

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, June 8th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 107:17-32)

..... Jimmy Glass

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Presiding Larry White

Serving James Albert McConnell

..... Daniel Clemmons

..... Ray Tucker

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading .. (Psalm 107:33-43)

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper

..... Larry White

Closing Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Volume X

June 8, 2003

No. 23

The Church: God's Way

Dee Bowman

One of the amazing things about Scripture is that it never changes. What it said when it was first spoken is the same thing it says now. The Scriptures were written in a language called Koine Greek, a type of the language which is no longer spoken and so is frozen in time. That is no accident; it is a providential provision. That means that the language of the Bible is never in a state of flux like other languages. Its word meanings are sealed in time. It still says the same thing it said when it was first revealed to the apostles and prophets (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13).

But people have changed the language of the Bible to suit themselves. There is no longer an appeal to the literal interpretation of the Scriptures in religion today. It is loosely interpreted, if at all. Take the term "church" for instance. It just meant "the called out" in the New Testament. Today it can mean anything from some benevolent institution, a sort of religious corporation, or even a kind of political establishment. Actually, the way the term is used today it seldom means what it meant in the New Testament, just the saved of God. When it says "the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved" (Acts 2:47), it simply means that those who obeyed the gospel were added to the saved, not to some institution or religious establishment.

The church is people. It is saved people. And the church never saved anybody. The church is the saved, not the means for being so. You're not in the church to be saved, you're in the church because you are saved. The church is the saved.

The local church is the saved in a certain location. It has bishops

and deacons (Philippians 1:1) and saints (1 Corinthians 1:2), those who have been called out or sanctified. Its work is mainly in the area of edification or building itself up (Ephesians 4:11-16). This work is accomplished by building itself up numerically (Acts 8:4) and by growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). It may, as the occasion demands, participate in benevolent activities for its own (2 Corinthians 8:11; Acts 11:27-30).

The church is not a benevolent society. It has never been the work of the church to provide social welfare programs for the poor. To seek to do so is to rob the church of all its resources and deplete its energies for performing its spiritual obligation to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:16). The church’s mission has to do with the spiritual welfare of men. And while it may have some benevolent obligations to its own, those obligations are secondary to the provision for their spiritual needs. There is no enjoinder or recognized plan in Scripture for building a para-church organization to feed the poor, house the indigent, or shelter pregnant-out-of-wedlock girls. Those activities are the work of the home or individuals (Galatians 6:10), and even then the first priority is to “those of the household of faith.”

The church is not a country club. Churches of Christ all over the country are now involved in providing social programs for their members ostensibly to “keep them interested.” They have changed their services to include what is called a “contemporary worship service” in addition to the “traditional worship service.” You now have a choice. The contemporary service is very casual and offers a kind of coffee-and-doughnuts religion, one where you sit around in a circle and sort of worship at your own pace and in your own way. Such a service robs the church of the dignity due God. It demands little and allows much. Women are being used in some of these services in contradistinction to what the Scriptures teach about the role of women in the public worship (1 Corinthians 11:2 ; 14:34 ; 1 Timothy 2:12).

The church is not in the entertainment business. Many churches are providing their members diversions by booking into their services choirs, quartets, and the like. Their use is justified by the fact that “they contain a spiritual message.” There is still no scripture for the church providing such activities. Many of them charge for such events, but some even provide these amusements out of the church treasury. All these programs are intended to appeal to the aesthetic nature of man in preference to seeking the approval of God. There is certainly nothing wrong with good, wholesome entertainment, but such is not the business of the church. And there is a difference between entertainment and worship. One is directed toward man, the other toward God.

The church is not an educational society. Certainly the church has some obligations to educate its people to cause them to understand God and His word (Ephesians 3:1-10; 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:14-15), but it is the work of the home to educate its children. Many churches now have kindergartens, day-care centers, and schools of various sorts. They don’t have a scripture for such, however. Congregations sponsor Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, softball and soccer teams, and other secular activities; but without a scripture authorizing such.

The church is a spiritual entity. It is a group of saved people who are authorized to worship God, preach the gospel to a lost and dying world, to strengthen its members by teaching them the scriptures by pulpit preaching and in Bible classes. It has no need for fellowship halls (1 Corinthians 11:22, 34) or gymnasiums. It is not a boys’ club or a girls’ club or a health spa. It is the people of God doing the work God gave them to do.

The work of the church is to teach people what to do to be saved and what to do to stay saved.

-via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

Summer Quarter Begins

Today we are beginning our summer quarter in our Bible classes. We are looking forward to this quarter and the teachers for this quarter are as follows:

Nursery:

Shelia Moore/
Tika White (Sunday morning)
Charlotte Dickey/
Tisha Thomas (Wednesday night)

Pre-school:

Betty White
Marcia Cooper (Sunday morning)
Sissy Clemmons
Marcia Cooper (Wednesday night)

Primary:

Tisha Rogers (Sunday morning)
Tisha Rogers (Wednesday night)

Intermediate:

Larry White (Sunday morning)
Brian Word (Wednesday night)

Jr.-High School:

Ray Tucker (Sunday morning)
Ronnie Phillips (Wednesday night)

Young Adult:

Rocky Rose (Sunday morning)
David Cox (Wednesday night)

Adult:

Monroe Pressnell (Sunday morning)
Monroe Pressnell (Wednesday night)

I want to express my appreciation to all of those who taught during the winter/spring quarter for their work and dedication and teaching an extra week so that the quarter would break at our VBS. We had a very good quarter. I am eagerly looking forward to this quarter and hope that all who can will be present and prepared for our periods of Bible study. There are classes for all ages. Won't you join us in a study together of God's word? (D.A.C.)

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Billy Haraway* continues at home ... *Henry Trousdale* is in the rehabilitation at Mitchell-Hollingsworth in Florence. ... *Mary Best* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services but is now doing some better... *Charlotte Dickey* underwent outpatient surgery Friday and the reports were good... *Hubert Goode* continues at home ... *Eddie Hammond's father, Berl Hammond*, is at home battling cancer ... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, has cancer and is being treated ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* who is at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ... *Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, who is at home... *Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray*, who is at home.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Bulters: Aric and Andrea* will be returning home this evening after being away in Washington, Oregon and California this past week on vacation.

ACTIVITY FORMS: If you have not already filled out an activity form and returned it, please pick one up today and fill it out. There are some forms on the table in the vestibule.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication Group two to meet after our afternoon service. If you are in group two, plan to meet this evening.

OUR VBS: This past week was our Vacation Bible School. We averaged 77 each morning. I appreciate the dedication and hard work our teachers put forth in teaching and preparing for this Vacation Bible School. The teachers in the classes were: *Cindy Mosley, Jamie Mosley, Suzette McIntyre, Wanda Tucker, Marcia Cooper, Donna Rose, Shelia Goode, Tisha Rogers, Kerry Cox, and Ray Tucker*. We had a different speaker each day

for the adults and they all did their work well. The speakers were as follows: *Frank Richey, Randall Hammock, Norm Webb, Jr., Rodney Britton, and Grant Caldwell*. The Vacation Bible school is a very good and important work that this church is involved in doing.

VBS/GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *O'Neal church* in Athens is having a Vacation Bible School beginning Monday at 7:00 p.m. It will continue through Friday. The speakers in the adult class will be as follows: *Monday – David Cox Tuesday – Allen Dvorak; Wednesday – Buc Chumbley; Thursday – Kasey Harbin; Friday – Gary Patton...* The *College View church* in Florence is beginning a lectureship tomorrow and it will continue through Thursday. The speakers this year will be: *Paul Earnhart, Bill Hall, Robert Jackson and Gary Patton*. There will be morning sessions beginning at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The evening sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and they will be proceeded at 6:30 p.m. with a period of singing. The theme this year will be "Fundamental Bible Teachings."...The *Newburg church* in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Kasey Harbin of Athens* will be the speaker ... The *Jackson Drive church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday The speakers will be as follows: *Sunday – Rob Slover; Monday Cherrill Schmid; Tuesday – Steve Klein; Wednesday – Gilbert Alexander; Thursday – Joe Olson; Friday – Bill Hall*. Services Monday through Friday will be 9:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m...The *Jennings Chapel church* near Toney is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Jim Ward* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Elgin Hills church* in Elgin is beginning a Vacation Bible school on Monday and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. The speakers in the adult class will be: *Monday – Bobby Graham; Tuesday – Frank Richey; Wednesday – Bill Lambert; Thursday – Shawn Smith; Friday – Mark White*.

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

Deacons

Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
 Larry White (256) 247-0988

Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
 Office-(256) 247-5539
 E-mail address: daco@hiwaay.net

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