

# 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 25th

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (Eccl. 7:1-14)  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Lord's Supper ..... Ronnie Phillips  
Serving ..... Ray Tucker  
..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Mark McCrary  
..... Jim Phillips  
..... James McConnell  
Closing Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Claus Martel  
Bible Reading ..... (Eccl. 7:15-29)  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Lord's Supper  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
..... Ray Tucker  
Closing Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

Volume XI

April 25, 2004

No. 17

## ***"Give No Provision For The Flesh"***

**Gardner Hall**

A Cuban gentleman named Mr. Rodriguez sat beside me on a recent flight from Miami to Newark. In a few minutes, he dispensed with the conversational niceties and was telling me of torture and imprisonment that he and his family had suffered under Fidel Castro. As he talked, his eyes burned with hatred for anything related to the communist system. It was immediately obvious that, when Mr. Rodriguez thinks of Marxism, he has no illusions about its propaganda of equality and justice for the poor, because to him it has meant separation from loved ones, pain, shame and anguish. There is absolutely no possibility that he will ever be a communist or give help or sympathy to that system in any shape or fashion.

Mr. Rodriguez's attitude toward communism is much like the attitude we should have toward the sins of the flesh. The thought of giving provision (literally forethought) to the flesh to fulfill its lusts should be as foreign to us as the idea of sending arms to communist subversives would be to my anti-communist friend.

Sadly, instead of abhorring the sinful desires of the flesh too many Christians are mesmerized by the avalanche of gaudy appeals to carnality in the media and join the world in rushing along like lemmings trying to get all the gratification they can, not realizing that they are headed over the cliffs to destruction.

How can we maintain our purity and give no provision to the flesh when its appeals are so prevalent in almost every aspect of our lives?

### **How To Give No Provision to the Flesh**

1. *Hate it!* Contemplate the broken homes, pain, lost confidence and hopelessness suffered by those who succumb to the flesh.

Consider the wrecked lives of loved ones and once strong Christians who have fallen and are therefore spiritually crippled, if not dead.

By looking beyond the glamorous front the flesh tries to present and coming face to face with its harsh reality, we will be injected with a healthy dose of hatred towards it that will render us as unmoved by its shallow enticements as my Cuban friend by the propaganda of communism. We won't naively associate the flesh with glamour, partying, or Hollywood, but with anguish, selfishness, greed and other fruits of the flesh—and thus won't have any difficulty obeying the Lord's admonition in Psalm 97:10: "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil."

2. *Flee it!* People who love life do not play with barrels of nuclear waste, bottles of nerve gas, or test tubes of the AIDS virus. Pure Christians who love God and their souls learn not to play with suggestive movies, excessive flattery, alcohol, scanty clothing (on beach or street, compromising situations, get rich quick selling schemes or any other activities that involve one in flirting with the lusts of the flesh. Weak Christians who insist on practicing or defending such activities are frankly naive about their dangers and are the first to see their children swept away into the world or be swept away themselves.

Flee fornication and youthful lusts, avoiding every appearance of evil! (1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

3. *Be optimistic about victory over it!* "Nobody's perfect." "Everyone is wrong about something." "I'm just so weak and temptations are so strong." These statements, though true in certain contexts, are often made in an effort to build the flesh up as some kind of invincible monster so that we won't look or feel so bad when we join the world in giving in to it. Such a defeatist attitude reveals a lack of confidence in God who has given us a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). Ultimate victory can be won by anyone who truly wants it, in spite of our stum-

bling, because God gives adequate armor to overcome the flesh. Consider yourself to be more powerful by God's grace than any shallow lust Satan might use to defeat you and refuse to make hackneyed excuses for giving in to it or treating it as unconquerable.

Christians who give no forethought to the sins of the flesh by hating them, fleeing them and being confident of victory over them will win the victory. And, after 10,000 years in heaven, we won't have much difficulty in seeing such lusts as the shallow and empty bait that they really are.

-via *Susquehanna Sentinel*, Merietta, Pennsylvania.



## *An Invitation*

**Jason Moore**

Men have fallen prey to a common foe, the enemy of sin. The signs of our defeat are everywhere—the evening news, the morning paper, the house next door, the hurt feelings or indignation we experience from another's wrong, or the guilty conscience that plagues us because of our own sin. All of these bear record to Paul's charge that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). What is man to do? What are you and I to do?

The answer to that question comes from God Himself. Jesus Christ the Son of God was born of a virgin, walked among men, performed miracles that testified to His deity, spoke parables and teachings that testified to His Lordship, and despite a sinless life was suspended by His generation on a wooden cross bearing in His broken body the sin of the world. Three days later He rose from the dead as verified by eyewitnesses. His resurrection bore witness to His crushing of Satan, His victory over sin, His plundering of death, and His right to heaven's reign and humanity's devotion.

This same Jesus who was crucified for your

sins, and who was resurrected in order to deliver you from the fear of death, now commands all men everywhere to repent and look to Him for salvation. There is coming a day when Jesus will return to judge all men according to His revealed word. Jesus Himself declared, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48). And again, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). What is the will of the Father for you? How can you and I be prepared to welcome Jesus when He comes in judgment?

Jesus said, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Jesus said through His apostle, Peter, to men who had believed and were pierced in their hearts with the news of salvation, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...” (Acts 2:38). Through the evangelist Philip Jesus said to an Ethiopian who desired to be baptized, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And the Ethiopian confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:38).

Putting the words of Jesus and His messengers in order, it is seen that the message of salvation is only preached to persons of accountable age who recognize right and wrong and who feel shame for having embraced the wrong. Jesus never offered salvation to infants, nor to parents to accept for infants. Children who are not of accountable age don’t require saving because they’re safe—they have no sin. The gospel, or good news, is meant to be told to those who can hear or read news. It is meant for men and women who know they are sinners, who believe that Jesus Christ is God’s own Son and that He gave His life for theirs.

Please know that to believe in Him is to trust Him. To trust in Him is to obey Him. To obey

Him is to serve Him unashamedly. If you really believe Him, if you trust Him, you will do what He, and no one else, tells you to do. After all, He’s the Savior. He’s the Lord. And He said repent. But repentance is not just a matter of feeling bad for breaking the rules. It’s not just a process of slowing down. Nor is it a matter of stopping. It is a matter of turning around—not 90 degrees, but 180 degrees. It’s an about face. It’s a decision to make a turn in your life and to begin serving God.

Jesus said to confess Him. He doesn’t have room in His kingdom for timid soldiers. He wasn’t ashamed to die for you. Why should you be ashamed to live for Him? He will only save those who are willing to confess their belief in Him both in word and in conduct.

Jesus said to be baptized. Jesus said it. There is no forgiveness of sins without submission to His command. Not all the testimonials of all the televangelists, and commentators, and reformers, and theologians, and councils of all the ages change what He said. He said through Peter, “...baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21). There is no magic in the water. The power is in Jesus’ promise, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved...” (Mark 16:16).

Would you be the follower of Jesus, and rid yourself of the problem of sin? Would you defeat the devil in your life, get rid of your guilty conscience, and obliterate your fear of death? I would not deceive you by saying that it’s easy to be a Christian. But it’s easier to be a Christian than to not be one. A Christian has hope. He has eternity. He has forgiveness. Because he has Jesus Christ. He has everything to look forward to and nothing to regret. Come to Jesus today.

*-via Folsom Point, Folsom, California..*

### **Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Lou Helms daughter, Melissa Thornton*, is in the St. Vincient hospital in Birmingham following her surgery on Wednesday ... *Kerry Cox's mother, Fredia Lowman*, is in the Lakeland Community hospital in Haleyville ... *Vera Simmons, Shelia Goode and Lou Ann Phillips grandmother*, is now at home from the hospital ... *Myrtie Williams* is at home ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues 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 ... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, is staying with family.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The *Sardis Springs church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Paul Earnhart* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *New Georgia church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00. *John Gibson* will be the speaker.

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** The young adult Bible study will be tonight following our evening service at the home of *Aric & Andrea Butler*. We will continue our study on the home.

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance for week of April 18th Sunday:*

Bible Classes ..... 100  
 Morning Worship ..... 109  
 Evening Worship ..... 92

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 93

**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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