

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, October 16th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Rev. 14:11-20)
..... Mike Rogers
Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Rocky Rose
Assisting Phil Pressnell
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Eddie L. Clemmons
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (Rev. 15:1-8)
..... Scottie Goode
Prayer
..... Jerry Dickey
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Brian Word

Volume XII

October 16, 2005

No. 42

We Believe Therefore We Speak

Bill Hall

The preaching of the apostles proceeded from hearts full of conviction. They had observed the miracles of Jesus; they had heard His teaching; three of them had been with Him in the mount, and had heard those words spoken from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him"; they had seen His composure as He was arrested in the garden; they had carefully examined evidences of His resurrection, and had talked with Him, eaten with Him, felt of Him; they had watched as He ascended until a cloud received Him out of their sight. They believed! And so full were they of faith that their faith overflowed in words. They could not hold back that message which burned in their hearts.

They preached it everywhere: in the synagogues and in the temple; in the streets and from house to house; in governors' mansions and in prisons; in market places and from Mars Hill; on ships and in chariots; in upper rooms and on riverbanks.

They preached it to the rich and to the poor; to worshipers of God and to worshipers of idols; to the humble and to the proud; to the lowly and to the mighty; to the educated and to the uneducated; to the good and to the bad; to the moral and to the immoral.

They preached it to drunkards, to adulterers, to homosexuals, to idolaters, to sorcerers, to kings, to government officials, to army officers, to jailers, to ship captains, to beggars. They preached it, and preached it, and preached it!

Because they preached it, they were imprisoned, beaten, scourged, stoned, mocked, ridiculed, threatened; they were victims of lies, deceit, conspiracy, uproars, mob violence, shipwreck, ambush; they lived in poverty, often hungering, and with "no certain dwelling

place”; but nothing could stop them from preaching as long as they had breath. They believed, and their faith forced them to preach regardless of the consequences. They believed, and therefore spoke (2 Corinthians 4:13).

What did they preach? They preached that message revealed to them by the Holy Spirit, God’s divine message (1 Corinthians 2:6-13). They had no time for opinions, human philosophies, or politics; nor was their faith centered upon such things. The message that burned in their hearts was a message concerning Christ and salvation through Him. They believed in Christ, in the efficacy of His blood, and in the power of His gospel. They believed, and therefore they spoke that message, and that message only.

Faith! In that one word may lie the most important element of effective evangelism. When we come to believe as did those apostles; when we become so full of faith that we can hardly restrain ourselves; when the message of salvation burns within us as it did in them, we will be teaching others and we will be doing so effectively. Until then, our words may contain an unmistakable emptiness that will render them powerless in changing the hearts of men.

-via *The New Georgia Bulletin*, Rogersville, Alabama.

Upon This Rock

Allen Dvorak

Jesus asked for the results of an informal poll! He asked His disciples what the public thought about Him, about His identity (Matthew 16:13). The apostles responded that people had various ideas about who Jesus was and then He asked them for their opinion (vs. 14). Peter, ever the spokesman for the group, expressed his belief about Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus promised to “build” His church on this truth (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus did indeed establish His church through the work of the apostles on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Some time later, the evangelist Philip was directed by the Holy Spirit to “go near and overtake” the chariot of an Ethiopian government official who was returning from his worship in Jerusalem (Acts 8:26ff). Upon hearing the preaching of Philip, the eunuch asked, “What hinders me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:36). Philip’s response was that if the eunuch believed with all of his heart, he could be baptized. The confession then made by the eunuch clearly manifested his belief about Jesus: “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Our faith in this truth about the identity of Jesus is fundamental to our salvation and the confession that we make with our mouths is the natural expression of that faith.

The apostle Paul affirmed the necessity of belief and confession in order to enjoy salvation. “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:8-10 NKJV).

Philip told the eunuch that belief was necessary before baptism and the eunuch responded by



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 recent meeting with Cecil Cox.

confessing Jesus as the Son of God. Paul wrote that we must believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, but the eunuch said nothing concerning the resurrection of Jesus. Is there a contradiction between what the eunuch did and what Paul wrote is necessary?

The difference between the two passages can be understood by noting the connection between the deity of Jesus and His resurrection. To the Romans, Paul noted that Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power through the resurrection of the dead (1:4). The resurrection was **the** miracle, confirming the claim of Jesus to be the Son of God (e.g., John 5:17; 10:30-33).

In Romans 10, Paul put the “evidence” (i.e., the resurrection of Jesus) for the “conclusion” (i.e., Jesus is the Son of God). Those who believe that God raised Jesus from the dead are compelled to accept His deity. Jesus claimed to be deity and He must be...or God would not have confirmed His message by raising Him from the dead!

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



Carnal Weapons

Robert F. Turner

In a fit of anger, being highly provoked, Joe lashed out with his fist. The blow has scarcely fallen when Joe regained control of himself, was shocked that he had so reacted, and apologized for his rashness. Considering the public nature of the deed, Joe publicly acknowledged his sin at the first opportunity, and asked brother man and God for forgiveness. He now endeavors to live a quiet, godly life, “forgetting those things which are behind” (Philippians 3:13).

But Joe had struck with his fist, and that is a “carnal weapon” – so Bill spread the news. The

Bible says, “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal” (2 Corinthians 10:14), and Bill can quote it word for word. He “uses” the incident time after time to discredit Joe. He “uses” it to cast reflections upon the church of which Joe is a member. He “uses” it in place of scriptural authority for his own faith and practice. “Just look what Joe did!”

And it never occurs to Bill that the incident has become his carnal weapon. He is blind to the fact that he wields, day after day, deliberately and maliciously, a weapon every bit as carnal as the one Joe used in an unguarded moment. If Joe was in error – and he certainly was – Bill is in error, and compounds the error day by day.

Carnal weapons are not limited to guns and clubs. In fact, the “war after the flesh” which provoked Paul’s statement in 2 Corinthians 10 was one waged by his spiritual enemies; the false teachers who made light of Paul’s bodily presence and questioned his authority (vs. 7-18).

“Party” battles may be fought with prejudice-producing labels, but one does not “fight the good fight of faith” with such weapons. One error cannot justify another. I am not a big man physically or spiritually, because I call – or prove – another to be small.

-via *The Brandon Articles*; Brandon, Florida

News & Notes

THE SICK: *C. L. Weathers* is continuing to recover from his recent back surgery...*Isabella Hammond* has been sick with pneumonia and rosiole this week...*Rodney McCrary’s mother, Nadine McCrary*, is at home and doing well after a brief hospital stay...*Wynell Ridgeway* has been sick this past week, but is doing better now...*John Lovell* had a couple of stress tests done this week and the doctor seems to think everything is fine...*Virginia Lovell* has been down with her back, but is doing some better now...*Angie*

McCrary's aunt, Oscarene Newton, continues in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Lisa Word* recieved a good report from her tests done on Monday ... *Jerry Dickey* was sick and unable to be Biblestudy Wednesday night ... *Helen Stewart* continues her recovery and rehabilitation at home... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home ... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, continues to deal with dialysis... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is at home... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Jackson Drive church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Frank Jamerson* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Elgin Hills church* in Elgin is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. *Frank Chumley* will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: *Sheila Moore and Morgan Grisham* have been in Washington, D. C. this past week ... *The Pressnells: Phil, Cindy and Logan* have been in Florida this week and plan to be home tonight.

ELDERS MEETING: The elders will be meeting this afternoon at 4:30 at the building.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication Group 3 to meet. If you are in Group 3, remember to meet with your group this evening after our services.

THE RECORD: *For the week of October 2nd*

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 86
- Morning Worship 105
- Evening Worship 78

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 84

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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