

# 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, April 11th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Eccl. 3:1-13)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper ..... Jimmy Glass  
Serving ..... Jerry Dickey  
..... Brad Hammond  
..... Mark McCrary  
..... Eddie Hammond  
..... Jim Phillips  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Eccl. 3: 14-22)  
..... Mike Rogers  
Prayer  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jimmy Glass  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume XI

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No. 15

## *Bible Simplicity*

**Dee Bowman**

The gospel of Jesus Christ is to be preached to every person (Mark 16:15-16). For that reason it must be simple enough for every person to understand. The idea that the gospel is mystical, difficult to understand is just not so. The word of God is simple enough for one to "know the truth" and by it be free from sin (John 8:32). A person can "be not unwise, but understand what is the will of the Lord" (Ephesians 5:17). In fact, Paul said what he had written in a few words can be understood by each reader (Ephesians 3:1-3). And was it not Jesus Himself who prayed "sanctify them by thy truth, thy word is truth"? It would be sad indeed for Jesus to say, "he that rejecteth me and receiveth not my word hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48) if man couldn't understand that word in the first place. Simple, right?

What the Bible says about faith can be understood. The Bible affirms that faith is the result of hearing the word of God preached (Romans 10:17), not some irresistible force that comes from some sudden "inner feeling" or by putting your hand on the television and "accepting Christ as your personal Savior." In fact, one could not even know if there is a Savior if the word of God had not first testified to it. John closed his gospel by saying, "Many other signs truly did Jesus in the midst of his disciples which are not written in this book; but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ and that believing, ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31). Faith, the faculty for seeing the unseen, comes from testimony and evidence and in no other way.

As such, it is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of

things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). And let me add one other thing: you will search in vain to find one passage of scripture in all the Bible that affirms that a man is saved at the point of faith alone (James 2:24). Bible faith always obeys. That’s simple enough, isn’t it?

**What the Bible says about the church can be understood.** In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “...upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” In Acts 2:47, we are told “...and the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved.” The first passage affirms that the Lord intended to build His church, the second necessarily implies that He did so. Now when it had been accomplished, whose church was it? What name should it wear? Is it not Christ’s church? The term Church of Christ is not just a name to distinguish one denomination from another. It denotes possession. It states to whom the church belongs. The term Church of Christ is intended to describe the saved belonging to Christ, the ekklesia, (“called out”) which belongs to Christ.

Further, we are told in the book of Ephesians that the church is the body of Christ. If the church is the body in Ephesians 1:22-23, is it not the body in Ephesians 4? And if there is only one body in Ephesians 4, does that not mean there is only one church? Remember, too, that you are not in the church to be saved; you’re in the church because you are saved. The church is the saved. Isn’t that simple?

**What the Bible says about baptism can be understood.** I’ve always been amazed that men have had so much trouble over whether or not baptism is essential for salvation. Can we just not understand what the Bible says about baptism? For instance, in Acts 2:38, Peter told the people on Pentecost, “repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins...” How hard is that? Can’t we understand that? If I said, “the student that works hard and passes all his courses will be graduated” does that mean all one has to do is work hard to graduate? You mean he doesn’t have

to pass all his courses? And when Saul was told in Acts 22:16, “arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,” why is that so hard to understand? Does baptism wash away sins or not? Nobody says it does it without faith, but how come we have so much trouble seeing that salvation can’t come by faith only either? And when Romans 6 says that we “...are buried with him by baptism,” how is it some can argue that sprinkling is baptism? Is that that hard? How can a burial be accomplished by sprinkling?

And please be advised, these are not statements that set forth “Church of Christ doctrine,” they are just actual statements about baptism from the Bible. And if they don’t mean anything, how can we be sure if the statements about faith or repentance, or remission of sins mean anything? I aver that these statements can be understood by any person who is honestly searching for what the Bible says about baptism. Isn’t that simple?

**What the Bible says about falling from grace can be understood.** Most of the denominational world subscribes to the Calvinistic doctrine that says that once a man has been saved he cannot so sin so as to fall from grace. Where is that in the Bible? Where does the Bible say once saved, always saved? Do you mean to tell me that there is no sin, no illicit manner of life, no blasphemy that will cause a man to lose his soul once he has been saved? The word of God says that the grace of God can be received in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1); that grace can be turned into lasciviousness (Jude 4); that it can be frustrated and made void (Galatians 2:21); and that you can fall from it (Galatians 5:4). And what could Peter have meant when he said, “IF ye do these things ye shall never fall”? What is the IF if it’s not IF? What does IF mean if it’s not IF? That’s certainly simple enough, isn’t it?

Admittedly, the Bible is difficult in some places. Some passages take time and serious investigation to understand. But not so those things so necessary to salvation. Even the simplest person

can understand and act upon the commands having to do with being saved.

-via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.



## *Our Identity*

**Randy Harshbarger**

The search for identity is not a new one. It is perhaps inherent in man that he wants to know “who he is.” Many search for long-lost relatives seeking a link with their past. We hear much these days about “self-image.” We are told that many people have a “low” self-image. These feelings of inferiority may stem from economic, social, educational, or racial disadvantages; whatever the reason(s), it all contributes to feelings of worthlessness. Our children are taught in school that they are just “animals” who evolved from “lower forms of life.” Then, there is the “I’m O.K., you’re O.K.” mentality, which says: “I love me. I am not conceited. I’m just a good friend to myself. And I like to do whatever makes me feel good.” Psychology Today might approve, but what would the Lord say? What does He say about who we are? If we are Christians, how then should we describe ourselves? Do we use the self-possessed mantras of modern society? As followers of Christ, how are we defined; how do we live our lives?

Jesus makes it clear that those who follow Him must turn from self and turn to Him. “And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34). Jesus said that He “must” go to His cross, and that we “must” follow Him. If He is to be our Savior, then we have no choice about the way we will live our lives. Daily consecration is a must (Luke 9:23). Jesus had His cross; we have ours.

Every man condemned to die by crucifixion was compelled to carry his cross. The cross beam,

or patibuluni, was strapped to the condemned man’s shoulders; he was then paraded through the streets, subject to the jeers and ridicule of the masses. When Jesus was carrying his cross to Calvary, he stumbled under its weight; then Simon of Cyrene was pressed into service (Mark 15:21). Bearing our cross as we follow Jesus can only mean that we put ourselves into the position of a condemned man on his way to execution. Our cross is not a cantankerous husband or an irritable wife. Our cross symbolizes death to SELF. We do not face the threat of physical death, but we do “crucify” the old man of sin. Paul said: “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14). The cross of Christ helps us lose our fondness for the world. Having died to sin, we continue to die to self. For the Christian, life is the relentless pursuit of Christ and His will. We must turn from the idolatry of self-centeredness.

Jesus values all people. He died, even for the publicans and sinners and Samaritans and Gentiles and Pharisees. Yes, he died even for you and me. What Christ desires of each of us is our heart. Selfish ambition, power, and comfort are traded for sacrifice, service, and suffering. In Christ we are new creatures. Having put on the new man, we have been... created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:24). Unworthy? Yes! Worthless? No!

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin* Nachogdoches, Texas.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Sissy Clemmons* continues to recover at home... *C. L. Weathers* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Myrtie Williams* continues in Glenwood Rehabilitation in Florence... *Will Cook* was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night due to a cut and having

to go to the emergency room to have it sewn up... **Jamie Mosley** is feeling better and was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... **Ray Tucker** was sick and not able to be at services this past week ... **Ronnie Phillips** was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... Remember **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home ... **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 ... **Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray**, is staying with family.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the night for communication group two to meet. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The **Elkton church** in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Bill Hall** will be the speaker in this meeting... The **East Florence church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 with **Eugene Britnell** preaching... The **College Place church** in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Glenn Seaton** will be the speaker.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **The Words: Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia** are away this week visiting in Florida... **Lou Ann Phillips** and **Shelia Goode** have been in Gulf Shores this week.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for week of April 4th  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 103  
Morning Worship ..... 120  
Evening Worship ..... 83

**Wednesday:**  
**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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