

# 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, May 16h

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 1:1-10)  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Rocky Rose  
Assisting ..... Brian Word  
Serving ..... James McConnell  
..... Aric Butler  
..... Ethan Pressnell  
..... Mike Rogers  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 1:11-20)  
..... Stephen Stewart  
Prayer  
..... Monroe Pressnell  
Lord's Supper  
..... Rocky Rose  
..... Brian Word  
Closing Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XI

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No. 20

## *Stop The Profanity!!*

**Allen Dvorak**

It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. One might think that such a description is of Hollywood (the video entertainment industry), but although that would certainly be apt, it is actually James' description of the tongue (James 3:8). Your tongue. My tongue. James asserts that man's tongue is exceedingly difficult to control and impossible to tame (James 3:2, 7-8).

Some people's mouths spew a steady stream of filthiness and profanity. Their vocabulary seems to be limited to a couple hundred words, half of which would be considered vulgar or coarse by nearly anyone. In fact, this kind of person often enjoys "shocking" others with his speech. Teenagers often think that such speech makes them sound grown-up! No Christian should talk like that. We should put away filthy language out of our mouths (Colossians 3:8). Filthiness, foolish talking and coarse jesting (dirty jokes) are not "fitting" for saints, i.e., holy ones (Ephesians 5:4).

Filthiness and profanity of the above mentioned sort is easy to recognize, indeed, hard to miss. Many would be quick to point out that they do not talk like that. Not all profanity, however, is so well recognized. Profanity of a different "flavor" is quite common in the speech of some who would refrain from dirty jokes or the use of vulgar or coarse words.

The Decalogue of the Mosaic Law commanded the Israelites not to "take the name of the Lord in vain" (Exodus 20:7). God's people were not to make reference to Him in an empty or meaningless way. The Lord was to be referred to with reverence and respect. As the commandment indicated, the Lord would not hold him guiltless who "misused His name" (NIV) in this fashion.

To use the words “Lord” and “God” in an empty or vain way is to profane the Lord's name. To profane something is “to debase by a wrong, unworthy, or vulgar use” (Webster). It is the defiling of something holy. The conversation of some is littered with references to the Lord and to God while the mind never contemplates the divine Creator. Their use of these words is truly “empty” or vain; the words become merely convenient exclamations or expletives.

One of the problems in controlling the tongue is that we develop habitual patterns of speech. The tongue can be engaged even as the mind is idling. We say things without thinking about the consequences or even whether such speech is right or wrong. It is my fear that even Christians sometimes profane the Lord through their irreverence use of such words as “Lord” and “God.” It may be done in a thoughtless (not intentional or rebellious) way, but I do not believe that the Lord will hold us guiltless if we speak this way.

Examine your own speech. Are you in the habit of referring to the Lord in a vain fashion? Under the Law of Christ, we likewise have an obligation to treat the Lord with respect (Hebrews 12:14-16). Watch that tongue!

-via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.

## *Like His Teacher*

**Russ Bowman**

*“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40).*

It appears to me that many “religious” people in our day have lost sight of the important concept of discipleship. Our English word “disciple” is a translation of the Greek term “mathetes” and means properly, “a learner; a pupil.” Of all the terms which God uses to describe His people, the term “disciple” is the most common. We think of followers of Jesus Christ as “Christians” and that is an accurate designation (Acts 11:26), yet more often than not God refers to His people as disciples. In the first five books of the New Testament it is used some 225 times and that fact should impress upon our minds the relationship that we sustain to our Lord. We are to be learners, followers, and imitators of Jesus Christ, for those expressions are at the very heart of the concept of discipleship. When Jesus instructed the apostles to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). He was instructing them to encourage people to learn from, follow, and imitate Him. That is the fundamental function of a Christian. After all, Jesus states in John 8:31 “If you abide in My word, then you are My disciples indeed.”

However, I fear that we sometimes lose sight of that all important goal. We seem to confuse “religiosity” for discipleship. “Religiosity” is simply “affected or excessive devotion to religion” and for many folks - at least in outward appearance - the concept of Christianity is really about devotion to some creed or tradition or religious organization. How else can you explain why some 85% of people in this country consider religion at “least somewhat” important to them (according to a 2002 Gallup poll), while we languish in dishonesty, alcoholism, sexual immorality, violence, and wickedness? I don't believe only 15% of people in this country are



### **Vacation Bible School**

**July 12-16**

### **Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

responsible for all the evils of our day. Yet, I know a lot of folks who “go to church” but who live pretty much the way that they want to. Being “religious” is not equal to discipleship.

So what’s the solution? Read the above quotation from Luke 6:40. A perfectly trained disciple will be like his teacher. My job is to be like Christ.

I spent an hour or two last week reading the gospel of Mark. No interruptions. No searching for sermon or class material. Just a simple consideration of the text. And when I finished, I was reminded of the simplicity of the gospel of Christ - Who He was, what He did and what He wants. What He wants is salvation for all mankind through obedient faith - discipleship. Who He was and what He did provides the example for those of us who want to be true disciples. And while volumes have been written about the qualities of Jesus Christ that are worthy of exaltation and emulation, I was impressed again with a couple of things that stand out about my Lord. And, as a disciple, these things I need to focus upon and develop more fully in myself.

Jesus consistently manifested compassion upon those who were in need. You cannot read the gospels - particularly Mark - without being impressed with Jesus’ power. Yet, more often than not, that power was manifest in response to some pitiable man or woman in need. He saw those diseased, possessed, crippled, maimed, blind, hungry, or merely unguided, and “was moved with compassion” (Mark 6:34). And that compassion for those physically wanting was merely the temporal expression of a God that is ultimately compassionate toward all of us because of our spiritual failures. Thus, the One Who raised others from death, willingly died because of His compassion for sinful plight. True discipleship demands that I develop such compassion for those in need, whether that need be physical or spiritual.

Jesus consistently manifested patience with His critics. The Jewish leaders of His day did not

like Jesus, apparently because of His great popularity with the multitudes. Thus, He and His disciples are constantly hounded and criticized by the scribes and Pharisees. Yet, I stand impressed with His patience. He could have blasted them with heaven's fire, yet He calmly and pointedly tried to direct their minds toward truth. And this in spite of their own dishonesty and malicious intentions. I become so irate with those who abuse and ignore God's Word. And, like most folks, I’m inclined to be irritated with those who unjustly criticize me. My preferred designs in such circumstances are no source of pride, I’m afraid. But if I am to be a disciple, I need to imitate the Master in such situations. I need to learn patience.

Jesus consistently manifested a complete commitment to God’s will. God’s will demanded some difficult things of Jesus. The incarnation - God coming to earth to live as a man. Humiliation. Scorn and reproach. Faithless followers. Self-serving multitudes. Stubborn opposition. Hunger and thirst. Disappointment. Ingratitude. A painful and violent death. Yet, through it all - no matter what the demand - He was devoted to the will of the Father. May God help me to learn and imitate my Master in the total and complete devotion to God’s will. Discipleship demands it.

Let’s remember, folks, God doesn’t just want people who go to church on occasion, or offer lip service to religion. He wants disciples of Jesus Christ.

-via *CBible Study*; Goodlettsville, Tennessee.



*Remember our regular scheduled song service will be this evening at 6:00. I hope all of us will make our plans to attend as we sing songs of praise to God.*

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Wanda Tucker* recieved a good report from her tests she had done this past week...*Helen Stewart* had a cornea transplant on Wednesday in Memphis...*Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is beginning chemo treatments...*Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, had a stint put in his leg this past Thursday ... *Shelkia Godde and Lou Ann Phillipsgrandmother, Vera Simmons*, is in the Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield ...*Myrtie Williams* continues to recover 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.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Phillips: Ronnie and Lou Ann; Jim, Brooke and Sam* are in Nashville today... *Eddie Hammond* is out of town working

**COMMUNICATION GROUP:** Tonight will be the time for Communication Group three to meet following our evening service. If you are in group three remember to meet with your group this evening.

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance for week of May 9th*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 106  
 Morning Worship ..... 131  
 Evening Worship ..... 80

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 94

## 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  
 Brian Word ..... (256) 229-5823

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