

# 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 18th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Eccl. 5:1-12)  
..... Aric Butler  
Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose  
Lord's Supper ..... Scottie Goode  
Serving ..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Ethan Pressnell  
..... Stephen Stewart  
..... Chase Williams  
Closing Prayer  
..... Monroe Pressnell

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Bible Reading ..... (Eccl. 5:13-22)  
..... Mark McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Lord's Supper  
..... Scottie Goode  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips

Volume XI

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No. 16

## *Remember To Forget*

**Marc R. Hinds**

God's providence is the most important part of Joseph's story. But throughout it, Joseph's attitude plays a vital role, too. In whatever circumstance he found himself — facing death from the bottom of a pit, living in a strange land far from home, enduring a prison sentence despite his innocence — Joseph remembered to forget the past.

Joseph had a lot to forget. For as long as he could remember, he had been envied by his ten brothers for the special treatment their father Jacob, had shown him. When he was only seventeen years old, his brothers plotted to murder him. Upon relenting, they instead sold him into slavery, sending him far from home to the land of Egypt. And just when his circumstances seemed to be getting better, he was falsely accused of attempting to rape his master's wife. Despite his innocence, Joseph languished in prison for several years, until an opportunity to interpret Pharaoh's dreams lifted him to a place of prominence and power: at the age of thirty, he was second only to Pharaoh!

Now he had married and was starting a family. Suddenly, life was very different for him. He was ready to forget his past and begin a new future.

In the ancient Near East, names meant a lot more than they do today. Joseph named his firstborn son, "Manasseh," or "making to forget." The reason why is because "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household" (Genesis 41:51). By naming his firstborn son Manasseh, he let everyone know that the past was the past: he remembered to forget.

But then one day, the past came knocking. As prime minister of

Egypt, he was in charge of the harvesting and distribution of grain. Due to the famine, people in droves came to Egypt (which was the only available food source) to buy grain. Eventually, Joseph's brothers came, too. They had no idea that they were face to face with their own brother who, twenty years before, they had sold into slavery.

But he knew who they were. And he knew that this was his golden opportunity to exact revenge!

But he didn't.

Although he gave them the run-around, it was primarily an effort on his part to ascertain information about their father without giving away his own true identity. When Joseph eventually reveals himself, his brothers are immediately terrified (Genesis 45:3), despite Joseph's calming words. And even after their father Jacob died, his brothers were afraid that Joseph would then kill them. Instead, he simply forgave them (Genesis 50:14-21). And for the next 50 years after their father's death, Joseph kept his word. He remembered to forget.

Have you ever heard someone say, "I'll forgive you, but I'll never forget it!" That is not forgiveness. Forgiveness is a choice, not merely an emotion. It is a conscious decision to part with the past and begin all over again. Certainly we must learn life's lessons from what has transpired, but we must move beyond it and never bring it up again. We must "[forget] what lies behind and [reach] forward to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13).

Have you ever been wronged by another? Of course, you have. We all have. You must forget and forgive. "But you don't know how deeply they hurt me!" you might retort. Recall how deeply each of us has hurt God by sinning against Him, shaking our fist in His face in utter defiance and going our own way, despite His love and deep concern for our welfare. Yet what has He done for us in response? He forgave us. He remembered

our sins no more (Hebrews 8:12).

In Ephesians 4:32, Paul wrote, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other." "Oh, alright, I'll forgive him. But it won't be easy. And I'll probably never forget it." If this is your attitude, just remember the rest of this beautiful verse: "... just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

No one can hurt you without your consent. Stop harboring the pain. Release it. Remember to forget.

-via *Stonegate Standard* Port Arthur, Texas.



## *Learning Salvation*

**Ken Chapman**

All that we can know about salvation and how to acquire it must be learned from the pages of the New Testament (Romans 1:16). Where else? God is the only one who can offer salvation and therefore He is the only one to tell us how to be saved. Anyone who would pretend to offer any means of salvation other than that recorded in the Bible is guilty of blasphemy (putting themselves on an equal par with God). The only way we can know God's will regarding salvation is to read and understand the Scriptures (1 Cor. 2:10-11).

A good place to start our search is in the book of Acts. There we can read of many accounts of men and women hearing the gospel story and being obedient to the salvation for their souls. We can read of the accounts of the inspired men entrusted with spreading the gospel story doing just that, telling their listeners what to do to be saved.

In Acts 2, Peter was asked "What shall we do?" His inspired reply was, "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of

the Holy Spirit.” (verse 38).

There are several more instances of this same message being preached and obeyed. These are our instruction and guidance. These are our hope and salvation.

Sadly, there are many today who are preaching another message. A message of salvation (so-called) that is not found in the New Testament. And therefore a false message with no hope and no salvation.

Whenever someone tells you what to do to be saved, check his/her message with that found in the New Testament. No preacher can offer you salvation. That is only God's business.

It seems that everywhere you turn you hear some preacher telling us to pray a prayer (commonly called the “sinner's prayer”) in order to receive salvation. That seems simple, but is it God's way? The only way to know is to go to the Book.

Going to the Book, we read the story of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9, 22, 26). God appeared to Saul and told him, among other things, to go into Damascus and there it would be told him what he would have to do.

Once he arrived in Damascus, he began to pray. Oh, what praying he must have done. A man as sincere as Saul must have been greatly troubled at his new-found knowledge (that he was persecuting the Christ Himself). Can you imagine how fervently he prayed to God. Surely if prayer alone could save, that prayer would have saved Saul.

When Ananias (the man of God who was to teach Saul what he must do) arrived he found Saul praying. He said to him, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

Saul's prayer did not save him. His obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ did. God's wonderful grace did. Is it any different today?

There is no New Testament passage that can be cited that tells the alien sinner to pray any prayer for salvation. None at all. If anyone tells you to pray a prayer for salvation they are telling you something that God has not said. And you would be doing something that God has not authorized.

If salvation is to be ours, it must be according to God's will. Why not do what God says? Read, study and obey the word of God. It is God's power to salvation (Romans 1:16). Man's attempt to alter it will fail. Man's attempt to obey it will be rewarded. May God bless you with this reward.

-via *Newman Road Bulletin*, Joplin, Missouri.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Sissy Clemmons* is feeling better and was able to be bible study Wednesday night ... *Vera Simmons, Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips grandmother*, is in the Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield ... *Myrtie Williams* is now at home following her stay in the Glenwood rehabilitation ... *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.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The *Market Street church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *R.J. Stevens* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Ephesus church* in Athens is be-

ginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 with *Sewell Hall* preaching... The **Oakland church** in Lime-stone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Russ Bowman* will be the speaker.

**NEW BABY:** We rejoice this past Friday with ***Eric and Mandy Griffin*** in the birth of their daughter, *Sierra Cheyenne*, this past Friday. Si-erra weighed 6 lbs. and 8ozs. and is doing very good. Mandy and Sierra are still in the Parkway Medical Center in Decatur, but plan to be home on Monday.

**CONFESSION:** This past Wednesday night ***Patrick Martel*** confessed unfaithfulness in liv-ing the life a Christian ought to live. We appre-ciate Patrick and his desire to be pleasing to God. May we all encourage Patrick as he will encourage us in our lives as Christians.

**OUT OF TOWN:** ***The Pressnells: Monroe and Yvonne*** are away in Arkansas this week...***The Words: Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia*** have been away this past week in Florida...***The Cooks: Angie, Will and Payton*** have been in Orlando this past week...***June Calvert*** was back on Wednesday after being away on vacation...***The Butlers: Aric and Andrea*** are visiting with family this morning...***Glenda Phillips*** is also visiting with family this morning...Helen Stewart is in South Carolina visiting her son.

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance for week of April 11th*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 102  
 Morning Worship ..... 128  
 Evening Worship ..... 63  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 79

**Remember:**

**What?** Young Adult Home  
 Bible Study  
**When?** Next Sunday, April 25th, follow-  
 ing our evening service.  
**Where?** At the home of  
 Aric & Andrea Butler  
**Subject?** Building Strong Homes

**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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