

# 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 20th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... M. Eddie Hammond  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 8:11-22)  
..... Larry White  
Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... M. Eddie Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons  
Assisting ..... Jerry Dickey  
Serving ..... James McConnell  
..... Mike Rogers  
..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Eddie Hammond  
Closing Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 9:1-12)  
..... Stephen Stewart  
Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Lord's Supper  
..... Michael Clemmons  
..... Jerryh Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ronnie Philllips

Volume XI

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No. 25

## *Turning Forgiveness Around*

**Greg Gwin**

We hear it frequently in the news these days. It has been a common defense in some high profile criminal cases. The basic argument is that people can be excused for committing even hideous crimes if they can demonstrate that something awful happened in their past. Unfortunately, this approach has proven successful in our perverted justice system. Murders, kidnappers and sexual offenders of every sort have been set free or have had their sentences reduced. As a result, we are seeing more and more criminals rush to assume "victim" status.

It is happening in the church, too. It is not uncommon for sinful brethren to attempt to "turn the tables" on those who are trying to restore them. "You didn't show the proper love toward me;" "You were unkind and didn't help me enough when I needed you;" "You were too harsh in the way you rebuked me;" etc., etc., etc. You see, they have learned how to become the "victims."

We agree that brethren can sometimes approach situations in the wrong way. All of us need to show love, forbearance, patience and kindness. Sometimes we fail in these things. Everyone can do better.

But, we are weary of sinners turning the whole matter of forgiveness around. If they have their way, the faithful ones are forced to beg them for forgiveness, while their own sins are ignored. This simply will not work!

Observe the case of Peter rebuking Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:18-24). Simon was told that "wickedness" and a bad heart had left him in the "gall of bitterness and the bond of iniquity." Surely he could have complained about Peter's harsh words, or unloving

manner. Undoubtedly he could have countered with accusations about how he had been mistreated by others. Instead, he humbly accepted the rebuke and requested prayer. Sinners in the church today need to learn a lesson from him.

-via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia..



## *Women Preachers*

**Mark W. White**

Is it in harmony with the Scriptures for a woman to be a preacher or an elder in the church of our Lord? It might not be politically correct, but the answer is “No.” In fact, the Bible specifically condemns the practice of women serving in this capacity.

In Paul’s first letter to Timothy, we read, “Therefore I desire that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with selfcontrol” (1 Timothy 2: 11-15). This passage not only prohibits women from “teaching” or “having authority over a man,” but it also gives us

the reason: “For Adam was formed first, then Eve.”

After reading this passage some women might wonder what role God has for them. Paul explains that the godly woman “will be saved in childbearing.” Paul is saying that women are to find their salvation by fulfilling the role God gave them, i.e., bearing children and guiding the home. I know of no greater work that women could do than to bear children and instruct them in the knowledge of God.

In 1 Corinthians 14 Paul discusses the matter of spiritual gifts in the first century church. After instructing the church that those who speak in tongues had to “keep silent” if there was no interpreter, and that one prophet had to “keep silent” if another prophet was speaking, he says, “Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church” (1 Corinthians 14:34-35). To this passage is attached the following admonition, “If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 14:37).

Brother David Lipscomb made this observation on Paul’s instructions to the church at Corinth: “No instruction in the New Testament is more positive than this; it is positive, explicit, and universal; and however plausible may be the reasons which are urged for disregarding it, and for suffering women to take an active part in conducting public worship, yet the authority of the inspired apostle remains positive and his meaning cannot be misunderstood. He looks at it from every viewpoint, forbids it altogether, and shows that from every consideration it was to be regarded as improper for them to take any active part in conducting the public service.” (Commentary On First Corinthians, p. 216).

Beyond this, in the qualifications given for

“bishops” (i.e., pastors, elders, shepherds), Paul twice says they must be “the husband of one wife” (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1 :6). Unless you are willing to accept two lesbians living together and call it a “marriage,” there is no way for a woman to be “the husband of one wife.”

-via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.



## *Imperishable Things*

### **Brace Tutledge**

We live in a very materialistic society where “things” are the focus. The problem with such an attitude is that material things are temporal. As a result, Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6: 19-20). Jesus understood the temporary nature of worldly goods and so encouraged all to focus on the heavenly treasures, which are incorruptible. Let’s look at some of those imperishable things revealed by Peter.

**Our Inheritance.** Peter spoke of Christians as born again to a living hope through Jesus’ resurrection. He wrote that we are begotten again “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven” (1 Peter 1 :3-4). Though an earthly inheritance fades and decays with use and time, the inheritance reserved for God’s people will never fade away or perish. Paul compared our quest for heaven with a runner in a race. He said, “Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown” (1 Corinthians 9:25). If they run so hard for a physical crown that decays, surely we should strive much harder for our incorruptible, spiritual reward in heaven.

**Our Redemption.** Peter went on to say,

“you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Christ bought us out of bondage to sin through the shedding of his precious blood. Though the things of this world are corruptible and imperfect, he was without spot or stain. Paul said, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (1 Corinthians 5:21). Only the sinless perfection of Jesus, the Lamb of God, was a sufficient substitute for our sins against God.

**Our Guide.** Finally, Peter said, “you have purified your soul in obeying the truth...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (1 Peter 1 :22-23). God’s word is our guide, which leads us to obedience of faith in Christ Jesus. Though heaven and earth will pass away, the word of God is eternal. It will never lose its power or relevance. We must look to God’s word; its message is for all time, and it alone is God’s power to save men (Romans 1: 16).

Though this earth is full of things that fade and perish with use, our focus must be on things eternal. By obedience to the imperishable word of God, through the incorruptible blood of Jesus Christ, we are begotten again to an imperishable, unfading inheritance in heaven. We need to store up treasures in heaven. Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Where is your treasure?

-via *Topics for Thought*, Haleyville, Alabama.

## **Vacation Bible School**

**July 12-16**

### **Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is taking chemo treatments about every three weeks...*Sanda Martel* had some tests done this past week... *Will Cook* was taken to the doctor this past Wednesday evening for an infection and was not able to be at Bible study ... *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 *Midway church* in Greenhill will be conducting a gospel meeting this week. The speaker will be *David Thomley*. Services will begin Monday through Friday at 7:30 p.m..... The *Centerview church* in Franklin county will be having a gospel meeting this week with *Don Miller* preaching. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

**SONG SERVICE:** Tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled worship in song. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present as we gather together and lift our voices in song of praise to God. *Daniel Clemmons* will be directing the service this evening.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Words: Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia* are out of town on vacation in the mountains this week.

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance for week of June 13th*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 100  
 Morning Worship ..... 117  
 Evening Worship ..... 84

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 85

## 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

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