

# 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](http://Anderson-church.org)

**Men Priviledged To Serve:**  
Sunday, November 13th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Rev. 21:1-11)  
..... Andrew Gatlin  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Eddie J. Hammond  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons  
Assisting ..... Rocky Rose  
Serving ..... Mike Rogers  
..... Jim Phillips  
..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Curtis Mosley  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (Rev. 21:12-27)  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Prayer  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Lord's Supper  
..... Michael Clemmons  
..... Rocky Rose  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

Volume XII

November 13, 2005

No. 46

## *Protect Your Heart*

**Allen Dvorak**

Heart problems. Those two words can send chills down our spine. We know that the condition of our heart can impact both the quality and length of our lives. A weak heart can severely restrict our activities and perhaps can even indicate a shortened lifespan. Fortunately, medical science has made tremendous advances in the care and prevention of cardiovascular problems. Conditions which a couple of generations ago would have been certain death sentences are now treatable, allowing people to resume most or all of their normal activities.

Nevertheless, a person can be in wonderful physical condition with a strong cardiovascular system and yet be in danger. His physical heart may be in great shape, but he may have a serious problem with his spiritual heart. What is the spiritual heart? Often the Bible refers to the mind of man as his "heart" rather than the muscle which pumps blood through his body. A man thinks or reasons in his heart (Mark 2:6-8). He believes with his heart (Romans 10:10) and he speaks from the "treasury" of his heart (Matthew 12:34-35). The Biblical heart is not just the seat of emotions; it is where man wills, where his conscience is found. Sin finds its origin in the heart of man (Mark 7:21).

One of the most serious spiritual heart problems which man can suffer is "hardening of the heart." Hardening of the heart is actually a process in which the heart becomes progressively less receptive to certain stimuli. The person afflicted often does not want to listen to divine truth. Sometimes the ability to understand or perceive spiritual things is diminished (see Mark 6:52; Matthew 13:15). Do we still have ears to hear...or have our hearts slowly become calloused to the story of the sacrificial love of the Son of God? "Keep your heart

with all diligence..." (Proverbs 4:23).

In the parable of the soils, the wayside ground was hardened by the feet of the people who walked on it (Matthew 13:3-9). When the seed, the Word of God, falls on this soil, it lies on the hardened surface and cannot penetrate. This soil represents the person whose heart has been hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13), ritualistic religion or even the humanist philosophies of men (e.g. evolution). This person hears the gospel, but is not receptive to the message. Jesus said that Satan comes and snatches the seed away.

With our physical hearts, often the first warning sign that we recognize is a minor heart attack. Unfortunately, many people with spiritual heart problems never do recognize their condition! Just as with the physical heart, it is prudent to have a "periodic check-up" on the condition of the spiritual heart. How receptive are we to the teaching of the Bible? Do we turn away from truth because it does not match what we want to do with our lives? The person with a spiritual heart problem needs to visit the Great Physician.

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

## *Just When*

**Bubba Garner**

The conversion of Saul is one of our favorites in the book of Acts because it gives us the assurance that everyone is a prospect of the gospel of salvation, even the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). As one author put it, he was "the most zealous and unrelenting opponent of the gospel transformed into its foremost proponent." We have no doubt that Saul of Tarsus, persecutor and reviler of the church was saved from the sins of his horrible past; the question, is when was he saved?

He was not saved when he had the vision. In his defense before his Jewish brethren in Jerusalem, Paul related what he had seen on the road to Damascus (Acts 22:6). Some have told me in conversation that the Lord has appeared to them and has called them to be His disciple. Since it's difficult to convince someone what they have and haven't seen with their own eyes, I simply try to remind them that the Lord Himself said before His ascension that disciples are made by teaching and baptizing them (Matthew 28:18-20). Though Saul had seen and was made a believer in the resurrected Christ, he was still subject to His conditions of discipleship. He was not saved yet.

He was not saved when he found out he was a sinner. Saul learned that the voice from heaven belonged to Jesus, Whom he was persecuting, and he responded by asking, "what shall I do, Lord?" (Acts 9:10). If he was already saved by calling on the name of the Lord, he wouldn't need to do anything. But he had the same reaction that the Jews did on Pentecost when they were convicted of their sins; they cried, "men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). The realization of sin brings about the need to do something about it—either sweep it under the rug or make it right. Saul chose the latter but was not saved yet.

He was not saved when he prayed and fasted



The Anderson  
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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.

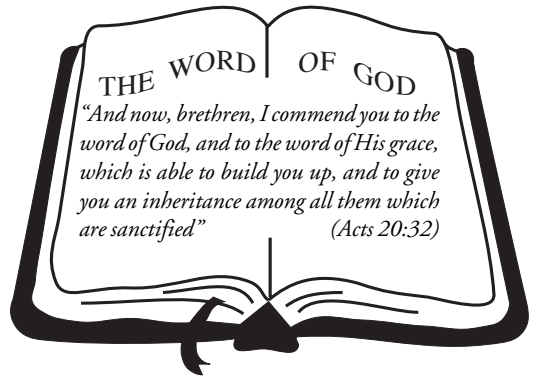
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for three days (Acts 9:9-11). I can't imagine what must have been going through his mind during that time—how he had scattered, imprisoned and executed innocent Christians and delivered damaging blows to the cause of Christ. He was so overcome with guilt and humiliation that he devoted himself to the purification of his body and the restoration of his soul through prayer and fasting. His outward expressions of repentance were certainly sincere and contrite, but he was not saved yet.

“How do you know”, you ask? Saul could not have been saved at any of these points because the Bible says that he was still in his sins. Ananias came to him after his vision, after his recognition, after his prayer and fasting and commanded him to “arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16). His belief was foundational, his realization of sin pivotal, his repentance essential, but his iniquities were not erased until he was washed in the blood of the Lamb. His salvation was then made possible because of his willingness to submit to the divine terms of pardon. Saul was saved because he made an appeal to God for a good conscience through which baptism now also saves you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21).

“Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, ‘Repent and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins’” (Acts 2:38-39).

-via *The Folsom View*; Folsom, California.



## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Lydia and Marla Clemmons* have been sick this past week ... *Brian Word* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Keeton Parker* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, has been back in the Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville this week ... *Virginia Lovell's aunt, Tessie Mance*, has been moved to rehabilitation at Mitchell-Hollingsworth ... *Angie McCrary's aunt, Oscarene Newton*, continues in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Myrtie Williams* is at home... *Mattie Blanche Word's son, Billy Word* is at home now recovering from injuries he suffered in a fall... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues 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. 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

**RESTORED:** We rejoiced Wednesday night as *Jimmie & Mary Lovell* came forward asking for prayers for unfaithfulness and strength. We



### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

appreciate Jimmie and Mary and their determination to do what is right in God's sight. They also stated that they want to place membership here at Anderson. Let us all welcome them into our fellowship here and encourage them as they will in turn encourage us in our life as Christians.

**PLACED MEMBERSHIP:** We rejoice over the decision that *Steve and Melissa Parker* have made to join themselves to the church here at Anderson. We want to extend a warm welcome to *Steve and Melissa* and their children, *Jackson, Caroline, and Keeton*.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *New Georgia church* is beginning a meeting tomorrow and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Leon Mauldin* will be the speaker...The *Elkton church* in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services beginning at 7:00 p.m. *Sewell Hall of Fairlawn, New Jersey* will be the speaker...The *Needmore church* in Haleyville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Jim Deason* will be the speaker in the meeting.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *Shelia Moore and Callie Grisham* are in the mountains this weekend... *The Pressnell: Monroe and Yvonne* are in the mountains this weekend... *The McIntyres: Mark, Suzette, Ssdie and Luke* are in Florida on vacation this week... *The Pressnell: Phil, Cindy, Logan and Ethan* are out of town this week... *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are in Kentucky this weekend.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of November 6th*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 89  
 Morning Worship ..... 108  
 Evening Worship ..... 90

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 83

*Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.*

**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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