

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, Septembet 11th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Rev. 6:9-17)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Lord's Supper

Presiding Monroe Pressnell

Assisting Jimmy Glass

Serving Mike Rogers

..... Eddie L. Hammond

..... Wesley Phillips

..... Jason White

Closing Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Rev. 7:1-8)

..... Brain Word

Prayer

..... Andrew Gatlin

Lord's Supper

..... Monroe Pressnell

..... Jimmy Glass

Closing Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XII

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No. 37

Measuring Spiritual Soundness

Jason Moore

"But let each examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one shall bear his own load" (Gal. 6:4-5). Easier said than done. Easier typed than said. Easier read than typed. The further you distance yourself from the apostle's command the less obligatory it becomes and the more comfortable you feel with your present situation.

But the duty remains. There is need for us to make regular, concerned measurement of our spiritual progress. We make measurements in every area where periodic maintenance is required. A dipstick measures the level of oil or transmission fluid in our car. A thermometer measures our temperature and to some degree—excuse the pun—the measure of our health. What sure means do we employ to measure the soundness of our spirituality? Unfortunately, many make such measurements with undependable methods.

The comparison approach. This method is the very one which Paul warns about in our text. "Let each man examine his own work," wrote the apostle. We often resort to this method under pressure. When confronted with faults or failures to which we can offer no justification we use the "everybody does it" or "how 'bout him" or "at least I'm not like" approach to answering the charges. Let it not escape us that on the judgment day we shall not stand next to anyone. Each shall stand alone before the throne and answer for the deeds he has done in his own body. "For each one will bear his own load" (Gal. 6:5).

The mean between extremes. Not unlike the former approach, this one falls by the same argument. Some folks take comfort in their

average morality. They avoid being too good for fear of standing out or missing out. They avoid being too evil for fear of society's reprisals. They take society's average or public opinion or the mean morality of whatever community in which they find themselves and use that as the ethical standard for measuring their conduct. It seems in fact that most people base or excuse their baseness on such observations. As society's standards decline so does the average, and so does their morality as well. Walking "according to the course of this world," the path of the average, is to cast our lot with the "children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3). Lots of average "not so bad" folks are going to be lost.

The accounting method. Ritual has always been a problem for religious practitioners. The problem is not the ritual necessarily, but ritual divorced from everyday morality. Men take comfort in regular attendance—whatever is regular for them. Men find solace in writing their contribution check—whatever constitutes contributing to them. Men find gratification in occupying their pew — whatever occupancy involves in their thinking. If you wait until Sunday to attend the Lord's service, you're not likely to attend even on Sunday. That may constitute the essence of religion in man's eyes, but "pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father" is this: "to visit the orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27). Right ritual must be wed to right living. Neither is good without the other. Living without giving honor to God and worshiping without living for God both constitute vain religion.

The biblical IQ formula. In our legitimate interest in getting back to the Bible, we can so esteem the virtue of knowing the truth that we mistake Bible study for discipleship. A disciple is not just a learner but a practitioner. How many times have you heard it said concerning someone, who left the Lord, "I can't believe it—he was such a good Bible student?" The answer to their astonishment is found in James 2:17, "Even so faith,

if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." It is possible for men to know, to understand, and even be able to teach and preach and yet not practice the truths they espouse. "The demons also believe, and shudder" (James 2:19).

Let us measure our morality but by honest means. If you will make comparisons, compare yourself to the Master. "Everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40). Finding the mean between extremes is wise counsel—if you've set the right extremes. We need to strike a balance between being overly passive and overly aggressive. "Blessed are the meek," said Jesus. But the mean of society's morality will never do. Ritual as well was designed by God for our good—good habits of worship foster good morality. But make ritual the whole of your service and that's where vain ritual begins. Let us never back away from our plea to get back to the Bible, but let us never suppose that putting our nose in the Book is enough. We must put the Book in us and put its message into practice.

—via *Cababa Heights Bulletin*, Birmingham, Alabama.



Which Assembly?

Tim Smelser

The psalmist of old wrote, "I was glad when they said to me, Let us go unto the house of Jehovah" (Psalm 122:1). In Psalm 95:1-6 David invites, "O come let us sing unto Jehovah; Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; O come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before Jehovah our maker."

Aside from assembling together to worship God, we are also encouraged to study His word and to meditate thereon. "Oh how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day!" (Psalm 119:97).

In Acts 4 we find Christians assembled together for times of prayer and study. These saints lifted up their voices to God with one accord (v.24) and they prayed together (v.31). Peter came to the house of Mary in Acts 12:12 and he found many gathered together who were praying.

What I find interesting about these examples is that these Christians were not assembled together on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper. Many times Christians today feel they are "required" to attend the worship service on Sunday morning because partaking of the Lord's Supper is commanded (Luke 22:14-23; Acts 20:7).

However, their interest does not go beyond the assembling to break bread. The Sunday morning Bible classes, the Sunday evening worship services and the Wednesday night Bible classes are not important in their minds because they are not "required."

Consider the attitude of the brethren at Berea when Luke wrote that they "searched the scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11-12). Not only was David glad to go to the house of the Lord, he invited others to go with him. Paul told Timothy, "Till I come, give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching" (1 Timothy 4:13). Surely our "other" assemblies give us the opportunity to fulfill this instruction.

We share a common bond with all the people referred to above. That common bond should be our love for God and for His word. We need to follow their examples and take advantage of every opportunity to assemble together and study from God's holy word. Time has been set aside (apart from the Sunday morning worship period) for us to assemble with fellow Christians to study, sing and pray: all done to the glory of God!

Let's get involved and take part in these times of study so we can "present ourselves unto God, workmen that need not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

-via *The Parchment*, Indianapolis, Indiana.



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: *Scottie Goode* had surgery on Friday to remove his gall bladder and is now home ... *Virginia Lovell* was sick with a headache and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday evening ... *Brooke Phillips* is to enter the hospital tomorrow for a c-section... *Helen Stewart* continues her recovery and rehabilitation at home ... *Cheyenne Griffin* is now doing better after being bitten by fire ants and having a reaction to the bites.... *Suzette McIntyre* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Sissy Clemmons* continues her recovery from her broken ankle... *Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence

... *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: *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* have been out of town this past week visiting, but are back home. Aric is attending a siminar this weekend and hopes to be home this evening... ***The McCrarys: Rodney, Angie and Mark*** are out of town this weekend.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication Group 2 to meet. If you are in Group 2, remember to meet with your group this evening after our services.

THE RECORD: *For the week of September 4th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 87
 Morning Worship 114
 Evening Worship 98

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 78

Gospel Meeting

September 25 – 28

Cecil Cox, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
 Anderson, Alabama

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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