

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, December 25th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Bible Reading (Exo. 7:1-13)

..... Brad Hammond

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jim Phillips

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper

Presiding Monroe Pressnell

Assisting Larry White

Serving Mark McIntyre

..... Aric Butler

..... Corey Goode

..... Ethan Pressnell

Closing Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Bible Reading (Exo.. 7:14-25)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Lord's Supper

..... Monroe Pressnell

..... Larry White

Closing Prayer

..... Steve Parker

Volume XII

December 25, 2005

No. 51

"God Has Spoken, But..."

Dan S. Shipley

God "hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his son..." (Hebrews 1:2). But men have also spoken unto us. With excellency of speech and persuasive words of wisdom, they have troubled us with many variations of a perverted gospel; all different from that preached by the apostle Paul and other inspired men (Galatians 1). Missionaries have taken the doctrines and commandments of men throughout the world. It has been printed on slick paper with the latest in sophisticated printing equipment and mass mailed to millions. It has been embellished with impressive and professionally produced television specials featuring slick orators and moving testimonials. And, not without results.

More people have been more influenced in religion by what men have spoken than by what God has spoken. Denominationalism itself is a living monument to the influence of false doctrine. Doctrines of men denominate and divide, not the doctrine of Christ. Denominationalism offers men many ways to be wrong; the doctrine of Christ offers men one way to be right. Not that denominations do not claim to follow the Bible. Notice this affirmation from a popular creed-book: "The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or thought requisite or necessary to salvation." To which we say, "Amen!"

However, in the same creed-book may be found "articles of faith" and practice that are not contained in the Holy Scriptures and certainly cannot "be proved thereby". One, for instance, says that "we are justified by faith only..." The Scriptures say otherwise

(James 2:24). Many believe and are influenced by what this and other denominations teach concerning justification by faith only. They think it to be Bible doctrine, but God has never spoken thusly.

Elsewhere, the same creed-book gives instructions for the baptism of infants. From whence cometh such a practice? From heaven or from men? The same could be asked concerning another statement about baptism. "Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized, have the choice of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion." The New Testament knows nothing of baptism by sprinkling or pouring; only an immersion, a burial (Romans 6:4) as the word itself indicates, and as demonstrated in the baptism of the Ethiopian in Acts 8. Infant baptism and sprinkling as baptism are practiced, not to please or obey God, as some may suppose, but in response to doctrines invented by men. God deserves better.

It is not enough to be "religious" and well intentioned. Fellowship with God is possible only as we abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9). That requires knowing Truth (John 8:32) and making it the standard of everything believed and practiced in the name of religion. False prophets and false teachings offer false hope. We need to be sure about our salvation! — and we can as we "prove all things" by the gospel standard (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

-via *Plain Talk*, Burnet, Texas

Who Are The 144,000?

David J. Riggs

The number "144,000" is mentioned in two passages in the Scriptures, both in the book of Revelation (Revelation 7:4; 14:1-3). In Revelation 7:4, the 144,000 were the faithful who were sealed on earth as shown in verses 2 and 3. The "seal" signifies ownership and consequent protection (Ezekiel 9:6; 2 Timothy 2:19; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30).

In chapter six of Revelation we see the saints under the altar (9-11) and a terrible judgment coming upon the earth which was closed with the question, "Who shall be able to stand?" (12-17). In view of this one might ask, "Will the saints on earth be able to stand and what will happen to the souls under the altar?" John's vision (an interlude of two parts between the six and seventh seals) answers these questions. The saints on earth are sealed and those martyred are before the throne of God. Thus, the first part of the interlude is to permit the sealing of the saints in order that they will be able to endure the afflictions set forth in chapter six. The judgments seem to be altered so that they will not hurt God's children.

In chapter seven, the four angels standing at the four corners (used to designate the four directions) were holding the four winds of the earth (the four winds of judgment--conquest, war, famine, and death--as in 6:1-8 and as seen from the word "hurt" in 7:2-3). (Compare Jeremiah 49:36-38; 51:1-2). They were given to hurt the earth and the sea, but another angel ascending from the sunrising (from the direction of the morning light; suggests a message of cheer and encouragement), having the seal of the living God, said, "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we shall have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads" (Revelation 7:3). Hence, God's people will not be affected by the forthcoming judgments as will the people of the world. (See Revelation 9:4).

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.

After the vision of the 144,000, John sees a great multitude which no man could number out of every nation and from every tribe, people and tongue (Revelation 7:9-17). Jehovah's Witnesses try to teach that these are the saved who inherit the earth and the 144,000 are those who receive heaven. However, the 144,000 are those on earth who are sealed and the great multitude are those souls with God who had come out of the great tribulation (Revelation 6:9; 7:13-14). Furthermore, the expression, "before the throne" is used both of the great multitude (Revelation 7:9) and later in the heavenly setting of the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5). The white robes of the great multitude are symbolical of holiness, and justification (Revelation 3:4-5; 6:11; 7:14), and the palms suggest a joyful, festive occasion (Leviticus 23:40; John 12:13).

They cried with a loud voice saying "Salvation to our God, who sitteth on the throne and unto the Lamb" (an expression of praise and gratitude to both God and Christ for the salvation provided). They are followed by angels who fell before the throne on their faces and worshiped God with a sevenfold praise similar to that given to the Lamb in Revelation 5:12. The angels stood around the throne, as well as the elders, and the four living creatures (Revelation 7:11), which again shows that this occurred in heaven and is not something that is to occur on earth.

One of the elders speaks asking John, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" John did not know, but he was certain that the elder knew. The elder answered, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation..." (Revelation 7:14). The "great tribulation" here is the one that took place under the world wide persecution (not fully identified until the 13th chapter) in John's day. It was "world wide" because this great multitude with the white robes were of "all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" (Revelation 7:9). They are the same ones with "white robes" who cry for the avenging of their blood (Revelation 6:9-11). They had been put to death for their faith, had gained

the victory, and are now before the throne. They had washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. By Christ's blood the saint is washed from his sins (Revelation 1:5), redeemed (Revelation 5:9-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19), given remission of sins (Matthew 26:28), has constant cleansing as he continually complies with the conditions (1 John 1:7-9), and is able to overcome (Revelation 12:11).

In chapter 14 of Revelation, the victorious Lamb stood on mount Zion and with Him were 144,000 who had the Father's name written in their foreheads (Revelation 14:1). These are those who were sealed earlier and are now also before the throne (Revelation 14:5). The term "before the throne" is figurative of the place of comfort or paradise. Thus, the 144,000 represent the complete number of the martyred saints including the rest of those who were to come out of the great tribulation (Revelation 6:9-11). They were the holy city that would be tread underfoot (Revelation 11:2); the beast had made war with them and overcome them (Revelation 14:3).

They had obtained the victory over the beast (Revelation 15:2) and their blood would soon be avenged (Revelation 16:5-6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2). They were the martyrs living and reigning with Christ (Revelation 20:4). Again, the number "144,000" must not be taken literally. It simply represents the complete number of the martyred saints. If one makes the number literal, he must also make their description literal. This would mean that only virgin men will go to heaven (Revelation 14:4). On the contrary, these were the "firstfruits" to God and the Lamb (Revelation 14:4) indicating others would follow. The Bible speaks of heaven for every faithful child of God (2 Corinthians 5:1-2; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 1:4-5). Those who limit heaven to only 144,000 have completely misunderstood the Bible, not to mention John's teaching in Revelation. As we explained, the sealing of the 144,000 in chapter 7 was done to those living on earth and does not refer to those in heaven at all. We pray that all those who are presently striving to serve God, will

someday be in heaven with all the redeemed of the ages.

-via *The Jackson Drive Admonisher*; Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* continues her recovery from her recent surgery... *Angie McCrary's mother, Edna Shook*, has moved to the J. W. Summers Rehabilitation Center in Muscle Shoals ... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Ronnie Phillips* had some tests done on Wednesday...*Scottie and Shelia Goode* were both sick on Wednesday ...*Sissy Clemmons* had the screws removed from her ankle on Monday...*Kerry Cox* is doing better and is gaining more strength every day... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home...*Mattie Blanche Word's son, Billy Word* is at home now recovering from a fall... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ...*Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette. Her condition has declined... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for communication group four to meet. If you are in group four remember to meet with your group this evening.

PREACHING TONIGHT: *Jimmy Glass* will be preaching tonight at our evening service. I know that everyone will enjoy hearing Jimmy tonight. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present.

THE RECORD: *For the week of December 18th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 113
Morning Worship 127
Evening Worship 74

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 91

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
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