

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 30th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (Rev. 18:1-14)
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Monroe Pressnell
Assisting Andrew Gatlin
Serving Brad Hammond
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Daniel Clemmons
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Rev. 18:15-24)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
..... Monroe Pressnell
..... Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer
..... Rocky Rose

Volume XII

October 30, 2005

No. 44

Are You Content?

Allen Dvorak

"Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" is the name of a television program and probably also a fair sub-title for the attitude of American society. We are a restless people, always on the move to bigger and better things and confident that we would be happier if we could only... We may not even know exactly what it is that we want, but we are sure that happiness and contentment are always just ahead!

It is not wealth that is the problem, although wealth carries with it grave spiritual dangers. Jesus reminds us that a man's life doesn't consist in the abundance of the things he possesses (Luke 12:15). In the midst of such material wealth as the average American enjoys, it is easy to become attached to possessions. One wise writer commented, "He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase..." (Ecclesiastes 5:10). Covetousness (greed) breeds dissatisfaction!

The problem is that we Americans have been trained to be dissatisfied. By the time that one reaches adulthood in our society, he has been treated to thousands of advertisements which tell him what he wants, what he needs. We come to believe that true happiness depends upon owning the right kind of vehicle, purchasing the newest technological gadget and wearing the latest fashion in clothing. Throw in the absolute necessity to be physically fit and attractive and we have the perfect recipe for dissatisfaction! We see ourselves as "needy" and have no idea how wealthy we really are as compared to how much of the world lives!

Contentment, however, is a choice, not a condition brought on by the right assortment of things or circumstances. Wealthy people

can be just as discontent with their lives as poor people. Those who “have arrived” in life can be just as dissatisfied as those whose circumstances in life are unfortunate or difficult.

Please understand that the Bible does not condemn wealth nor the labor required to improve one’s circumstances in life. Some of the most spiritual men in the Biblical record (e.g., Job, Abraham, David) were extremely wealthy individuals. Read Paul’s words to Timothy carefully (1 Timothy 6:6-8); it is the “love of money” which is the root of all kinds of evil, not money itself! It is possible to work to better our lives and yet be fully content with our present circumstances.

If we can learn to be dissatisfied, then we can also learn to be content with such things (circumstances) as we have (Hebrews 13:5). It is difficult to be content with less, however, if one’s entire hope for the future is focused in this world. Paul wrote, “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound” (Philippians 4:11-12a). In his relationship with Christ and that hope which that relationship provided, he found the strength to adapt to his circumstances.

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

If The World Hates You

Steve Dewhirst

James warned that “Whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4). The opposite is equally true: Whoever wants to be a friend of God makes himself an enemy of the world. There is a natural enmity between godliness and worldliness. As Jesus put it, “No man can serve two masters... you cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt. 6:24). Evidence of this conflict between good and evil is as close as today’s headlines.

You may have heard of this last October from Bill O’Reilly of the Fox News Channel. But since our nation was preoccupied with a presidential election, this story was largely lost in the shuffle. In the city of Philadelphia, four men were arrested and charged with hate crimes, inciting a riot, and using a deadly weapon. They face a possible sentence of 47 years in prison, plus fines totaling \$90,000. Their crime? Reading Bible verses in public that condemn homosexuality. Here’s what happened.

October 10, 2004, was the date for “Outfest,” a homosexual event in Philadelphia. A religious group called “Repent America” planned to set up a stand nearby for the purpose of preaching, handing out religious material, and displaying banners with biblical messages. They operated entirely within the law, having police approval and following all the local ordinances for such activity.

As “Repent America” attempted to speak, they were surrounded by a group of homosexual activists calling themselves the Pink Angels. Videotape shows that the Pink Angels held up large signs of their own to cover up the biblical messages of “Repent America, and blew loud, high-pitched whistles to drown out their preaching. Things got rather noisy and someone called the police.



Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
When? Tonight after services
Where? At the home of David & Kerry Cox
Subject? Topics for Study

Come join us as we study God’s Word.

Instead of arresting the Pink Angels for interfering with the exercise of free speech, Philadelphia police arrested four members of “Repent America.” They were charged with eight crimes, including three felonies: possession of instruments of crime (a bullhorn), ethnic intimidation (saying that homosexuality is sinful), and inciting a riot (reading Bible verses relating to homosexuality) – although no riot actually occurred.

Who knows what the ultimate disposition of this case will be? At least one “Christian” group has hired lawyers to defend the four men, vowing to go “all the way to the Supreme Court” if necessary. Personally, I don’t believe that Christianity and social-activism have much in common, despite the influence of the Social Gospel over modern American religion for more than 100 years now. Christ didn’t come to guarantee civil liberties, but to set us at liberty from sin.

The story related above is simply one illustration of what Jesus taught His apostles on the night of His betrayal. “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also” (John 15:18-20). Jesus further warned, “They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God” (John 16:2).

No Christian should be caught unaware by the animosity and hatred of the world toward himself. It is part of counting the cost. See Matt. 10:34-39. Paul warned that “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). It is only logical. The world caters to self and selfishness; Christ says to deny self. The world is concerned only with the here-and-now; Christ points us to the hereafter. The world is

dominated by the prince of the earth who wants us for his own; Christ is the Prince of peace and sovereign of the universe who came to redeem us.

We must not cower in the face of intimidation and persecution. We must boldly stand for what we believe is right, trusting in Christ to vindicate us at the last day. If the world hates you, consider yourself in good company.

-via *Susquehanna Sentinel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *C. L. Weathers* continues his recovery from surgery ... *Michael Clemmons’ father, Bobby Clemmons*, had back surgery this past Tuesday and is now at home ... *Mattie Blanche Word’s son, Billy Word* is at home now recovering from a couple surgeries at Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville for injuries he suffered in a fall... *Angie McCrary’s aunt, Oscarene Newton*, continues in the ECM hospital in Florence... *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. Her condition has declined... *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 *Westview church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Speakers in the meeting will be as follows: *Sunday– Doug Matlock; Monday – Wayne Chappell; Tuesday – Greg Tucker; Wednesday – Greg Chandler* will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: *Jerry Best* is out of town this week on vacation.

TRUSSVILLE MEETING: It was my pleasure to be with the *Trussville church* in Trussville, Alabama this past week in their gospel meeting. It was good to be with the church there and to see the good work they are doing. It was good to spend time with Aaron Beard, the preacher there. I appreciate *Monroe Pressnell* and *Brian Word* for preaching for me and for Mark McIntyre for teaching my class Wednesday night. I appreciate all the men who are willing to fill in for me when I am away.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: Today we are beginning our fall/winter quarter in our Bible classes. I appreciate all those that have been teaching the past quarter and am looking forward to the studies we will be involved in this quarter. If you are not attending our Bible study period, why not begin now? Classes are on Sunday at 9:45 am and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the week of October 23rd*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 107
Morning Worship 123
Evening Worship 87

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 77



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

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