

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, September 25th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Rev. 9:13-21)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Rocky Rose
Serving James McConnell
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Mike Rogers
Closing Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Brian Word
Bible Reading (Rev. 10:1-11)
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond

Volume XII

September 25, 2005

No. 39

Beginning Today

Gospel Meeting

September 25 - 28

(Sunday – Wednesday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Monday – Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Cecil F. Cox, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

Instrumental Music In Worship

Cecil F. Cox

Is instrumental music in worship from God or man? This question is often asked and it is a very important one too. It has to do with whether God is pleased with our worship. In Matthew 15:9 we read, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." If instrumental music is from man, we can see from this verse that such would make our worship unacceptable to God. When some are questioned about instrumental music they will say, "We use it because we like it." But let it be noted here that our "likes" or "dislikes" have nothing to do with whether a thing is pleasing to God or not.

Cain and Abel

Notice briefly with me the story of Cain and Abel as they brought their sacrifices (worship) before God. Turn in your Bibles and read Genesis 4:3-5 and please observe the following facts:

1. Cain brought the fruit of the ground as an offering to God.
2. Abel brought the firstling of the flock and the fat thereof.
3. God had respect to Abel and to his sacrifice.
4. God did not have respect to Cain and his sacrifice.

Now we ask the question, Why did God have respect to Abel and his sacrifice and not to Cain and his sacrifice? If acceptable worship to God is to be based upon *our* "likes" or "dislikes", we could see partiality here in God. But such is not true of God. In Acts 10:34 we learn that "God is no respecter of persons..." In Hebrews 11:4 we read that Abel's "more excellent sacrifice" was offered "**by faith.**" That is, God had instructed them as to the kind of sacrifice he wanted because Paul said, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Therefore, in obeying what God commanded, Abel offered a sacrifice in which he pleased God. Cain, being a tiller of the ground, possibly thought the fruit of the ground would be just as well. But his substitution was a tragic mistake.

Where Has God Authorized Instrumental Music?

In replying to this question some will say, "David used instrumental music in his worship to God and he was pleasing to God." I will grant that this is true, but will hasten to add that just because David practiced a thing does not make it right now. David lived and died under the Old Testament. But when Christ died on the cross, the Old Testament law came to an end (Colossians 2:14). Christ is now king over His kingdom and He has a law (John 18:37; Colossians 1:13; Galatians 6:2). The thing that must be found, if instrumental music in worship is pleasing to God, is authority for such action in the law of Christ.

Testimony of Religious Leaders

Most churches today use instrumental music in their worship. I would like for us to note here the testimony of some of the leading men in the past who were members of various denominations.

1. *John Calvin*, of the Presbyterian denomination said, "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps and the restoration of other shadows of the law. The Papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this as well as many other things from the Jews." (Commentary on Psalms 33).
2. *Joseph Bingham*, one of the most learned scholars of the Church of England, in his book, "antiquities of the Christian Church" has to say: "Music in the church is an ancient as the apostles, but the instrumen-

tal music is not.”

3. *Adam Clarke*, a Methodist scholar. “I am an old man, and an old minister, and I here declare that I never knew them (musical instruments) productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil music, as a science, I esteem and admire; but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor.” (Clarke’s Commentary, Vol. 4, p.684).
4. *John Wesley*, an outstanding leader in the development of the Methodist church. “I have no opposition to the organ in our chapel provided it is neither seen or heard.” (Clarke’s Commentary, Vol. 4, p. 684).
5. *C. H. Spurgeon*, noted Baptist preacher. When asked why instruments of music were not used in his tabernacle gave 1 Corinthians 14:15 as his answer and then remarked, “I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery.

Instrumental music is not used today by faith. God has revealed exactly nothing concerning it in our worship to Him. It has come to us by the doctrines and commandments of men.

-via *Topics for Thought*, Russellville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Monroe Pressnell* has had problems with a blood clot in his leg this week.... *C.L. Weathers* went to the doctor on Monday and is to see another doctor this Tuesday in Florence... *Amber Hammond* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday after being sick over the weekend... *Helen Stewart* continues her recovery and rehabilitation at home... *Suzette McIntyre* has been sick and has not been able to be at services... *Tisha Thomas’ mother, Shelia Johnson*, has come home from the hospital following her treat-

ments at Vanderbilt... *Scottie Goode’s mother, Claudette Goode*, is now home after being in the hospital. She will be returning to the doctor this week... *Curtis Cooper* received a very good report this week from his doctor... *Sissy Clemmons* continues her recovery from her broken ankle... *Myrtie Williams* 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... *Mattie Blanche Word* is at home... *Shannon Johnson*, continues at home... *Tisha Thomas’ grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

OUR MEETING: Our meeting is beginning today and will continue through Wednesday. Cecil Cox will be preaching this week. The topics for his lessons are as follows:

Sunday

9:45 a.m. Commands of God, Must We Obey All of Them? Yes or No

10:45 a.m. To What Extent Should One Get Involved In Religion

3:30 p.m. Parents In The Home

Monday

7:00 p.m. God Is Able

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Our Adversary The Devil

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Renewing Our Vision

I hope that everyone will make every effort to be at every service and remember to continue to invite and pray for the meeting. We will be making CD’s and DVD’s of the sermons for all who would like them.

TRIP TO GULF REGION: This past Monday morning, September 19th, *Bobby Graham, Frank Richey, Jeremy Paschall and I* made a trip to follow-up on reports we had heard about people wanting Bibles. We went to Bayou La Batre, Alabama on Monday afternoon and passed out over 30 Bibles at a Red Cross center. We left there

and travelled to Alabama Port and Herron Bay, Alabama and handed out a few Bibles at those two places. Along with the Bibles we passed along some tracts for the reading and study. After, staying Monday night in the home of Steve and Casey Graham and their children, we left and went to Pascagoula, Mississippi. We passed out all the remaining Bibles we had, (100+) in about 30 to 40 minutes. In each of these Bibles we included tracts and gave a contact number for the **Chico Road church** in Pascagoula. I hope to give a fuller and greater report to all of you later. Bobby Graham called on Thursday and asked if I could make another trip with him at the end of this week to pass out some more Bibles in Pascoagoula and Gulfport. The Lord willing, we will leave early on Thursday and return Friday evening. I appreciate each of you and your support and interest in this work and we continue to have an interest in your prayers that through these efforts that God will be glorified and many will learn God's will for their lives.

OUT OF TOWN: *The McConnells:* James Albert and Freda have been out of town this week on vacation... *Jerry Best* is away on vacation this week.

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 September 18th

Sunday:

Bible Classes 95
 Morning Worship 117
 Evening Worship 76

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 79

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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