

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 26th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Bible Reading (Isaiah 33:1-13)

..... Eddie L. Hammond

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

Presiding Michael Clemmons

Assisting Larry White

Serving James McConnell

..... Stephen Stewarrt

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Andrew Gatlin

Closing Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (No Reading)

.....

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Lord's Supper

..... Micheal Clemmons

..... Larry White

Closing Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Volume XI

September 26, 2004

No. 38

Beginning Today **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

“Newborn Babes”

Jim H. Deason

A task which every evangelistic congregation faces is that of strengthening newborn babes in Christ. Often those we baptize are left at the baptistery steps and we leave unfulfilled the last part of the great commission to teach “them to observe all” that Jesus has commanded (Matthew 28:20). As a result we have what might be termed a “high infant mortality rate,” i.e., newborn babes who back into the world or into religious error. Too few obey the gospel to allow even one to lose his or her soul because of a lack on our part. Thus, the need to address the problem.

Young Christians Need Basic Teaching From The Word of God. Peter said, “...like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word...” (1 Peter 2:2). One doesn’t bring a new baby home from the hospital and immediately begin to feed him steak or pot roast. The need is for something more digestible like formula and baby cereal. Likewise, the young Christian needs to be taught the basics of trust in and commitment to the Lord’s ways. They need to study the basics of worship and daily living. An in-depth study of Ezekiel or Revelation is too much and simply not digestible at this point in their spiritual maturity. An alert eldership can recognize this and help by providing public classes to address this need. Another, and perhaps better, approach is to have more mature Christians study with these new converts in their home. This method helps these new Christians establish a pattern of regular Bible study that is so necessary to spiritual growth.

New Christians Usually Need New Friends. When one is converted from the world or religious error not only do they change religious environments, but their whole social life usually changes as well. The opposition of family and friends is often one of the greatest barriers to conversion. And merely the fact that one cannot go to the same places and do the same things with

the same people can make life very lonely for the new convert. Every Timothy needs a Paul and every John Mark needs a Barnabas. Paul admonished the Thessalonians to “...encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men” (1 Thessalonians 5:14). He encouraged the Romans to “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor ... practice hospitality” (Romans 12:10, 13). In friendship with other Christians there is found love and strength. Every new Christian needs special attention.

New Christians Need Understanding and Patience. One doesn’t expect a baby to mature into an adult overnight. But with the right diet and an ample amount of exercise, along with time, nature will take its course and the human body will develop to maturity. Much of the same is true when one develops spiritually. With a steady diet of the word of God and the constant exercise of obedience in one’s life, spiritual maturity will come in the course of time. Mistakes will be made and lessons will be learned the hard way. Sometimes pain is associated with growing. But through all of this the young Christian needs our prayers, our understanding, and our patience. When sin is found in their lives it must be removed but with understanding and patience, not a rod of iron.

New Christians Need Our Time. Time is a very precious commodity these days. It seems that the older we get the less of it we have. But I rather suspect that it’s not that we have less time, we just don’t use what we do have wisely. Time has come to be more precious than money to most. We had rather pay for something to be done than actually do it ourselves. And this is not wrong in many cases. But there are some things that we just can’t pay others to do for us. We can’t pay others to do our teaching for us, it is a personal responsibility (Hebrews 5:11-12). Paul said, “Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one...” (Galatians 6:1). And again, “Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of

Christ” (Galatians 6:2). Young Christians find themselves being caught up in sin, not necessarily through a willful and hard-hearted departure from God, but merely because of weakness or ignorance. They need someone to care enough to spend time with them - teaching, praying, and strengthening. This is a burden we must help them bear, not something we can pay someone else to do for us. It requires our **time!**

Determine to make a special effort to help those who are young in Christ. It's one way to breathe a fresh spirit of zeal into your own life. You will grow by helping others.

-via *Searching The Scriptures*; Vol. 30 No. 9; Sept. 1989.



Worshipping God In Spirit

Daniel Bailey

In John 4:24, Jesus Christ states that *“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”* What does it mean to worship God in spirit? Some people believe that to worship in spirit is to worship with spiritedness, that is, with excitement, great animation, and emotional sway. Still others believe that worshipping in spirit requires miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit such as inspired utterances. However, from Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, we learn that the Greek word translated “worship” in this passage is [proskunountas], from the verb [proskuneo], literally meaning to prostrate oneself in great reverence. In other words, the worship that Jesus mentions in John 4:24 describes an attitude - a bowing of oneself before the Almighty God in utmost reverence and humility.

With this definition for worship in mind, what does it mean to bow one’s heart before God in spirit? Paul’s comments in 1 Corinthians 5:3

and Colossians 2:5 help us to understand this phrase. In these passages, Paul comments that though he is not with his beloved brethren physically, he is with them in spirit - the exact same language, the very same Greek words used by Jesus in John 4:24. Paul means that though he is not physically in the presence of the Christians to whom his letter is addressed, he is with them in mind and in heart. This is what it means to worship God in spirit: though we, His children, cannot see God, though we are not actually with Him in Heaven, when we bow in worship it should be in heart and mind as though we are right before God’s throne.

In Matthew 15:7-9, Jesus condemns the hypocritical Pharisees for honoring God with their lips while their hearts dwelt on worldly things, not with God. These Pharisees failed to worship in spirit - they were pretending to serve God and honor Him with praise, but in spirit they were focused on worldliness; their hearts were far from Him. This account serves as a warning to all Christians. We can go through all the motions of worship, even making sure to perform every act in accordance with God’s word, but if our hearts are not bowed low before the feet of God, our worship is in vain. If we sing praises to God in truth, but our minds are constantly wandering to the tasks we need to accomplish during the day, our worship is not acceptable to God. If we sit through a sermon preached directly from God’s word, yet our minds are focused on all the other things we’d rather be doing, we are not worshipping in spirit. John 4:23 teaches that God desires our worship: He is seeking true worshippers. But in order for our worship to be acceptable to Him, we must be with Him in spirit. Our worship must not be merely physical obedience with disengaged hearts and minds, but we must penitently bow before God in spirit as if we were right there at His throne.

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

***Remember Our Singing at 3:00 p.m.
Evening Service at 4:00.***

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Eddie Hammond's mother, Evelyn*, is now out of the hospital after spending a few days in Huntsville hospital...*Mattie Blanche Word* is in rehabilitation at Mitchell-Hollingsworth in Florence...*Willie Ridgeway* is at home and has not been able to be out...*Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is in the Athens-Limestone hospital following hip replacement surgery...*Monroe Pressnell's* tests were postponed and rescheduled for October 25th...*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.

BAPTISM: We rejoiced this past Sunday when *Zack Rogers* expressed his desire to be baptized into Christ. We appreciate the courage he displayed in obeying the gospel and may we all encourage him in his life as a Christian. May Zack will have many years to faithfully serve the Lord.

OUT OF TOWN: *June Calvert* is out of town this weekend and plans to be back tonight...*Glenda Phillips* is away this morning and hopes to be home this afternoon.

THE RECORD: *For the week of September 19th*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 103
- Morning Worship 123
- Evening Worship 81

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 93

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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