

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 9th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Rev. 13:1-10)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Mark McIntyre
Serving Mike Rogers
..... Mark McCrary
..... Corey Goode
..... Curtis Mosley
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Rev. 13:11-18)
..... Eddie L. Hasmmmond
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Volume XII

October 9, 2005

No. 41

Are You Teachable?

Larry W. Rouse

When I first became a Christian I thought that the key to bringing others to obedience to Christ was to have clearly reasoned evidence based on the word of God. I thought "if others could just hear the truth taught simply and plainly then they too would want to follow our Lord." My thoughts were correct as to how one is always to teach. Paul wrote "But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." (2 Corinthians 4:2) Teach as you would have others teach you! A man with a good conscience simply wants the truth.

I was naïve, however, concerning the hearts of men. I had incorrectly assumed that everyone wanted to know clearly what God has revealed in His word and then if convinced they would obey it. Jesus plainly taught us about the condition of men's hearts and how that condition affects the receiving of God's word. In the parable of the sower Jesus showed four kinds of soil that reacted to the seed of God's word. These soils represented hearts and of those hearts only one kind produced the fruits that God's word intended. "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance." (Luke 8:15-NASB)

Over the years I came to realize that there are many on the rolls of local churches who are not teachable! Just like my experience with the world, I had naively believed that all my brethren needed was a clear "thus says the Lord" to bring them to repentance and to live in harmony with God's will. But just as men rejected the gospel because

of their hearts, Christians, too, can find themselves on the outside of God's will because of a hardened heart.

Where is your heart? We need to know if we truly are receiving the word of God or if we are as the Pharisees of Jesus' day, confident and boastful, but having a heart that even Jesus, the master teacher, could not reach. Remember our Lord's description of them, "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me" (Matthew 15:8).

Consider these questions to test your heart.

Are you willing to hear?

In the explanation of the parable of the sower Jesus said "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 13:9). Later our Lord made this observation about men: "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them" (Matthew 13:14-15).

When one is serious about hearing the Bible as God's word, he is committing himself to a life of radical change. Jesus knew that few would have a heart for this: "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (John 3:19-21) Which of these groups describe you?

Are you living a principled life?

When one's heart is feeding on God's word there gradually becomes an order within his life.

No longer will he be swayed by emotions or relationships as to how he should act and speak but instead his life is guided by the consistent principles of God's word. This was Paul's goal for every Christian. He wrote: "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ" (Ephesians 4:14-15).

Are you approachable?

Most people do not want their hearts opened and examined. When God's word is preached they will say: "It's none of your business" or "that's just your opinion." When one is truly committed to learning they will engage the one whom they disagree with. One of the most able, capable men in the New Testament, Apollos, was taught by a humble Christian couple. This simple account is given by Luke: "So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately" (Acts 18:26).

What is really first in your life?

Jesus commonly dealt with religious leaders who, while having a great knowledge of the scriptures, in fact had very little concern with actually following them. Why was it not possible that they understand that Jesus was the Son of God? Jesus confronted these men by saying: "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life" (John 5:39-40).

These men were unteachable! Jesus knew the reason why: "I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only

God?" (John 5:41-44). Most men care what others think rather than what God thinks. Where do you stand?

The men whom God can help

Our Savior wants to help and to heal all men. He will not help anyone, however, who is not willing to learn. Are you weak, burdened and struggling? If so, then there is something you need to learn: "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:29-30).

Are you ready to learn?

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia



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.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly

News & Notes

THE SICK: *C. L. Weathers* had surgery on his back on Wednesday and is at home recovering... *Angie McCrary's mother, Edna Shook*, spent a day in the hospital this past week and is now at home... *James Word's aunt, Larua Mae Helton*, had surgery this week and is doing well... *Corey Word* was sick Wednesday night and was unable to be at Bible study... *Phil Pressnell* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Tyler Glass* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Angie McCrary's aunt, Oscarene Newton*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Helen Stewart* continues her recovery and rehabilitation at home... *Scottie Goode's mother, Claudette Goode*, is awaiting word from the doctor ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home ... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, 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 ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Northside church* in Lexington is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday with services Monday through Thursday at 7:00 p.m. *Jeff May* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Posey church* in Franklin County is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. *Guy McDaniel* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Eastside church* in Red Bay is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. *Danny Fuller* will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Blackburns: Jimmy and Sonya* have been in the mountains this week... *Marla & Lydia Clemmons* have also been in the mountains... *Angie Cook* was out of town this week with her work... *Mark McIntyre* was in Mobile this Wednesday with his work... *The Pressnells: Monroe and Yvonne* are in Arkansas this weekend... *The Galtins: Andrew and Marissa* are on vacation this week.

LAWRENCEBURG, TENN. MEETING: It was certainly a joy for me to be with the *First Street church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee this past week in a gospel meeting. It was good to spend some time with them and to become better acquainted with them. *Olin D. Kern* and his wife *Editha*, have just moved to Lawrenceburg to begin work with the church there and I enjoyed spending some time with them. I appreciate *Jimmy Glass and Andrew Gatlin* preaching for me while I was away.

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 October 2nd*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 97
 Morning Worship 113
 Evening Worship 91

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 70



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

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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