

# 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, September 5th

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 28:1-13)

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... Eddie J. Hammond

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Lord's Supper

Presiding ..... Phil Pressnell

Assisting ..... Aric Butler

Serving ..... Curtis Mosley

..... James McConnell

..... Mark McCrary

..... Mike Rogers

Closing Prayer

..... Andrew Gatlin

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 28:14-29)

..... Stephen Stewart

Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Lord's Supper

..... Phil Pressnell

..... Aric Butler

Closing Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Volume XI

September 5, 2004

No. 35

## *When A Sinner Repents*

**Monroe Pressnell**

Make no mistake, sin, in whatever form it takes, is detestable. It's ugly, and God hates it. Every Christian must develop enough dislike for sin that we will "abstain from every form of evil" ( 1 Thessalonians 5:22). God certainly doesn't want us standing around sin and adjusting our thinking process in order to accommodate sin. Additionally, we must insist that our brethren refuse to practice sin. But what of a brother/sister who does commit sin and upon being convinced of that sin repents and turns back to God and asks for His and our forgiveness? What is to be our reaction to a brother who sins and repents? We can question the sincerity or the motive for their action or we can display the attitude that they must prove that their repentance is genuine or we can forgive as God does upon our turning from sin (1 John 1:9).

Here's some Bible examples of how we are to treat our brother who sins and repents.

How are we to treat a brother who has deserted his responsibility and turned his back on his master? How about a person who has become unprofitable in his service to his lord? How about a person who left owing his master something? Paul told Philemon that he was to receive this person ,who had committed all these wrongs, "no longer as a servant but more than a servant, a brother beloved, especially to me , but how much rather to thee, both in the flesh and in the Lord" (Philemon 1:16)

But surely God doesn't expect us to receive that brother who has committed the grievous sin of sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 5:1-13). That person who has turned a deaf ear to God's laws and has lived in that sin and carries the scars of those sins. How am I to

respond when that person repents? Again, Paul instructs us to forgive and comfort that person and to reaffirm our love to him (2 Corinthians 2:7,8).

How about fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous people, drunkards, revilers, extortioners. (1 Corinthians 6:9,10) Paul said that some of the Corinthians were that kind of people - but he also said that they had been washed and sanctified and justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6: 11). This is the same group that the Apostle wrote to about love in Chapter thirteen of this great letter. Among other things, He said "love suffers long and is kind, does not behave rudely." Then in the very last verse of this letter he says "my love be with you all in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 16:24).

Although I may not have committed those sins that Onesimus did or the ones of the Corinthians, my sins and yours are just as detestable to God. What if He treated us as we treat some of our brethren when they sin? What if He turned His back on us and said you're less a child of God than others who have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus? Can we pick and choose what sins are forgiven upon a person's repentance and which are not? I sure am glad that God doesn't forgive the same way that some of my brethren do!

## *Preachers and People*

Mark W. White

Every time someone asked little Tommy what he planned to do when he was grown up, he always replied, "I want to be a preacher." That pleased his parents and amazed some who asked the question. But one day after the usual question came, little Tommy gave a different response. He changed his mind and declared that he wanted to be something else. Shocked, his mother and father asked him why he no longer wanted to preach. Little Tommy responded, "Well, I finally decided that I really wasn't mad at anybody!"

That is a humorous account of a little boy's impressions of what it meant to be a preacher. But I am not fully convinced that this is not a more widespread perception, even among those who preach. Some brethren see preachers as mean, nasty, crotchety old "sticks-in-the-mud" who have a bone to pick with everything and everyone. They do not see preachers as men who have an intense love for people. And, if the truth be known, it may very well be that some preachers do not care too much for people. Rather than being moved by compassion for their souls, they preach because it gives them opportunity to vent their frustrations with their fellow man behind the cloak of a pulpit. To be sure, people can provoke us by the way they live (Acts 17:16). But to mount a pulpit and preach because people have made you angry can tempt a preacher to treat people in a less than honorable fashion. A gospel preacher can hate sin, but he must be very careful not to hate the people who commit the sin.

People are the objects of a preacher's life and work. If he would truly proclaim the message of the Master, he must be possessed of the same love and compassion for people as was Jesus. Jesus was a good teacher because He taught the people "as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matthew 7:29). But Jesus was also such a popular teacher with the masses because He loved people. His gregarious spirit is seen by Matthew's ac-

### *Our Plea*



**Book, chapter and verse.**

**Back to the Bible!**

count that, “Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd” (9:35,36). The people responded to Jesus so well because it was evident that He cared for them. A gospel preacher must be fully convinced that he loves people like Jesus loves them. Only then will he be properly motivated to go to the cities and villages “preaching the gospel of the kingdom...among the people.”

A preacher must find himself “among the people” if he is to teach them. He cannot isolate himself (even in his study) from the rest of the world if he is to carry the gospel to it. Paul must have been concerned, if not frightened, about his preaching at Corinth when he first arrived there. Even after many of the Corinthians had obeyed the gospel, the Lord spoke to Paul in a night vision telling him to continue his preaching work. The reason? “For I have many people in this city” (Acts 18:10). Paul heeded the vision and stayed in Corinth for a year and a half teaching the word of God among those people (v. 11). Paul was not in Corinth to “see the sights.” He was there for the Lord’s purpose. He had to get among the Corinthians and preach the gospel. By doing so, people who would obey the Lord could be found. What a tremendous lesson for those of us who claim to be gospel preachers. A preacher must love people enough to go to them when they will not (or do not) come to him.

Preaching the gospel means that we must care deeply for those to whom it is preached. If the gospel is rejected, may it not be because the preacher rejected the people.

~via *College View Columns* Florence, Alabama.

### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

## Come Join Us In Our 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

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Jean Ray* is in the ECM hospital and hopes to come home today... *Willie Ridgeway* did not receive a good report from the body scan he had done this past week ... *Jerry Dickey* had surgery for a growth under his tongue on Friday. It has been sent off for a biopsy ... *Hoyt Hammond* is at home is not able to be out... *Shelia & Robyn Goode* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Madia Haraway's Sister, Nita Moore*, is now at home after spending several days in the hospital this past week... *Cindy Pressnell* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Lisa Word* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Warren Glass, Jr., Charles and Jimmy's brother* and a former preacher here, is scheduled for surgery in Birmingham on Wednesday ... *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 not doing as well ...*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 three weeks away. I hope that all of you are remembering to tell others about the meeting. There are some fliers on the table in the vestibule for each one to take and give to those you invite.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *Andrew and Marissa Gatlin* are in Gulf Shores this weekend... *June Calvert* is away on vacation... *The Pressnells: Phil, Cindy, Logan and Ethan* are away this weekend.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Madia Haraway* and all the family in the passing of her cousin, *Elbert Siniard*, this past Wednesday. His funeral was Thursday.

**RESPONSE:** Last Sunday morning, *Leota Springer* came forward asking for prayers of forgiveness. We appreciate Leota and the good heart she has. May we all encourage her, as she encourages us, as we run this race of life. May the Lord richly bless us all as we seek to serve Him faithfully.

**NEW DIRECTORIES:** The new pocket directories are on the table (by the bulletin board) in the vestibule. I hope that this will help all of us in checking on one another and seeing to the needs of others. Be sure to pick your copy up. If you see any errors in them, please let me know.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of August 29th*

**Sunday:**

- Bible Classes ..... 100
- Morning Worship ..... 116
- Evening Worship ..... 94

**Wednesday:**

- Bible Classes ..... 88

**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

U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Bulk Rate  
Anderson, Alabama  
Non-Profit  
Permit #6

*Anderson church of Christ*  
P.O. Box 66  
Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested