

# 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, February 8th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 21:1-16)

..... Mark McCrary

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Lord's Supper . Michael Clemmons

Serving ..... Brian Word

..... James McConnell

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Mike Rogers

..... Stephen Stewart

Closing Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading (Proverbs 21:17-31)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

..... Brian Word

Closing Prayer

..... RonniePhillips

Volume XI

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No. 6

## *The Pattern For The Church*

**David A. Cox**

The Hebrew writer tells us "as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5). Seeing the the Lord admonished Moses about the pattern given to him, it seems that the people of God today, the church, should be mindful of the pattern given to them. Paul was concerned about the pattern when he reminded Timothy to "Hold fast the form (pattern, ASV) of sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13). Again to the Romans, Paul wrote that their conversion to Christ was that they had "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you" (Romans 6:17). Indeed, we see that following the pattern or form that had been given was essential in conversion and in one continuing to please God. In Acts 2:42 we read, "that the disciples continued in the apostles' doctrine." They "continued" that is followed, "the apostles' doctrine" that is the things that the apostles' had taught them. They were "holding fast the sound words" or they were following the pattern that had been given to them. Let's answer the following question using the pattern lekt un in the New Testament.

### *What is the focus of the church?*

As we look at the New Testament, we see that the focus of the church was in preaching Christ and Him crucified. The goal in doing this was to bring people out of the world of sin and darkness and into the kingdom of Christ. We see in the early chapters of Acts that the early disciples were successful in this (Acts 2, 3, 4, and 5, etc.). However, not every church remained focused in their work for the Lord. In Revelation 2:1-7, we read of the church at Ephesus that had done much good in its past. Paul considered it one of the of the finest that he had worked among, but they had lost their focus. In verse 7

we read, "...I have somewhat against thee that ye have left your first love." Also, we see the church at Laodicea had become so impressed with themselves that they said, "we have need of nothing" (Revelation 3:15-16). What we see here are examples of churches that stopped following the pattern concerning the focus and mission for the church. Is it possible today that local congregations could do like the above examples and quit following the pattern? Yes it is and this may be one of the greatest dangers facing local congregations. We see many churches that build large balances in the bank, focus on the successes of the past and find great satisfaction where they are. Churches that fail to focus on teaching the lost and spiritually edifying the members of the body, opting instead for gyms, games, eating, and playing as they try to encourage people to join them. We must recognize that the power of God in the salvation of souls of men is the same as it was in the first century. Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to the Jew first and also the Greek" (Romans 1:16). This means that a church remaining focused on saving souls will not be sidetracked by fleshly, temporal things to convert people. It is only the gospel that will save.

#### *What is the pattern for worship?*

In John 4:24 we read, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." We see that Jesus tells us that God desires people to worship Him. But we also see that a certain kind of worship is required. First, our worship must be in spirit. This means that we must worship with emotion and feeling. Our worship to God should never be cold and stale and just "going through the motions." But this is something that each individual must prepare himself to do and the individual will know himself if he has worship God in spirit. Second, worship must be in truth. Our worship must be according to the pattern given in God's word (John 17:17). The pattern given to us in the New Testament shows that the church had a lesson preached (Acts 20:7); sang (Ephesians 5:19);

prayed (Acts 2:42; etc.); observed the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7); and gave of their means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). They did these things on the first day of the week. Could we change any of these things or add other things to these and still be following the pattern given to us? Absolutely, not.

#### *What is the pattern for the organization of the church?*

God has given a pattern for the organization of the church. Paul and Silas as they returned back on their missionary journey went back through the cities they had visited and to the churches that they had been with and "ordain elders in every church" (Acts 14:23). Paul wrote to Titus and told him that he was "left in Crete to set in order the things that are wanting and to ordain elders..." (Titus 1:5). Paul reminded Timothy of the qualifications of elders and deacons so that he could do his work as an evangelist and ordain elders and deacons. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi "with its bishops and deacons" (Philippians 1:1). It is quite clear that the new testament has given a pattern that elders are to be in every church. So we ask, is a local congregation truly following the pattern given by the Lord if they are not working diligently to have Elders? No. There are qualifications for men to attain if they are to serve in either capacity of an elder or a deacon. But if a congregation is truly concerned with following the pattern for organization, then every effort will be made to organize the local church as God desires. It is no more right for congregations to supplant the organization God has given with the man-made organization of the monthly business meetings. Yes, it may be necessary to not have elders for a time, but let us be mindful of God's pattern of qualified men serving, and not develop the attitude of "everything is going along fine, why change?"

Let us remember and be admonished that when God gives a pattern, He expects it to be followed. So then, let us follow the pattern given in God's word and not attempt to change it in the least.

# *Working To Rule*

## **Sewell Hall**

The term “Work to Rule” is familiar to most people living in England. It means to work according to predefined minimum requirements for a given job. Thus, the worker will work no weekends, no overtime, no relief. He will make no effort to make up the time following a breakdown or delay. He may refuse to use equipment provided to increase efficiency. Realizing the paralyzing effect of such minimum effort, labor leaders use such action as alternative to a strike.

“Working to rule” is common in the church. Many establish what appears to them to be a reasonable set of minimum requirements for staying out of hell and then live accordingly. Usually it involves attending Sunday for “breaking of bread” (unless on holidays), giving a certain percentage of their income, perhaps “saying a little prayer” before retiring, and avoiding the grosser forms of immorality. They do no advertise or attend gospel meetings. They seldom attend Bible classes or Sunday evening services. “These are not required,” they explain. If all the members of a given congregation were “work to rule” people the church would be no more effective than an industry by such action.

The Lord has never stated any minimum requirements. He speaks only in terms of total commitment, of seeking first the kingdom, of giving our bodies a living sacrifice.

The church in Ephesus, once a very zealous church fired by love for God, left their first love and settled down to “work to rule.” They maintained a minimum program of work and remained sound in teaching. But the Lord said, “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works, or else I come to thee and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent” (Revelation 2:5).

We wonder how many churches may have

had their candlesticks removed, and how many Christians have had their names blotted out of the book of life, not because they were working to strike, but because they were working to some rule of their own devising.

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

-via *The Word at West Fayetteville*, Fayetteville, NC

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Myrtie Williams* continues at home and making slow progress in her recovery ... *Willie Ridgeway* is in the ECM hospital following having stints placed in his legs on Monday ... *Zack and Jacob Rogers* have both been sick this past week and have been unable to be at services...*Noah Lane Hammond* has been sick this past week ...*Sam Noles* is at home and doing well following his eye surgery on Tuesday. Sam will be having surgery on his other eye this Tuesday ...*Hoyt Hammond* is at home... ..*James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell* is at home... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* 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 ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, is staying with family.

**BAPTISM:** We rejoiced this past Wednesday as *Angie Cook* expressed her desire to be baptized into Christ. We appreciate Angie and wish for a

long life as a child of God and may we encourage her as she encourages us.

**NEW BABY:** This past Thursday *Monroe and Yvonne Pressnell* became the proud great-grandparents of a baby girl, *Karaline Elisabeth Garrett*. She is now at home with her parents, *Wesley and Callie Garrett*.

**PICTURES FOR DIRECTORY:** Remember pictures are continuing to be made for the pictorial directory. If you have not have your picture made yet, be sure to do it soon. *Claus Martel* is taking the pictures and they are being made in the High School classroom after services.

**WEBSITE:** The *Anderson church website* has been updated recently with the bulletins from last year. Also sermons are being uploaded in audio and video formats. I hope that you will take time to visit the website and tell others about it. The address is:

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

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the time for Communion group 2 to meet following our evening service. If you are in group two, plan to meet this evening.

**THE RECORD:** *Averages for January 2004*

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 103  
Morning Worship ..... 113  
Evening Worship ..... 79

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 75

**Gospel Meeting**  
**March 28 – April 2**  
David Hartsell, Speaking  
**Anderson church of Christ**  
Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 5:00 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: [dacox@hiwaay.net](mailto:dacox@hiwaay.net)

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Anderson, Alabama 35610

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