we seek peace in things and places, we know deep down that peace is not really dependent on external factors. Even if a Kinkade painting came to life and became my home, it would be meaningless if my marriage was a wreck, or my kids were in trouble, or my conscience was bothering me. We know all too well that the peace that comes through external means is destroyed by external means. The person sitting in one of those Kinkade gazebos can contract a melanoma cancer just like a person in the city. And then what becomes of his “peace”?

We’re not going to find any true, lasting peace in the things of

the world. It's just not there. But, oddly enough, the real secret to peace is found on every Kinkade painting. Near where he signs his name, Mr. Kinkade always puts "John 3:16." The familiar text reads: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Here's the clue to real, lasting peace.

A group of us sang a hymn recently that goes like this: "Peace like a river, flows through my soul...I've been forgiven, cleansed and made whole...Peace gently flowing, sweet and divine, gives the assurance, Jesus is mine..." There is the only path to pure peace: Jesus, the "only begotten Son." When we are right with God, we are right with everything else. It doesn't matter what kind of house we live in, or how it is "decked out." It doesn't matter where we spend our vacations because they are for relaxation and re-creation, not an attempt to "get away from it all"; movies, TV and music are for entertainment, not for "escape." And if Jesus is in our heart and we value the peace He gives, we will choose for our entertainment those programs that are most conducive to keeping Him there. Choosing fare that is base and vulgar will only shake our peace, because it will assault the conscience – unless, God forbid, our conscience becomes "seared" (1 Timothy 4:2).

Peace is a product of being right with God. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). This peace cannot be explained in human terms, because it comes from God. Yet, we know it when we have it. And when we have it, conflict and stress ("anxiety") tend to fade. We may still be under job pressure or face problems with our children or even have "deep concern" for the church (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:28). But it doesn't rock you deep down. Deep down, you know the "peace that passes understanding."

Do you have this peace? Is your soul like a gently flowing stream, or a walk in the woods or a quiet cottage in an English village? Would you like to get there? Here's how:

1. If you've never been baptized, do it now. Until you do, your sins will come before you night and day and trouble your heart (Psalm 32:3-4). In baptism, you appeal to God for a clear conscience and He grants it when you obey Him (1 Peter 3:21).

2. As a child of God, there may still be some habitual sins that nag you. You must determine to put them away, once and for all. You make a choice here between the "passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:25) or the "peace that passes understanding." It's your choice. God has promised to forgive you if you will confess (1 John 1:9). Do it now!

3. If your lack of peace comes from work- or family- related issues, try to improve your perspective. Think about the worst thing that can happen in your job, family, etc. Get fired? Have no money? Kids get in trouble? These are serious matters, but not soul-destroying. Nothing can take your salvation away. And, no matter what happens, God will see that you eat and have clothing and shelter (Matthew 6:33). And the "worst" will probably never happen, especially if you're praying constantly for wisdom, which God gives "liberally and without reproach" (James 1:5).

4. Examine your ego. Some of us are not as concerned about "going broke" or even losing our kids to the world as we are about people knowing about it! We are much too concerned about how we appear in other peoples' eyes. We'll never have peace as long as we entertain the false notion that our acceptance with God is dependant upon our approval of others. "For if we live, we live to the Lord; if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). Ultimately, it makes no difference what other people think, as long as we are doing the right thing. Jesus only did the right

thing and was crucified.

5. If we want peace, we must get in the dual habit of prayer and study, along with meditation. I know of nothing that is more peace-inducing than the regular practice of these disciplines. A person who is rarely at peace is probably not praying and studying on a regular basis. So, set aside some quiet time and get in touch with God, who “gave His only begotten Son” and if He “did not spare His son, but delivered Him up for all, will He not freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32).

Brother or sister in Christ, “in all these things, you are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”! (Romans 8:37). Through Him, you can conquer anxiety, stress and inner conflict. Believe it, and pray.

~via *Folsom Point View*; Folsom, California.

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## *No Grandchildren*

**Frank Jamerson**

Second generation Christians sometime think like grandchildren. Since their parents were Christians, they should have special privileges with God. Although many have “inherited religion,” the truth is that God has no grandchildren.

Grandchildren often think they should have permission to do things with grandparents that their parents would not allow – and some do! Spiritually, this kind of thinking results in apostasy. The Israelites served God during the days of Joshua and the elders who outlived him, but after their deaths “there arose a generation ... which knew not the Lord, nor yet His works which He had done for Israel.” Then, they “did evil in the sight of the Lord” (Judges 2:10-11).

Spiritually, the same thing happens today. People who left denominationalism, or worldliness, because of personal study of God’s word, have children who inherited their religion and do not have personal faith. They look around and like Israel of old, want to be like the nations around (1 Samuel 8:1-5). In order to do this they must depart from respect for book, chapter and verse that their parents respected. Remember God has no grandchildren. He only has children who personally obey Him.

~via *Midway Messenger*; Greenhill, Alabama.

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## News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Willie Ridgeway* is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Charles Glass* is now at home and doing much better after spending several days in the ECM hospital with an ulcer... *Jerry Dickey’s father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Curtis Cooper* is to begin his radiation and chemo treatments on Monday in Columbia, Tennessee... *Jack Tucker* has not been able to be at services due to breathing problems ... *Mattie Blanche Word* is now at home from rehabilitation... *Helen Trousdale’s sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, recieved a bad report from her doctor this week about her cancer... *Sam Noles’ brother, D.B. Noles*, is now at home after having a pacemaker implanted on Wednesday ... *Helen Stewart’s grandson, Adam Stewart*, is at home now, but needing a kidney transplant ... *Lakin Hammond* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednes-

day night ... **Nathan Grisham** was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... Remember **Kathy Smith's sister-in-law, Sue Gilliam**, is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments... **Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty** is at the Countryside Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ... **James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell**, continues at home... **Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, continues at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The **Midway church** in Greenhill is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with **Frank Jamerson** preaching.

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

**OUT OF TOWN:** **Sanda Martel** is out of town this week with her work... **Helen Stewart** is in South Carolina... **The Pressnells: Monroe and Yvonne** are in South Carolina on vacation... **The Hammonds: Eddie and Willodean** have been in the mountains this past week... **The Hammonds: Brad and Tanya** have also been in the mountains this week.

**TEACHERS SCHEDULE:** Remember the teachers schedule that has been posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule. Be sure to check on this and let **Mark McIntyre** know if you have any needs for your class.

**ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING:** Next Sunday afternoon, October 31st, the elders and deacons will be meeting at 4:30 p.m.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of October 17th*

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 108  
 Morning Worship ..... 126  
 Evening Worship ..... 92

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 85

**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  
 Monroe Pressnell ..... (256) 232-0780

**Deacons**

Jimmy Glass ..... (256) 247-0571  
 Mark McIntyre ..... (256) 233-1953  
 Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
 Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
 Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988  
 Brian Word ..... (256) 229-5823

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