

# 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, July 25th

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 16:1-14)

..... M. Eddie Hammond

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

Presiding ..... Monroe Pressnell

Assisting ..... Rocky Rose

Serving ..... Mark McCrary

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Stephen Stewart

..... Andrew Gatlin

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 17:1-14)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Lord's Supper

..... Monroe Pressnell

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XI

July 25, 2004

No. 29

## *The Lord's Invitation*

**Allen Dvorak**

"Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." Certain Jewish Christians went from Judea to Syrian Antioch and taught this doctrine. In essence, they were teaching that Gentiles had to keep the Law of Moses in addition to obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 15:1,5).

Acts 15 records the discussion of the apostles and elders of the Jerusalem congregation concerning this question: "Do Gentiles have to keep the Law of Moses in order to be saved?" In the course of the discussion, Peter cited his experience with Cornelius noting that God had "acknowledged" (vs. 8) the Gentiles as subjects for salvation as Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit. He asked, "Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?" (vs. 10).

The rabbis of Jesus' day also used the word "yoke" to refer to the "sum-total of obligations which... a person must take upon himself" (Hendriksen, Matthew, pg. 504). They spoke of the "yoke of the Torah" to represent the obligations of the Law of Moses. It was this "yoke" that Peter said no one was able to bear. As Paul noted to the Romans, sin used the law to put men to death (7:8-11). All those who lived under the Mosaic Law and did not keep it perfectly found it to be an oppressive "yoke," one which, apart from the grace in Jesus Christ, amounted to an insufferable burden

The "fathers," by means of their traditions, had even increased the burden of the "yoke" that they laid upon their Jewish brethren. Jesus referred to this additional burden, hard to bear, that the scribes and Pharisees laid upon men's shoulders (Matthew 23:4).

Jesus, in contrast, described His “yoke” as easy. He invited the multitudes to “come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). It is probably no accident that Matthew records this invitation and then proceeds to detail the oppressive Pharisaical interpretations of the Sabbath day restriction (see Matthew 12:1-14).

Typically, a “yoke” suggests labor. It was usually a wooden instrument that joined two animals so that they were forced to work together. Even the yoke which a man might lay upon his shoulders as a means of evenly distributing the weight of a burden speaks of labor. Jesus, however, invites those who are heavy laden, i.e., in subjection to the Law of Moses or to sin (see Romans 6:16,21) to take His yoke and they will find rest! Jesus doesn’t offer another “yoke” like the Law of Moses (see Galatians 5:1); through forgiveness, He offers true relief from the burden of sin!

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



## *True Believers*

**L. A. Stauffer**

“True belief” is biblical to the core and calls on disciples to die for the Lord’s cause.

“True Believers” is the expression often used to describe followers who believe implicitly in a person or cause. It denotes believers so committed that they will die for their faith. Call them “religious nuts” or “fanatics,” but don’t call them weak-minded or cowards.

True believers are not plagued with doubts. Nor are they intimidated by threats. They know no fear, and no consequence for their belief deters them from the course they have set for them-

selves. They will keep the faith, they will fight any battle, and they will finish what they have determined to accomplish.

True believers are best exemplified in this twenty-first century by many followers of the Moslem faith. The believe in Allah, they are confident that he has spoken through the “prophet” Mohammed and they are dedicated to leaders who purport to teach the ways of Mohammedanism.

When leaders tell them to strap on dynamite belts and blow themselves to bits in a crowded restaurant or the lobby of a prominent hotel, fly a plane into a skyscraper, or take up weapons of warfare and enter battle, true believers unhesitatingly follow orders – even knowing that they will die.

They follow their leaders because they believe in the cause and in the promises that are set before them. If their leaders promise them a “materialistic” heaven of drinking, partying, and sex, they believe unequivocally. That faith may bring death, but they revel in the goal they seek to accomplish on earth and in the fruit of these earthly promises in heaven.

As detestable as these methods and promises may be, the principle of true belief is biblical to the core. Disciples of Christ are to be men and women of faith, but not the “faith alone” of reformation theology. It is the “obedience of faith” Paul taught in the book of Romans and James detailed in his epistle to Christians of the Dispersion (Romans 1:5; 16:26; James 2:14-26).

It is a “disciplined” faith of “disciples” who have been called to deny themselves and take up their cross to walk in the footsteps of their Teacher—Jesus (Luke 9:23). As their Master dedicated Himself unto His Father’s will even unto death, so they must love not their lives even unto death.

They take up their crosses to die both inwardly and physically for the Lord’s cause (see Galatians 2:20; Revelation 2:10; 12:11).

True believers of Jesus are not called to

brandish “carnal weapons” of warfare, but to arm themselves with righteousness and truth in a spiritual battle against the spiritual host of wickedness. Their goal? To bring every thought into captivity of obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3,4; Ephesians 6:10-17). No cause has ever been so noble.

True believers are not here to thrust men through with flashing metal swords, blow them to smithereens with powdered explosives or shoot solid projectiles into their bodies. Jesus brought to this world a “sword” – an idea that divides families and communities and nations, a scheme of human redemption that removes sin both through forgiveness and in development of character. It creates a body of people that knows no compromise and fights every false way (Matthew 10:34-39; Colossians 2:8).

True believers of Jesus are staunch, steadfast, and unmovable (1 Corinthians 15:58). They commit themselves to a body of truth -- the scriptures; they contend for the authority of those scriptures; they promulgate the teaching of scriptures; they fight the good fight of faith by insisting that all men believe and obey the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16,17; John 8:32; Matthew 7:21; 1 Timothy 6:12).

True believers of Jesus, however, are not belligerent; they are not unloving and hateful; they have no agenda to destroy antagonists of truth; they live in harmony alongside unbelievers and the disobedient; they let the light of righteousness and holiness shine in love, goodness, gentleness, kindness, and peace that by their good works they may win infidels and carnal men (Galatians 5:22,23; Romans 12:18; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Matthew 5:16).

True believers of Jesus have no promises of material prosperity, physical pleasures, or worldly indulgences to offer prospective believers. They, indeed, look unto a recompense of reward, but it consists of “spiritual” treasures in heaven that know no decay or defilement. Heaven is a home for glorified saints who receive spiritual bodies, a

paradise of rest from their struggles and labors in a sinfilled world, an escape from sickness and suffering and pain and dying, a fellowship of just and righteous men and women who have been perfected by the grace of a merciful Creator (Matthew 6:19; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 14:13; 21:3,4; Hebrews 12:22-24).

The principal issue for every Christian is the decision to believe--truly, actually, really, genuinely. Where this faith resides lives fanatical zeal. Not a fanaticism that is insane, misguided, erratic, and unpredictable. But a zeal that is devoted to God, to Christ, to the scriptures, and to the life they have called all men to live. Yes, it will seek to teach and convert; it will seek to inculcate obedience to truth; it will compromise with no other way -- be it Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism, or Mohammedanism. And, yes, true believers will die for this cause, but not in the murder and destruction of others. They will live peaceably with all men, but with the understanding that truth matters and that truth is found in the life and teaching of Jesus the Messiah as taught in the Bible (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:4).

True believers of Jesus believe that He is “the Way, and the Truth, and the Life” -- and that there is no other way to the Father but through Him in His church. They will zealously follow Him and devotedly defend Him -- even unto death (John 14:6; Ephesians 5:27; 1 Corinthians 15:24)!

-via *Biblical Insights*, Vol. 3 No. 9, September 2003

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## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, is in the Glenwood Rehabilitation in Florence ... *Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is taking chemo treatments about every three weeks... *Glenda Phillips' husband, Ray Phillips* had cataract surgery on Thursday... *Myrtie Williams* received a good report from her doctor on Thursday ...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 *Hughes Road at Gooch Lane church* in Madison is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at at 7:00 p.m. *Bill Hall* is preaching... The *Elgin Hills church* in Elgin is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Steve Klein* is the speaker in that meeting.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* have been in Mexico this past week... *The Clemmons: Daniel, Marla and Lydia* have on vacation this past week... *Michael and Sissy Clemmons* have been in Florida last week... *The McIntyres: Mark, Suzette, Sadie and Luke* have been in Florida this past week.

**NO BULLETIN LAST WEEK:** This past week, we were unable to produce the *Gospel Power* due to our supplier not having any toner for our printer. We have toner now and more on the way. I hope you missed the bulletin.

**ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING:** The elders and deacons will be meeting at the building this afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

**COMMUNICATION GROUP:** Tonight will be the night for communication group four to meet. If you are in group four remember to meet with your group this evening.

**THE RECORD:** *For the weeks of*

<b>Sunday:</b>	<i>July 11th</i>	<i>July 18th</i>
Bible Classes .....	95 .....	103
Morning Worship ..	130 .....	120
Evening Worship .....	96 .....	80
<b>Wednesday:</b>		
Bible Classes .....	93 .....	83

**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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