

# 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, December 12th:

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 48:1-11)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Larry White  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Phil Pressnell  
Assisting ..... Brian Word  
Serving ..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Eddie L. Hammond  
..... Stephen Stewart  
..... James McConnell  
Closing Prayer  
..... Andrew Gatlin

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Bible Reading ... (Isaiah 48:12-22)  
..... Mike Rogers  
Prayer  
..... Claus Martel  
Lord's Supper  
..... Phil Pressnell  
..... Brian Word  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

Volume XI

December 12, 2004

No. 49

## *How Sweet The Sound*

**Phillip Mullins**

David's head was hung low. He knew he had sinned with Bathsheba. He knew his hands were stained with the blood of Uriah. He knew that he deserved to die. Instead he heard the forgiveness of God through the lips of Nathan, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die" (11 Samuel 12:13).

Peter had done exactly what he said he wouldn't do, he had denied Jesus. What guilt he must have felt, what shame he must have had. Several days after the resurrection, Peter sat on the shores of Galilee with His Lord. What did he hear from Christ? Words of scorn, words of rejection? No. "Feed my lambs", said Christ (John 21:15). Words of restoration to the work Jesus had called Peter to do. Words of forgiveness.

The greatest words that a person can hear are not, "You are getting a raise" or "You just earned the highest grade in the class" or even "Yes, I will marry you". The most important words that the human ear can receive are the words that bear the news that God is merciful and that He forgives through His Son Jesus Christ.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ... (Ephesians 2:5-6).

Have you heard these words? Have you responded with love, faith, and obedience? If not, open God's Word, bend your ear, and listen to His voice. It will be the sweetest sound you have ever heard.

-via *Messages*; Kingsport, Tennessee.

# Closet Convictions

Dan S. Shipley

*“Nevertheless even of the rulers many believed on him: but because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God.” (John 12:42, 43).*

From its beginning, the cause of Christ has suffered because of disciples with closet convictions; the kind of men who know and believe the truth but will not stand up for it. Consider, for example, these influential rulers of our text. Potentially, their worth to the cause of their unconfessed Christ was immeasurable; effectively, however, they contributed absolutely nothing. Worse, their influence remained where they did, as must always be the case. What a testimonial to the tremendous swaying power of cowardice and pride! — It keeps them among those whom they oppose and puts them in opposition to their own faith and convictions. “But, after all”, they may have reasoned, “we do have our standing in the community to think about”. “And, besides, how could we ever explain to our friends of the synagogue circle about what we really believe? Why, what would they think?” — and so goes people-pleasing religion.

And so stay the people-pleasers in religion — in their “synagogues” of compromise and out of God's kingdom. But most of them do not see their “going along” as being all that serious, let alone as jeopardizing salvation. For example, it is not unusual to meet denominationalists who freely admit certain unscriptural practices espoused by their church, but will not speak out against them. They know and believe certain Bible truths, but will not practice them, for fear...? Now, what is the essential difference between these and the elders of our text? Is it less honorable to deny Christ than His word? The false idea that men can honor Christ while ignoring, perverting and desecrating His doctrine is of

the devil! “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (John 12:48) Man's part in gaining a right standing with God lies in his knowing, believing, and obeying of gospel truth (John 6:45, 8:32; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:17; James 1:21,22). Every right relationship with God is a truth-determined relationship! All that God requires of man and all that man can ever do to please and glorify God is made known in His word (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 John 9). He who shuns it, compromises it, or adds to it reflects on the God who gave it (1 Thessalonians 4:13), whether Jew, denominationalist or Christian.

In recent years, many members of the church of Christ have “awakened” to find themselves in “synagogues” of liberalism. They share the dilemma of the rulers to some extent. “Shall we speak out and risk being put out — or shall we go along to get along?” May God help them to see the seriousness and importance of standing up for the Lord by standing for His truth. To continue “going along” is to continue violating conscience and fellowshiping error. Friend, your influence is where you are. Demonstrate your allegiance to Christ and His truth while you can! Stand! .

-via *Plain Talk*; Burnet, Texas.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.



The Anderson  
church of Christ  
website at:

[www.Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

**On the Site You Will Find:**

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The **Gospel Power** in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.

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self-indulgence, pleasure, and comfort. Our permissive society turns freedom into license, rights into riots, and pornography into profit.

Concerned about a higher standard of living, we often fail to live by a standard. Riches are elevated above righteousness; power over piety; and science above the Savior. We abandon the moral law then shake our heads in disbelief as crime increases. Look out, America! Remember the words of Will Durant: "No great nation has ever been overcome until it has destroyed itself."

If you really desire to be a patriot; if you are truly concerned about America; if you earnestly want God to bless her -- **Then live a life in harmony with the will of God.**

*-via The Susquehanna Sentinel, Marietta, Pennsylvania.*

## *Psalm 33*

**John Gibson**

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..."*  
(Psalm 33:12).

"When America ceases to be good, it will cease to be great," said Alexis de Tocqueville. In this statement we are reminded that the greatness of a nation does not rest in its military power, medical advancements, political acumen or its national wealth. A nation's greatness is found in the quotient of its righteousness. Righteousness is the determining factor in a country's future. Solomon, the wisest of men, said "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

Theodore Roosevelt warned, "The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life." Is it possible that this day is drawing near? To a great extent our objectives have become: success, status, and security. These are followed closely by

## News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Myrtie Williams* is now at home following a brief stay in the hospital to update her pacemaker ... *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, continues in rehabilitation at Glenwood in Florence... *Willie Ridgeway* continues at home ... *Cindy Pressnell* is to have surgery this Friday... *John & Virginia Lovell* have both been sick, but were able to be at Bible study Wednesday... *Ronnie Phillips* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is in the Huntsville Hospital, room 458... *Lou Helms' son-in-law, Tim Thornton*, received a good report, but will be going to another doctor in the coming days... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is taking oral chemo, but has been experiencing problems with the thickness of her blood... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, is at home, but is continuing to take kidney dialysis ... *Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is at home

now, but is awaiting a kidney transplant... **Curtis Cooper** will be beginning his chemo treatments... **Mattie Blanche Word** is at home... Remember **Kathy Smith's sister-in-law, Sue Gilliam**, who is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments... **Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty** is in 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.

**NEW BABY:** We rejoice with **Eddie and Amber Hammond** in the birth of their daughter, **Isabella Grace**, this past Sunday. She weighed 8lbs and 6 ozs. and was 22 inches long. This makes **Ray and Wanda Tucker** proud grandparents and **Jack and Onzell Tucker** proud great-grandparents. We rejoice with them all.

**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.

**PREACHING TONIGHT** **Wiley Deason** will be preaching for us this evening. We will be helping with Wiley's spupport during his seven month stay in Mariupol, Ukraine. I know that you will enjoy hearing him.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Due to my being in Missouri for a wedding next week, **Monroe Pressnell** will be preaching for me in my absence. I appreciate Jimmy's willingness to do this for me.

**THE RECORD:** For week of December 5th  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 92  
Morning Worship ..... 113  
Evening Worship ..... 70

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 79

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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