

# 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, August 29th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 26:1-11)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Rocky Rose  
Assisting ..... Claus Martel  
Serving ..... Stephen Stewart  
..... Jim Phillips  
..... Chase Williams  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Closing Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 26:12-21)  
..... Larry White  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
..... Rocky Rose  
..... Claus Martel  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

Volume XI

August 29, 2004

No. 34

## *The Race of Life*

**David A. Cox**

*"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).*

The Hebrew writer is writing to the Hebrew Christians to encourage them to remain faithful and to keep their focus on the goal. He has just concluded a list of great examples of faith in Hebrews 11 such as: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sara, Issac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. After mention these he writes "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets..." (Hebrews 11:32). Of these that he did not mentions he says that they suffered violence of fire, imprisonment, and other violent mistreatments and declares "of whom the world was not worthy" (Hebrews 11:38). It is in this setting he now tells the Hebrew Christians that tthis great cloud of witnesses are gathered about them and are watching as they race their race of life. Let us notice the instruction the writer gives as they run this race.

### *Lay Aside Every Weight and Sin*

The analogy here is that in a race no one will race carrying around extra weight to burden them as they run. In the race of life, many things serve as distractions to our fully devoting our lives to the service of Christ. Some of these things may not actually be sinful in and of themselves, but they encumber us as we strive to serve. We must honestly look at our lives and see if there are things which are hindering us in being fully committed to serving Christ. It may be in our work, hobbies, etc. Remember we must shed any excess baggage as we run the race of life.

He also mentions sin. The rejection of sin is an absolute must if we are to finish. Sin will sap us physically and emotionally, but will also destroy us spiritually. We must stand against sin and do all we can to avoid it. At times we may fall back into sin, but we must not let it remain with us or it will destroy us in our race.

The great cloud of witnesses understand this and are wanting us to rid ourselves of all encumbrances and sin. They did and so can we.

### ***Run With Patience***

This is a key part of our race that we are running. The Christian life must not be seen as a sprint or a 40 yard dash, but a long distance run. Good starts are good in any race, but it is not what is necessary in a marathon. Rather, a long distance runner must train and develop for the race and then pace himself for the long run. In our lives as Christians, we must learn to be patient and to not expect immediate results. Patience is one of the attributes Peter says that we must add to our faith if we are not to lose our faith (2 Peter 1:3-10). Let us run with patience and endurance not becoming weary in well doing.

Let us remember the exhortation of the Hebrew writer to remain focused on the long-term race, and not be turned away by short-term distractions regardless of how appealing they may seem to be. The great people of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11 have given us the example that the race can be run and finished well. The race of life must be run in patience and endurance focussing on "Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).



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

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

## ***Swallowing Camels***

**Forrest D. Moyer**

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law, justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!" (Matthew 23:23-24).

In the context of this chapter, Jesus is showing the hypocrisy of the harsh, legalistic Pharisee who very carefully strains a tiny gnat out of a glass of water or wine and then turns around and swallows a whole camel. "In order to avoid the risk of drinking anything unclean, wine was strained through muslin gauze so that any possible impurity might be strained out of it. This is one of the instances of humor which must have raised a laugh. For it is the picture of a man carefully straining his wine through gauze to avoid swallowing a microscopic insect, and yet cheerfully swallowing a camel. It is the picture of a man who has completely lost his sense of proportion" (Barclay).

These hypocrites were very careful in making sure that they minutely counted every little herb in the garden in order to give 10% of it to the priests and Levites to whom the tithe was paid. They glorified in their tithing as is seen in the case of the Pharisee in Luke 18:12: "I give tithes of all that I possess." They felt so godly because they were so meticulous.

Yet, Jesus charged them with a serious offense. They left undone "the weightier matters" are of "great moment," thus, of great importance. Justice, mercy and faith (faithfulness) are of great importance before God.

Justice has to do with anything concerning justice and injustice, right or wrong. No matter

how careful one might be to tithe of the smallest herb and yet showed injustice to fellowman, he is a sinner before God. We must be concerned about right and wrong in our relationships.

Mercy is kindness and good will toward mankind, especially those who are less fortunate than are we. Over and again God shows this to be one of His traits that we must imitate.

Faith in this instance most likely means fidelity, faithfulness, the characteristics of a godly person. No matter how many legalistic duties we perform, we cannot be righteous without these godly traits in our lives. Do we strain out gnats, but swallow camels?

Do you stress cleanliness in the home and in meal preparation? Of course such is vital. You are straining out the gnats. However, many families who are so fastidious in food preparation will allow themselves and their children to feed on moral filth and corruption via the television or magazines or movies. This indeed is swallowing the camel!

Some brethren are so concerned about attending every service of the church and all ought to be! But sometimes these who stress attendance so emphatically will go out on Monday and mistreat their employees or customers or fellow-workers. Some will cheat on their jobs, scream at their kids, browbeat their wives and yet claim to be faithful Christians because they "attend every service." Swallowing the camel!

Some of Jesus' greatest lessons had to do with relationships with God and with mankind. Applying the golden rule is a master lesson on relationships. The Spirit guided Paul to write: "...put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you" (Colossians 3:12-13). Important matters? Of course.

What is the solution to a right relationship

with God? Ignore the gnats? Absolutely not. But do not be so engrossed with the gnats that you blindly swallow the camel!

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



## Gospel Meeting

September 26-29

### Schedule of Services

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Singing at 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Jim Deason, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207

Anderson, Alabama

*Come join us as we study God's Word.*

## News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Willie Ridgeway* is now at home from the hospital following his stay there this week. Willie is to have a body scan on Tuesday ... *Phil Pressnell* has been battling gout this past week... *Hoyt Hammond* is at home is not able to be out... *Suzette McIntyre* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Scottie Goode* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Sanda Martel* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Wendell Watts*, a former preacher here, is in the Hospital in Florence following his open heart surgery on Wednesday ... *Warren Glass*,

*Jr., Charles and Jimmy's brother* and a former preacher here, is scheduled for surgery in Birmingham on September 8th ...*Myrtie Williams* continues at home ...*James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, is at home ...*Helen Trousdale's sister, Margaret Neal Newton*, is finishing her treatments for cancer ... *Mattie Blanche Word* is at home and is recovering from some broken ribs she suffered last week in a fall ...*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 ... *Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**OUR GOSPEL MEETING:** Our gospel meeting with *Jim Deason* preaching is just four weeks away. I hope that all of you are remembering to tell others about the meeting. The meeting will continue through Wednesday evening with evening services at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. we will have a singing and Jim will preach at 4:00 p.m. There are some fliers on the table in the vestibule for each one to take and give to those you invite. Remember to pray for the effort, tell others about it and make your plans to be present.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Eddie Hammond* and all the family in the passing of his uncle, *Euel "Littlelon" Davis*, this past Monday. His funeral was Thursday.

**SINGING:** There will be a singing this afternoon at the *Westview church* in Athens at 3:00p.m.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of August 22nd*

**Sunday:**

- Bible Classes ..... 101
- Morning Worship ..... 118
- Evening Worship ..... 99

**Wednesday:**

- Bible Classes ..... 81

**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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