

# 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, November 14th:

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 42:14-25)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper

Presiding ..... Phil Pressnell

Assisting ..... Claus Martel

Serving ..... Eddie L. Hammond

..... Stephen Stewart

..... Curtis Mosley

..... Jim Phillips

Closing Prayer

..... Eddie J. Hammond

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 43:1-13)

..... Brad Hammond

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Lord's Supper

..... Phil Pressnell

..... Claus Martel

Closing Prayer

..... Aric Butler

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## *You Can't Have My Identity!*

**Allen Dvorak**

There is a new crime which is rapidly becoming more prevalent in our computer age. It is called "identity theft." The thief steals personal information about another person, often by means of his computer, and uses that information in various ways, usually to access the financial assets of the victim. That fact alone suggests why no one has attempted to steal MY identity!

If someone steals your identity, do you stop being who you are? I understand, of course, that what is actually stolen are driver's license numbers, social security numbers or the numbers of financial accounts, but I am intrigued by the description of the crime because I believe that one's true identity is not constituted by such information.

Identification numbers, whether assigned by the government or financial institutions, do not determine who we are. They are, in fact, simply an impersonal way of distinguishing one person from another. What exactly is it that gives me identity?

Is it my name? Is it distinctive historical information like my date of birth or my age? We often identify ourselves by referring to personal relationships. I am the son of Stanley and Barbara, the husband of Debbie and the father of David and Jonathan. Those relationships certainly distinguish me from many others (last time I checked, Debbie has only one husband!), but does that tell you much about me?

If I tell you that I am a Christian, I have told you a lot about me. You still may not know much about my personality, whether I am reserved or talkative, Type A or Type B, but you can deduce certain

things about my character because being a Christian ideally implies such things.

For instance, you would know that I tell the truth and that my word is as good as an oath (Ephesians 4:25). You would understand that I will not steal anything from anybody (Ephesians 4:28). You would anticipate that I would take my family responsibilities seriously (Ephesians 5:25; 6:2, 4). You would expect my language to be free from profanity and vulgar jokes (Ephesians 5:4). You would look for good works in my life (Ephesians 2:10). You would know all these things about me because that's how a Christian behaves, according to the Scriptures.

A thief can take my driver's license or my social security card in an attempt to "assume my identity" and raid my financial assets. The gossip can steal my good reputation by telling lies about my conduct and may even affect my relationships with others. However, my character and my personality determine who I am, my identity, and are not subject to theft. I can surrender my good character by changing my lifestyle, but no one can "steal" it from me. My identity as a Christian is not something that others can take away by force, not even Satan, but I can choose to surrender that relationship with God by my conduct (John 10:27-29).

What is YOUR identity?

-via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama



## *Victory In Jesus*

**Robert F. Turner**

Respecting victory over physical hardships Paul wrote, "I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). He concluded a magnificent section of the Roman letter with, "We are more than conquerors through

him that loved us" (Romans 8:37f). Of final victory over sin and death he wrote, "Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). As most of our readers know, these are but a fraction of the scriptural attestations to Victory in Jesus.

The words, "Victory in Jesus," are readily accepted by all brethren. They are freely and honestly spoken and we must assume believed by all. Yet, they can easily be empty words, negated by much of our writing and preaching. In our zeal to tell others what they must do to be saved, the actions of the lost may overshadow the role of the Savior. We may appear to exalt man coming to Christ above the Christ who gives meaning to that coming. Erroneous doctrines of "unconditional election" and "faith only" have necessitated emphasis upon conditions of pardon — the need for obedience. We are painfully aware of the need to "fight the good fight," meet "soldier responsibilities," and "overcome" in our personal battles with Satan. But we must never forget: Victory in Jesus is a gift of God, neither merited nor bought by man,

This victory is according to "an eternal purpose" which God the Father purposed in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:11), "before the foundation of the world" (1:4). Foreknowing that man would sin, God's part of salvation was to give mankind a Savior, the very Son of God, who would pay the penalty for sin. All agree that salvation is "in Christ," although some might equate this with church membership and miss its deeper significance. For others, emphasis upon conditions of pardon has become more "good news" than the Victory in Christ for which the conditions are given. I once asked a class of 30 brethren to write briefly "the plan of salvation" – and only two mentioned the crucified and resurrected Lord. Twenty-eight wrote something like "faith, repentance, confession, and baptism." These are conditions, but not the means, nor the basic plan of salvation.

To appreciate victory in Jesus we must see

ourselves for what we are: separated from Almighty God by our sins, facing justice in irrevocable judgment, “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you,” (Isaiah 59:2). Sin is the problem, the disease, the slave-holder. “All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23). The law of God is “holy, and just, and good” (Romans 7:12), but it classifies sins and makes them more apparent (Romans 3:20; 7:7-13). None are free of guilt on a law basis, for none have kept any law perfectly (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:10). Without mercy, we are without hope, lost, utterly undone. It is difficult for our self-sufficient and proud generation to see ourselves in this light. Like David, we may need a pointed “thou art the man” to open our eyes; but the remedy will not be applied until we are stripped of pride and throw our selves upon His mercy (Matthew 16:24). In this sense all law “brings us to Christ” (Galatians 3:24). The candidate for salvation presents himself “Just as I am, without one plea; but that thy blood was shed for me.”

Victory in Christ is a promise of God. Implementing His eternal purpose, God promised Abraham: “in thee (thy seed) shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3), Paul identifies that seed as Christ (Galatians 3:16); and the promise became a central part of New Testament gospel preaching (Acts 2:39; 3:25f). The curse of law, its demand for perfection, was removed by Christ’s death in our stead (Isaiah 53; Galatians 3:13). “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Because of His death, the heavenly Father can be both “just, and the justifier” of the believer, though he be less than perfect (Romans 3:26). The promise of Christ becomes a promise of forgiveness as taught so clearly in Paul’s sermon at Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:23,32-38). God has kept His promise and “their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 10:14-17).

With this understanding and attitude, coming to Christ takes on new meaning. Faith changes

our heart (Acts 15:9). We recognize His holiness, and are ashamed; we see His mercy (verse 11), and gratefully reach out to Him, Our former life hangs heavily upon us, and we sorrowfully acknowledge it, turning from it. The penitent believer submits to baptism (a passive act): as one dead, being buried. We have denied self, and come to Christ for victory over sin (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Titus 3:4-7).

Now we live for Christ, or, as Paul puts it, “Christ liveth in me” (Galatians 2:20). The “new creature” is perfected as we press toward the mark in keeping with the “mind of Christ” (Philippians 2:5f; 3:9-15). Our faith in the resurrected Lord removes the fear of physical death and our confidence in His advocacy brings us boldly to God’s throne (Hebrews 4:14f). Well might we say, “Oh death where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:55f).

-via *Susquehanna Sentinel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania.

## News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Angie McCrary’s father, Buford Shook*, has been moved to rehabilitation in Tusculumbia ... *Willie Ridgeway* continues at home ... *Roger Mosley’s father, T. W. Mosley*, is now at home following his stay in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Leota Springer’s husband, Bob Springer*, is at home following his stay at the VA hospital in Birmingham. He is beginning kidney dialysis ... *Helen Stewart’s grandson, Adam Stewart*, is at home now, but needing a kidney transplant ... *James Word’s brother, J. T. Word* is to have surgery in Colum-

bia, Tennessee on Wednesday... **Curtis Cooper** is continuing his radiation treatments in Columbia ...Remember **Mattie Blanche Word** is at home...**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 *New Georgia church* in Rogersville is beginning a meeting tomorrow and it will continue through Wednesday with *David Hartsell* preaching. They will meet Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight is the night for Communication group two to meet. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group this evening after our service.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to all the family of **Margaret Neal Grisham**. She past away last weekend and her funeral was Tuesday in Rogersville.

**OUT OF TOWN: The Butlers:** *Aric and Andrea* are out of town visiting with family today ... **Glenda Phillips** is also away visiting with family today... **The McConnells:** *James and Freda* are on vacation.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** The elders have scheduled a business meeting for all the men of the church this afternoon at 4:30.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of November 7th*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 98  
 Morning Worship ..... 126  
 Evening Worship ..... 91

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 90

*Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.*

**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  
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