

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, August 28th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Rev. 3:1-13)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Curits Mosley
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Jason White
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Rev. 3:14-22)
..... Wesley Phillips
Prayer
..... Larry White
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond

Volume XII

August 28, 2005

No. 35

We're Not Going Away!

Allen Dvorak

"Do not teach in the name of Jesus! Don't speak at all in his name!" That was the command of the Jewish council to Peter and John after the apostles had been teaching in the temple about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:18). These former fishermen, however, continued to teach about Jesus. In fact, all the apostles continued to serve as witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ so that the council once again acted and imprisoned them (Acts 4:33; 5:14-18). The council was furious and would even have liked to kill these troublesome teachers, but they feared the reaction of the common people (Acts 5:27-33). The council had the apostles beaten and commanded them again not to speak in the name of Jesus (Acts 5:40).

Why was the council so anxious to silence these men? The teaching of the apostles disturbed the council just as the personal teaching of Jesus had made the religious leaders angry. The Lord identified their hypocrisy and showed them to be blind leaders. Rather than change their behavior, they plotted to kill him and eventually put Him on a Roman cross. After His resurrection and ascension, the apostles who were guided by the Holy Spirit continued to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

The Jewish high priest and the rest of the council were to discover that these twelve men whom Jesus had called to be witnesses would not "go away." It would take more than threats and beatings to silence these men. In fact, their determination to teach and preach the message of Jesus Christ was shared by other early disciples who were scattered by Jewish persecution, but continued to proclaim the gospel wherever they went (Acts 8:1-4).

Those pesky Christians! As they taught the principles of the kingdom of heaven, they taught against sinful behavior. They taught against homosexuality (Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11), theft (Ephesians 4:28), profane speech (Ephesians 5:3-5; Colossians 3:8), drunkenness (Galatians 5:21), lewdness (Galatians 5:19), etc. Many people who wanted to continue in such behaviors without criticism often resented the preaching of the gospel.

There are those in our country and in our day who would like to silence the voices which preach from the Bible the need for righteous conduct. Organizations promoting homosexuality do not want to hear that homosexual behavior is the acting out of vile passions (Romans 1:26). The sexually promiscuous do not want anybody preaching that such behavior is destructive to the individuals involved (1 Corinthians 6:18) and to society in general. The greedy and socially unjust do not want to hear about their responsibility toward their neighbor (Romans 13:8-11; Galatians 6:10).

But we will not go away. They can try to silence the message; they can take away the church buildings, the tax-exempt status and in general make life difficult for us, but we will continue to preach the message of righteousness because it is God's truth and the only way that men can be saved from their sins.

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

Choose Ye This Day

Randy Harshbarger

Joshua was a good leader. This is true for several reasons, but the main reason is that Joshua always knew where he was going. As successor to Moses, he knew what his role was; and he performed his work admirably. He didn't push God's people into the Promised Land, he led them. Listen to his challenge. "Now therefore fear Jehovah, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt; and serve ye Jehovah. And if it seem evil unto you to serve Jehovah, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah" (Joshua 24:14-15). Joshua's words call for a strong personal commitment. He says **you** must choose.

Patrick Henry said: "I care not what course others may take. But as for me, give me liberty or give me death." He knew decision time had come. He knew there could be no further compromise with King George III. There could be no more discussion, and there would be no retreat. There is a parallel between this event in American history and an incident in ancient Israel's history. As the Israelites fled from Egypt, their pursuers bore down on them quickly closing the gap. Israel comes to the brink of the Red Sea and falls into a panic. "What will we do?" "We are doomed!" It was then the Lord said: "Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward" (Exodus 14:15).

There is a common thread in the words of the Lord and those spoken by Joshua and Patrick Henry. Choices have to be made every day. Decisions that affect both time and eternity must be confronted. Everyday we engage in actions that materially affect ourselves and those around us. How will we respond to personal choices that come our way? How do we handle the personal

Gospel Meeting

September 25 – 28

Cecil Cox, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

crises that can weigh us down and defeat us spiritually? Joshua said: "I have made up my mind to serve God." Patrick Henry said: "I will act upon principles of honor and loyalty to my new-found country, even if it means I must die." The Israelites were reluctant participants in "going forward," but they did go forward with the Lord's help. So can we.

In a very real sense, we choose the God we will serve everyday. We do this by our actions and attitudes, and by our devotion to the particular choices we make. Not only did Joshua challenge Israel to serve the true God of heaven, but he also mentioned that they had several alternatives. They could choose to serve Jehovah, the ancestral gods of Mesopotamia, or the more up-to-date gods of the Amorites. But, they had to choose! Joshua challenged the children of Israel to get off the fence. Someone once said, that the Lord would rather see a man be on the wrong side of the fence, than on the fence! Whether that is true or not, I do not know. What I do know is that God calls upon me to decide one way or the other. Jesus refers to choosing in His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:13-14). The broad way or the narrow way, which will it be? The Apostle Peter refers to those who thought it strange that once spiritual renegades now lived for Christ (I Peter 4:1-4). Their choice to rebel was replaced by a choice to serve the Lord, and this had far-reaching implications for conduct and service. That is what Joshua told Israel. If Israel decided to serve Jehovah, they would have to put away the false gods of the land (Joshua 24:23). Service to the Lord is exclusive. We can belong only to Him.

When other people disobey God, I must still do what is right. Joshua and his counterpart, Caleb, are sterling examples of persevering in the midst of rebellion and dishonor. Of the generation of Israelites leaving Egypt, only Joshua and Caleb entered the promised land. These two faithful spies chose to stand against the majority and say: "We can do it!" Oh yes, they had their critics, as do the people of God today who chose

to live counter to those around them. While popular opinion may differ, we must serve the Lord.

-via *The Stallings Drive Bulletin*, Nacogdoches, Texas.



The Anderson
church of Christ
website at:

[www. Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

On The Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The *Gospel Power* in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.
4. The sermons preached at our meeting in March with Randall Hammock.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Noah Lane Hammond* was released from the hospital on Friday after receiving breathing treatments for asthma... *Monroe Pressnell* had an arteriogram on Wednesday and had a stint inserted in an artery in the heart... *Margaret Weathers* had her cast taken off on Wednesday evening... *Helen Stewart* continues her recovery and rehabilitation at home ... *Jerry Best* is doing better after being sick last week... *Ronnie Phillips* has been down with his back this week, but is some better now... *Angie McCrary* test this past past week determined a blockage in her kidney and she will have a procedure to clear it on Wednesday ... *Scottie Goode* is to have surgery

soon to remove his Gall Bladder... **Mandy Griffin** was sick an unable to be at services this past week... **Suzette McIntyre** was sick an unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... **Virginia Lovell** has continued to be unable to be out due to her back problems, but hopes to be here today... **Valerie Stewart** fell on Wednesday evening when she came in from work... **Sissy Clemmons** continues her recovery from her broken ankle... **Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson**, continues in the Vanderbilt Hospital with her treatments ...**Eric White's father, Jim White**, is at home ...**Myrtie Williams** is at home ...**Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer**, continues to deal with dialysis... **Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette... **Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell**, is at home ...**Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart**, is awaiting a kidney transplant ... **Mattie Blanche Word** is at home... **Shannon Johnson**, continues at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

OUT OF TOWN: **Madia Haraway** is now back home after being out of town for a couple of weeks... **Mark McIntyre** is now back home after being out of town last week with work.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication Group 4 to meet. If you are in Group 4, remember to meet with your group this evening after our services.

THE RECORD: For the week of August 21st

Sunday:

Bible Classes 92
 Morning Worship 115
 Evening Worship 86

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 70

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 (256) 247-1451
 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 (931) 565-3799

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