

# 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, June 13th

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 7:1-12)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Mark McIntyre  
Assisting ..... Jimmy Glass  
Serving ..... Stephen Stewart  
..... Ethan Pressnell  
..... Chase Williams  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 7:13-25)  
..... Mike Rogers  
Prayer  
..... Monroe Pressnell  
Lord's Supper  
..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

Volume XI

June 13, 2004

No. 24

## *Cheating Death*

**Marc R. Hinds**

In 1907, while completing his Eighth Symphony, the great Austrian composer Gustav Mahler was diagnosed with a serious heart condition. Because Beethoven, Schubert and Bruckner had each died shortly after composing their own Ninth Symphonies, Mahler intended to cheat death by giving his next symphony, written in 1908, no number at all. Eventually, his superstitions gave way to his musical genius and from 1909 to 1910, he wrote yet another symphony, his magnificent Ninth Symphony.

In 1911, however, Mahler would only complete the first movement of his Tenth. Cut down in the prime of his life, the 50-year old composer died of heart complications in May of that same year.

Our society is obsessed with keeping death at bay. A vast array of products promises to keep us looking younger longer, feeling younger longer, acting younger longer. In our desperate search for the fountain of youth, we have missed seeing the opportunities all around us to truly live. In an effort to cheat death, we end up cheating life.

Peter provides us with a recipe for living a happy and full life in 1 Peter 3:10-11 – “For He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”

Who *doesn't* want to “love life and see good days”? (What a gloriously beautiful expression!) But we don't have to try and cheat

death when we can truly live life.

In these verses (which are actually a quotation from David's Psalm 34), Peter commands us to "turn away from evil and do good," "seek peace and pursue it." This is the essence of the Christian life. The world sees moral and righteous living as a burden, failing to realize that the Christian life is *true* freedom – freedom from sin, freedom from the consequences of sin, freedom from guilt. The Christian life is described in the New Testament as liberty (Galatians 2:4), peace beyond comprehension (Philippians 4:7), complete joy (1 John 1:4) and rest for our souls (Matthew 11:28). After all, Jesus said that He "came that [we] may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Comedian Steven Wright jokes that he knows when he's going to die because his birth certificate is stamped with an expiration date. In reality, of course, it's just not that easy. Newspaper obituaries list the young and the old alike. Because we live in a sin-sick world, death will come upon us all, whether we are ready or not, whether we are expecting it or not. "It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). The remainder of Peter's quotation tells us that "the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers." We can't cheat death, but we can live life to the fullest. Prayer must be an integral part of the Christian's walk with God. Christ our Lord often would slip away and pray long into the night (Luke 5: 16). God is listening to our prayers: the question is, are we praying to Him or not?

Your religion must not be your weekend hobby. Don't be hypocritical in your religious conviction. What you are on Sunday, be every day of the week. After all, "the face of the LORD is against those who do evil" Peter is writing to Christians who are suffering because of their pursuit of the Christian life. They - and we today - live life understanding that everything this world has to offer us is temporary and inferior to what God ultimately has to reward us with in Heaven eternally. In fact, as the Christian's faith grows

and develops, he not only lives life to the fullest, but actually learns to embrace death! It is no longer a threat to be avoided, but a stepping stone to be utilized. Living our lives under the reign of superstition or the stranglehold of fear will only cut our days even shorter (cf Matthew 6:27). "Love life," Peter says. And by doing so, we will conquer death.

-via *The Stonegate Standard*, Port Arthur, Texas.



## *Tale of Two Men*

**Rick Duggin**

Though Augustus had denied him the title, we call him King Herod. Compared to Herod, John the Immerser was peculiar indeed. His clothes, his diet, and his residence were not normal, even in those days (Matthew 3: 1-6).

John was what some would call a "hard preacher," and so it should not surprise us that he made a few enemies along the way. One of his most influential enemies would take his life (Matthew 14). But what really killed John?

1. ***His conviction for the truth killed him.*** John believed whatever God told him, and then he stood for his beliefs...even when it threatened his life. Jesus paid him a compliment, saying that John was not like a reed blowing in the wind (Matthew 11 :7).

2. ***The vengeful heart of an adulteress killed him*** (Matthew 14:3-8). Had Herod been subject to the penalties of the old law, he would have been executed, not John (Leviticus 20: 1 0). John's preaching enraged Herodias, the wife of Herod, who waited until the right moment to get her revenge.

3. ***The immorality of a young person killed***

*him* (Matthew 14:6-8). The dancing of Herodias' daughter pleased Herod. It would not be hard to imagine the kind of dancing that would please this worldly man. Even if someone were to excuse her dancing, however, who could justify her request? Prompted by her mother, she asked for John's head on a platter.

4. The foolish promise of a worldly man killed him (Matthew 14:9). Herod offered a blank check to an immoral person. It cost John his life.

5. The peer pressure of evil men killed him (Matthew 14:9). Herod granted his daughter's request because he was afraid of what his peers would think of him if he refused. He should have been more afraid of killing a prophet of God.

Herod and John entered eternity, one dying for his faith, the other for his sins. Both will meet God the Judge. Which man would you rather be?

-via *The Westvne Messenger*, Murphreesboro, Tennessee.



## ***“Just A Minute”***

**Stacy Crim**

How many times have you heard these words, “Just a minute.” One of the most memorable times in my life was as we were taxiing down the runway approaching our takeoff. My two year old looked out the window and said: “Hey just a minute; two planes.” How do you tell a two year old that this plane was going nowhere but up. There were hundreds of passengers, and this plane was not going to stop for a little two year old wanting to take a closer look at two other planes. There was not a minute to spare.

We are living in a world that is moving at such a fast pace. Most individuals do not believe

they have “just a minute” to spare to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In Acts 24, the apostle Paul was taken to the Roman governor of Judea, Felix. Notice Felix’s response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as Paul preached unto him and his wife. “And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season. I will call for thee” (Acts 24:24-25. ) In “just a minute” Paul, “just a minute” and then I will call for you. Oh, that we had just a minute’s time in our life to listen to the teachings of Jesus Christ. James wrote: “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even as a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” (James 4:14)

Truly, there has to be a minute to spare when it comes to hearing and doing the will of God. Let us take those precious minutes and do the will of God. Our minutes are quickly vanishing away.

-via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia.

## **News & Notes**

**THE SICK:** *James Word's brother, J. T. Word*, is in the Hillside hospital in Pulaski ... *Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is taking chemo treatments about every three weeks... *Sam Noles* is doing better and the doctor is working with his medication ... *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.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The *College View church* in Florence will be conducting its lectureship this week. The speakers will *Ed Harrell, Jeff May, H. E. "Buddy" Payne and Weldon Warnock*.... The *Newburg church* in Franklin county will be haivng a gospel meeting this week with *Johnny Richardson* preaching... The *Mt. Zion church* in Limestone county will be conducting a VBS this week with *Dale Robbins speaking*... The *New Georgia church* will be having a Vacation Bible School this week each morning at 10:00.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *Cori Williams* is at Rustic Youth camp this week... *The Phillips: Jim, Brooke and Sam* are vacationing this week in Gulf Shores... *The McIntyres: Suzette, Sadie and Luke* will be at Rustic youth camp this wek... *The Coxes: Hunter and I* will also be at Rustic Youth camp at Belgreen ... *Rocky and Donna Rose; Ray and Wanda Tucker; Michael and Sissy Clemmons; Scottie and Shelia Goode ; Ronnie and Lou Ann Phillips and Kerry Cox* are leaving on a train trip Monday through Wednesday to New Orleans, Louisiana.

**PARKWAY MEETING:** It was a great joy for me to have been a part of the meeting at the *Parkway church* in Eastern Lawrence county this past week. *Bobby Robinson* is the preacher there and it was good for me to get better acquainted with him and his wife, *Sue*. I appreciate your encouragement and support of my work while away from you and I am thankful to *Rocky Rose, Jimmy Glass and Scottie Goode* for filling in for my preaching and teaching duties.

**THE RECORD:** *Average Attendance for June 2004*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 91  
 Morning Worship ..... 118  
 Evening Worship ..... 89

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 90

**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

**Evangelist & Editor**

David A. Cox ..... (256) 247-1049  
 Office-(256) 247-5539  
 E-mail address: daco@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Bulk Rate  
 Anderson, Alabama  
 Non-Profit  
 Permit #6

*Anderson church of Christ*  
 P.O. Box 66  
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested