

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 23rd:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Rev. 16:10-21)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Larry White
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jimmy Glass
Assisting Aric Butler
Serving Corey Goode
..... Mike Rogers
..... Jim Phillips
..... Mark McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading (Rev. 17:1-10)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Scottie Goode
Lord's Supper
..... Jimmy Glass
..... Aric Butler
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Volume XII

October 23, 2005

No. 43

Rescued From Sin

Matthew H. Allen

Sixty years ago, atomic bombs were dropped on Japan to end World War II. A recent documentary on the Discovery/Times Channel peaked my interest in this subject. As the decades pass, new generations have questioned whether using these bombs was necessary. This documentary explained how this action was brought about to bring a swift ending to the war with a minimal loss of American life. To get the best perspective, producers interviewed men who would have taken part in the planned invasion. Imagine having just fought your way across Europe—from Normandy to the streets of Berlin—and experiencing the taste of victory, having defeated the Nazi machine of Germany. While still celebrating the end of the war in Europe, you receive orders that place you on a ship to sail around the world to Japan where your military is preparing for an invasion. You have been selected to be part of the initial invasion force in Operation Downfall—an invasion that would have dwarfed the size and scale of Operation Overlord which took place a year before on the shores of France. What would your outlook on life have been?

Some of the troops who spent the summer of 1945 planning for the invasion described themselves as "dead men walking." They knew they were going to die—because of the danger of the impending mission. The Japanese were well fortified in their positions and were willing to fight to the death. As time moved closer to the November 1 target date, tensions rose. The military estimated that between 500,000 and 1 million US troops would be killed in overtaking Japan. It was an extreme price, and thus the reasoning behind the usage of the atomic bomb. President Harry Truman gave orders and on August 6 and 9 atomic bombs were dropped on the

cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A full, unconditional surrender was given by the Japanese on September 1, and the lives of millions of American soldiers *were rescued* from an almost certain death. The soldiers interviewed were extremely thankful for their new lease on life—knowing they most likely would have been dead otherwise.

In Galatians 1:3-5, Paul writes, “*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forevermore.*” In verse 4, Paul uses the word *rescue* which underscores the importance of Jesus’ death. Those in need of rescue are in grave danger and have no ability to deliver themselves from their predicament. They are totally dependent upon outside intervention. In the scriptures we see examples of God coming to the rescue of men, and even entire nations! For example, in Acts 7:12 we read of God rescuing Joseph from his afflictions. Israel was rescued from Egyptian bondage by the mercy and grace of God (Acts 7:34). In our text, Paul says Christians have been rescued from this present evil age according to the will of our God and Father. Spiritually speaking, those who are outside of Christ are “dead men walking.” They are lost and without hope. There is nothing to look forward to but eternal torment, anguish, and death. Thanks be to God who offers deliverance from this fate through the salvation offered through Jesus Christ! Christians can have a fresh start and forgiveness because of deliverance from the peril of sin. Have you been rescued from the dread and fires of hell?

The wording the Holy Spirit chose in Galatians becomes even more powerful to the reader when we consider that we were rescued from our sin even while being enemies of God. Paul wrote that we were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds (Colossians 1:21). It is hard for us to fully grasp reconciliation, especially when looking at someone who has forgiven another person who has deeply hurt them. In Romans, Paul writes that we were

enemies of God, aligned against Him, and yet it pleased God for Jesus to pay the penalty of our sin on the cross (Romans 5:8-10).

Are you in need of being rescued from your sin? Are you a “dead man walking” spiritually? Seek salvation in Christ today! Forgiveness is possible through the blood of Jesus Christ. Turn to God today! God wants you to believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 16:30-31), repent of your sin (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus as the Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 22:16). Will you do that today? There is no other way possible for your rescue to take place. You can’t get out of this on your own. Surrender to God today! If you’ve already been rescued, how are you doing with your “new lease on life”? Have you forgotten the horrible condition you were once in and how it was through God’s grace that you are now free from sin? Are you growing closer to God each day? Is your heartfelt thankfulness to God demonstrated by acts of service in God’s kingdom?

Just as those soldiers who were scheduled to take part in Operation Downfall remain extremely thankful for their lives being spared, so the Christian must ever be thankful for what has been done on his behalf. Let us praise God for what He has done for us and work to get the message of the gospel out so others may be rescued from the perils of sin.

~via *New Living*; Brownburg, Indiana.



Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home
Bible Study
- When?** Sunday, October 30th
- Where?** At the home of
David & Kerry Cox
- Subject?** Topics for Study

Come join us as we study God’s Word.

For What Are You Working?

Phillip Mullins

When your life is over, what do you hope to have accomplished?

Droves of people believe that by becoming wealthy that they accomplish much. Yet, have you considered what is at the end of the road for a wealthy person? Ecclesiastes 2:18 says, "Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me." Pile up all the cash and things that you can, but in the end you will leave it all behind.

For some, leaving something for posterity is exactly the thing for which they are working. Yet, speaking of the one who inherits wealth, Ecclesiastes 2:19 states, "And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled..." Leave a fortune behind and the odds are is that it will be ruined in a few years.

Then there is a more noble approach. Instead of possessions that will rust, what about leaving behind ideas and knowledge that people will treasure for decades to come? Again, Ecclesiastes 2:16 tells us, "For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool!" Many people have died believing their words or works would live on. Yet, very few people in history are remembered and what few who are remembered are often misrepresented or misunderstood.

The bottom line is that you cannot count on, accomplishing anything in this world which will really last. Yet, there is something that will last for which we can work and hope. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19-20).

There is something permanent for which we can all labor. It is eternal life with God in heaven for eternity. Are you looking for something that will really last? Then look to Christ, He offers everlasting life.

Does it sound too good to be true? For certain it sounds too good not to investigate to see whether it is true or not. Open the Bible and see for yourself.

~via *Messages*; Kingsport, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *C. L. Weathers* has not been doing as well with his recovery and has been having in pain in his leg and foot... *Isabella Hammond* has been sick and has not been able to be at services... *Mattie Blanche Word's son, Billy Word* was seriously injured in a fall on Monday and had surgery on Wednesday at Vanderbilt hospital. He is scheduled to have surgery again on Tuesday... *Virginia Lovell* has been down sick this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Cindy Pressnell* had a day surgery procedure done Wednesday and was not able to at Biblestudy... *Angie McCrary's aunt, Oscarene Newton*, continues in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Peyton Cook* was better and able to be at Bible study after being sick over the weekend... *Larry White* was better and able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend... *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 *College Place church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Tim Stevens* will be the speaker in this meeting.

PREACHING TODAY: Today I am beginning a gospel meeting with the *Trussville church* in Trussville, Alabama. The meeting will continue through Friday. In my absence today, *Monroe Pressnell* will be preaching this morning and *Brian Word* will be preaching this evening. I appreciate Monroe and Brian and their willingness to fill in for me while I am away. I know you will enjoy hearing them.

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 October 16th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 98
 Morning Worship 116
 Evening Worship 76

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 83



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.

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

Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox (256) 247-1049
 Office-(256) 247-5539

E-mail address: dacox@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