

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

Men Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, September 19th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading (Isaiah 30:23-33)

..... Stephen Stewart

Prayer

..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

Presiding Monroe Pressnell

Assisting Eddie J. Hammond

Serving Jim Phillips

..... James McConnell

..... Ethan Pressnell

..... Chase Williams

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (Isaiah 31:1-9)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Lord's Supper

..... Monroe Pressnell

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Closing Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Volume XI

September 19, 2004

No. 37

You Are Invited To Attend Our

Gospel Meeting

September 26 - 29

(Sunday – Wednesday)

Schedule of Services

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

Singing – Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

Monday – Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Jim Deason, Speaker

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South

Anderson, Alabama

Christ Died For Our Sins

Jim Deason

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:1-3).

The gospel is God’s power to save (Romans 1:16). It was preached among the Corinthians (Acts 18) and received into their hearts and lives. When a message is received it is not merely audibly heard, rather, the thoughts of the message become the object of meditation resulting in the conviction that what is heard is true. The truth which the Corinthians heard, the gospel, radically changed their lives.

It is often affirmed that the gospel contains facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be enjoyed. Without reservation, this is true and just a casual examination of the text confirms it. However, my thoughts are focused on Paul’s statement in 15:3: “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”

“*First Importance.*” Jesus taught that, while nothing is to be neglected, some provisions of the law are weightier than others (Matthew 23:23). The point being that some truths are foundational while other truths find their significance in those foundations. This is the meaning of Paul’s statement when he said, “I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received.” What was of first importance was foundational or of primary significance.

The very heart and basis of the gospel is the truth that on a hill outside Jerusalem “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” Four

important thoughts bear on my mind as I read these words.

1. Sin Separates Man From God

From Adam’s fall to this day, every man has learned or must learn that “your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God” (Isaiah 59:1-2). God is infinitely just. David said of God, “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne” (Psalm 89:14; see Deuteronomy 32:4). He cannot abide with sin but “the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience” (Colossians 3:6). The problem that we face is that sin is universal in its scope: “There is none righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10). And, again, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). My sin has created such a chasm between me and God that I cannot bridge it on my own, “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 3:23).

2. Jesus Paid My Debt

What the justice of God could not do, his grace did, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). Though “the wages of sin is death...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 3:23). Jesus’ sacrifice is God’s own appeasement for sin (1 John 2:2), making him both “the just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:26). In the words of a lyricist unknown to me, “On the cross of Calvary, Jesus died for thee and me; There He shed His precious blood, That from sin we might be free, Oh the cleansing stream doth flow, And it washes white as snow. It was for me that Jesus died, On the cross of Calvary.”

3. Man Is Saved by Obedience

The Corinthians were saved from their past sins because they received the gospel by believing and being baptized (Acts 18:8). Their initial

reception of the word of God was not a passive thing; saving faith is a responsive faith. Additionally, their eternal salvation was contingent upon their holding fast to what they had been taught. Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine" (John 8:31).

4. "According To The Scriptures"

The cross was no accident. It was no afterthought. God's plan to redeem man from sin through Jesus Christ was put into place from eternity (Ephesians 3:10-11). The revelation and execution of that plan are the thread that connects all sixty-six books of the Bible. Isaiah, seeing Calvary from afar, wrote, "Surely our griefs He himself bore, And our sorrow He carried...He was pierced through for our transgression, He was crushed for our iniquities...By his scourging we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4,5).

Why "Of First Importance"?

To be pleasing to God, our worship must be in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Whatever we do in the work and organization of the church, we must "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17). The worship, work, and organization of the church deserve our utmost attention in order that everything we do be "according to the pattern" (Hebrews 8:5). However, fundamental to these things, is the cross. In God's plan it is in the cross that these things find their significance.

-via *Biblical Insights*, Vol. 3 No. 1; January 2003.



Tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Phil Pressnell will be directing the service. Make your plans to join us as we sing songs of glory and praise to God.

Unqualified

W. Carl Vernon

I heard of the insurance sales inspector who cornered a fellow and said, "You can't sell insurance without a license." the fellow said, "I knew I wasn't selling much, but I didn't know why!"

The proper credentials for selling "soul insurance" can be summed up in **faithful dedication!** We are not likely to "sell," the truth until and unless the truth is seen in the way **we** live.

The lady who asked how she could convert her husband was told, "*You can't!*" Astonished, she asked, "why not?" She was told that she could never convert him while she was unfaithful. You see, you can't convince a mate, a child, or anyone else, that he or she should come to Christ when you won't follow Him! It's as simple as that! If you let the world dictate a practice which takes you away from worship services, then there will be no saving influence in your life sufficient to save another!

-via *Pause-Ponder-Profiteer*; Paragould, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Curtis Cooper* is now at home following his surgery in Pulaski... *Mattie Blanche Word* is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Willie Ridgeway* is at home and has not been able to be out... *Phil Pressnell* is doing better after a bout with gout this past week... *Monroe Pressnell* is going for tests this Tuesday in Huntsville... *Hoyt Hammond* is at home and is not able to be out... *Madia Haraway's sister, Neta Moore*, is in the Florence Nursing and Rehabilitation in Florence... *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 ...*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: The Lord willing, our gospel meeting with *Jim Deason* preaching will begin next Sunday. I know that Jim will do his work well. I hope that all of you are remembering to tell others about the meeting, and inviteing them to join us. There are fliers on the table in the vestibule for each one to take and give to those you invite.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are in Florida this weekend.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Market Street church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The different speakers are as follows: *Sunday morning- Jeff McCrary; evening- David Cox; Monday evening - Jeff May; Tuesday evening – Collin Stringer; Wednesday evening – Bob Watson.*

THE RECORD: *For the week of September 12th*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 93
- Morning Worship 117
- Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 76



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
 Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

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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