

# 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 27th

#### **Bible Classes**

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 32)  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode

#### **Morning Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Mark McIntyre  
Serving ..... Jerry Best  
..... Rodney McCrary  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Closing Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

#### **Evening Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 33)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Lord's Supper  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

Volume IX

October 27, 2002

No. 43

## **Victory In Jesus**

**Robert F. Turner**

Respecting victory over physical hardships Paul wrote, "I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). He concluded a magnificent section of the Roman letter with, "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37f). Of final victory over sin and death he wrote, "Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). As most of our readers know, these are but a fraction of the scriptural attestations to Victory in Jesus.

The words, "Victory in Jesus," are readily accepted by all brethren. They are freely and honestly spoken and we must assume believed by all. Yet, they can easily be empty words, negated by much of our writing and preaching. In our zeal to tell others what they must do to be saved, the actions of the lost may overshadow the rote of the Savior. We may appear to exalt man's coming to Christ above the Christ who gives meaning to that coming. Erroneous doctrines of "unconditional election" and "faith only" have necessitated emphasis upon conditions of pardon – the need for obedience. We are painfully aware of the need to "fight the good fight," meet "soldier responsibilities," and "overcome" in our personal battles with Satan. But we must never forget: Victory in Jesus is a gift of God, neither merited nor bought by man.

This victory is according to "an eternal purpose" which God the Father purposed in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:11), "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). Foreknowing that man would sin, God's part of salvation was to give mankind a Savior, the very Son of God, who would pay the penalty for sin. All agree that salvation is "in Christ," although some might equate this with

church membership and miss its deeper significance. For others, emphasis upon conditions of pardon has become more “good news” than the Victory in Christ for which the conditions are given. I once asked a class of 30 brethren to write briefly “the plan of salvation” – and only two mentioned the crucified and resurrected Lord. Twenty-eight wrote something like “faith, repentance, confession, and baptism.” These are conditions, but not the means, nor the basic plan of salvation.

To appreciate victory in Jesus we must see ourselves for what we are: separated from Almighty God by our sins, facing justice in irrevocable judgment, “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you...” (Isaiah 59:2). Sin is the problem, the disease, the slaveholder. “All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The law of God is “holy, and just, and good” (Romans 7:12), but it classifies sins and makes them more apparent (Romans 3:20; 7:7-13). None are free of guilt on a law basis, for none have kept any law perfectly (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:10). Without mercy, we are without hope, lost, utterly undone. It is difficult for our self-sufficient and proud generation to see ourselves in this light. Like David, we may need a pointed “thou art the man” to open our eyes; but the remedy will not be applied until we are stripped of pride and throw ourselves upon His mercy (Matthew 16:24). In this sense all law “brings us to Christ” (Galatians 3:24). The candidate for salvation presents himself “Just as I am, without one plea; but that thy blood was shed for me.”

Victory in Christ is a promise of God. Implementing His eternal purpose, God promised Abraham: “in thee (thy seed) shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3). Paul identifies that seed as Christ (Galatians 3:16); and the promise became a central part of New Testament gospel preaching (Acts 2:39; 3:25f). The curse of law, its demand for perfection, was removed by Christ’s death in our stead (Isaiah 53; Galatians 3:13). “While we were yet

sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Because of His death, the heavenly Father can be both “just, and the justifier” of the believer, though he be less than perfect (Romans 3:26). The promise of Christ becomes a promise of forgiveness as taught so clearly in Paul’s sermon at Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:23,32-38). God has kept His promise and “their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 10:14-17).

With this understanding and attitude, coming to Christ takes on new meaning. Faith changes our heart (Acts 15:9). We recognize His holiness, and are ashamed; we see His mercy (verse 11), and gratefully reach out to Him. Our former life hangs heavily upon us, and we sorrowfully acknowledge it, turning from it. The penitent believer submits to baptism (a passive act): as one dead, being buried. We have denied self, and come to Christ for victory over sin (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Titus 3:4-7).

Now we live for Christ, or, as Paul puts it, “Christ liveth in me” (Galatians 2:20). The “new creature” is perfected as we press toward the mark in keeping with the “mind of Christ” (Philippians 2:5f; 3:9-15). Our faith in the resurrected Lord removes the fear of physical death and our confidence in His advocacy brings us boldly to God’s throne (Hebrews 4:14f). Well might we say, “Oh death where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:55f).

~via *Gospel Observer*, Denham Springs, Louisiana.



### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

# Internal Conflict

Glen Young

The way brothers and sisters interact is a phenomenon that is fascinating. Siblings will fuss and fight with one another. However, if one becomes the target of an outsider's bullying, the siblings unite.

I grew up the eldest of five children. I am sure an outsider would think we did not like each other. Hardly a day went by that there was not a busted lip, a bloody nose, a knot on the head, a black eye, a chipped tooth, and bruises of various sizes administered by one's own sibling. Nevertheless, if a neighbor kid decided to pick on one of the siblings, they paid the price for their impudent act of war.

This phenomenon also occurs in the affairs of State. The past decade has seen the politics of our beloved Republic degenerate into vicious wrangling. It has been termed the politics of destruction. Political busted lips, bloody noses, black eyes, chipped teeth, and bruises have become the norm. The citizenry has lost faith with politics creating apathy for the election process. It now seems that a change has taken place. We are seeing cooperation. We are hearing words of agreement concerning the course of action our country should take being spoken by political rivals. What has brought about this change? A terrorist bully attacked our free Republic killing two thousand eight hundred and one of our fellow citizens.

The way that families and politicians treat one another is also seen among Christians. With no outside threat, local churches have a tendency to turn their attention inward. The atmosphere becomes tense and wrangling begins. The church at Corinth was a divided church. Paul addressed the problem by writing, "Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and (that) there be no divisions among you; but (that) ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For

it hath been signified unto me concerning you, my brethren, by them (that are of the household) of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I mean, that each one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos: and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized into the name of Paul" (1 Corinthians 1:10-13)?

I draw our attention to two things. First, biting and devouring one another is a fulfilling of the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:15-16). Secondly, Christianity is under constant attack from the devil (1 Peter 5:8). I am told that Luther Blackmon once said, when brethren get stirred up they are worse than a nest of West Texas rattle snakes. I am sad to say it, but brother Blackmon's maxim rings true. Though the cry is for doctrinal purity, I fear that conflicting personalities are the culprit. Did Paul's unyielding nature make him more correct than Peter or Apollos? Did Peter's personal friendship with Jesus make him more correct than Paul or Apollos? Did Apollos' eloquence make him more correct than Peter or Paul? The obvious answer is NO!

Today, we are not in jeopardy of losing our life for the cause of Christ. Nonetheless, the devil attacks us constantly. He uses every terroristic and cowardly means at his disposal. We are at war with him. We need to reprove, rebuke, and exhort our brethren when sin is present. We need to love the brethren in word and by our deeds (1 John 3:18). Do not wait for some tragedy to express loving deeds to your brethren.

~via *The Road Creek Bulletin*, Elkhorn City Kentucky

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Ronnie Phillips* had a doctors appointment on Friday with his back ... *Amber Hammond* has been sick this past week and has not been able to be at services... *Henry Trousedale* was sick and not able to be at

services Wednesday night...**Tisha Thomas** was not feeling well and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...**Faye Hammond** continues her rehabilitation at home .....**Melissa Martel** was able to be at Bible study following her surgery last week on her knee ...**Rodney and Angie McCrary** are both feeling better after being sick last weekend... Remember **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home ..**Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty** and **Aldeen Noles** are in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ..**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE:** As was announced last Sunday will be begin meeting tonight at 5:00. Please remember this and plan to be present this evening.

**NEW DIRECTORY:** The new directories are on the table in the vestibule. Be sure to pick-up your copy today. Please, let me know of any corrections that need to be made.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Eddie Hammond** in the passing of his grandmother, **Vona Cates**, this past week. Her funeral was Tuesday in Rogersville.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **Oakland church** in Limestone county will be having a gospel meeting this week through Friday night with services at 7:00 p.m. **Ken Leach from Phoenix, Arizona** will be the speaker in this meeting.

**OUT OF TOWN: The Coxes:** **Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I** are in Benton, Arkansas today. The Lord willing, I am to begin a meeting there today. We plan to be back on Friday evening.

**PREACHING TODAY:** **Randall Hammock** will be preaching this morning and **Claus Martel** will be preaching this evening in my absence. I appreciate them both filling in for me while I am away.

*Come join us as we study God's Word.*

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
 Evening Worship ..... 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Elders**

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 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

**Deacons**

Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
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