

# 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, November 10th

#### **Bible Classes**

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 37:1-22)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Jim Phillips

#### **Morning Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Jerry Dickey  
Serving ..... Jason White  
..... Ethan Pressnell  
..... Curtis Mosley  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

#### **Evening Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Claus Martel  
Bible Reading .... (Psalm 37:23-40)  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brian Word

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## **The Gospel Standard**

**Curtis Wubbena**

Have you ever taken the time to examine your life in light of God's precious word? Have you ever thought about using the Bible to accurately learn of your strengths and weaknesses? Jesus once set forth, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). If those things written in the New Testament are going to judge us, then shouldn't we take time to use the Gospel as our life's standard?

James writes in 1:21 of his letter to the twelve tribes of the Dispersion, "Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." There is a common tendency to quote this passage to everyone but ourselves. We need to understand that James wrote this to apply to individual Christians. Before we take this passage and others to those who are not in Christ, let's be sure we take it to ourselves. It is much too easy to let the scriptures apply to everybody on earth except ourselves. As a poet once wrote, "We need so often in this life this balancing set of scales, Thus seeing how much in us wins and how much in us fails; But before you judge another, just lay him on the shelf, It would be a splendid plan to take a walk around yourself." Only then does the standard of God do us good.

The apostle Paul was a great man of God; yet, he too had to take time for appraisal of self. That is what made him great! He was continually trying to make himself more like the Lord. "...I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected" (1 Corinthians 9:27). He kept himself enslaved to the Gospel. The literal meaning of buffet is to bruise. Maybe this explains why it seems that so many of us find it so difficult to study and apply the

Word to our personal lives. Truth sometimes really hurts!

The Gospel is our spiritual blueprint. What contractor would glance at the plans only once or twice while constructing a house? There must be a continual check against straying from the standard. What good are plans that are seldom used?

Brethren, let's be careful. It is imperative that our spiritual blueprint is followed. After all, what good are the best-laid plans if they are not used? "For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: for he beholdeth himself and goeth away, and forthwith forgetteth what manner of man he was"(James 1:23-24). The first application of a text must be to self. The wise man is the one who tries to use truth as the focal point for living. This truly means we must take time to study God's message. It also means we must apply it to our lives. "But he that looketh into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and so continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing" (James 1:25). Let's truly take time to use the Gospel as our standard!

~via *Gospel Observer* Denham Springs, Louisiana.



## **"Who Can Live With God?"**

**Jim Ward**

Psalms 15 asks two questions: "LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?" That is, who is fit company for God? The psalmist then sketches the character of such a person. One deft stroke reveals the godly man as one "who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the Lord" (v. 4, niv). This implies at least three points.

The most obvious one is that a righteous man hates evil and loves good. Psalm 97:10

commands, "You who love the LORD, hate evil!" David said that because he loved the law of God (Psalm 119:113, 163); he hated every false way (Psalm 119:104, 128).

Moving to the New Testament, Paul tells us that love "does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6). John has no doubt about the lineage of wicked men: "He who sins is of the devil... In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother" (1 John 3:8, 10).

The second point is that a righteous man must be able to distinguish between good and evil. Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Hebrews 5 notes that, while infants are not "acquainted with the teaching about righteousness" (v. 13), mature saints are those "who by constant use (of the teaching, jww) have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" (v. 14, niv).

The third point, which grows out of the first, is that one who has fellowship with God is impartial. He hates evil and loves good no matter where or in whom he finds them. He eschews double standards. Exodus 23 strongly illustrates this in forbidding both favor to the poor and injustice against them. Verse 3 says, "You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute," which verse 6 balances with, "You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute." Poverty is not the issue in deciding what is just, a principle which we honor in our culture by having justice wear a blindfold.

Leviticus 19:15 puts the matter even more succinctly: "You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor." Wisdom declares, "He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord" (Proverbs 17: 15;

see also Proverbs 24:23-25; 28:21).

Now before we assume that this truth applies only in a court of law, let's remember James 2: 1-4: "My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, 'You sit here in a good place,' and say to the poor man, 'You stand there,' or, 'Sit here at my footstool,' have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?"

To the contrary, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors' (James 2:8, 9).

How does God view sin? it's an abomination – in the rich or in the poor, in men as well as women, across all color lines, in me or in others. Name any double standard you can think of, and understand that God will not have it. To Him, sin is an abomination -period! A person who longs for God's companionship will come to see it in the same way. An abhorrence of our own sins will lead us to repentance, not to denial or excuses. The sins of others will call us to rescue them, some with compassion and others with fear (cf. Jude 22, 23). But one who aspires to fellowship with God will never be indifferent to sin, much less tolerate it. ~via *Castleton light*, Indianapolis, Indiana.



## Concerning Salvation

Bobby L. Graham

God wants you to be saved (John 3:16; 1:29). Unto that end He revealed through the

apostles and prophets the way of salvation that leads to heaven (Matthew 7:13-14). Are you walking in that way?

In order to enter that way, you must believe on the Christ as God's son. Ample evidence is provided in the New Testament to produce faith (John 20:30-31). The faith that pleases God and leads people to do whatever else God has for them to do comes about as a result of the study of the Word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 15:7). The books of men, nor creeds of men, can beget that begotten by the Word, so that the individual might also be willing to submit his will to the will of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

When the right kind of faith has been formed, then the person will desire, even as he is commanded, to repent. Repentance is required of all men everywhere (Acts 17:30). It is prompted by godly sorrow, sorrow that God's will has been violated (2 Corinthians 7:10). With this kind of motivation, you should have little difficulty in turning your back on sin and bringing forth fruits worthy of repentance (Acts 26:20).

True repentance is essential to both conversion and the holiness of life needed to please God. It involves a change of mind (will) so that sinful practices are put away (lying, fornication, adultery, profanity, indecent attire, envy, hate, etc.). The cessation of these practices are demanded by the meaning of the word "repent," encouraged by the goodness of God (Romans 2:4), and proved by the fruits of repentance. The unwillingness to the end such practices indicates that one has not been crucified with Christ: thus Christ does not live in that one (Galatians 2:20).

A penitent person will then be baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, as he is also commanded to do (Acts 2:38; 10:47). Salvation is promised to all who fear God and work righteousness complying with these terms of pardon (Mark 16:16; Acts 10:34-35).

~via *Topics for Thought*, Haleyville, Alabama.

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Ronnie Phillips* is scheduled to have surgery on his back this Monday in Florence...*Faye Hammond* continues at home doing rehabilitation ..*Mary Best* has not been feeling well this week...*Melissa Martel* has been sick this past week and unable to be at services... *Amber and Lakin Hammond* have both been sick this past week...*Sanda Martel* was not unble to be at Bible study Wednesday night due to not feeling well...*Dana, Morgan* and *Callie Grisham* have all been sick this past week...Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ...*Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* and *Aldeen Noles* are in the SunBridg 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.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the time for Communication Group two to meet. If you are in Group two, plan to meet with your group this evening.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Washington Avenue church* in Russellville is beginning a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday night. *Bobby Graham* will be the speaker in this meeting.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The McConnells: James and Freda* have been out of town this past week. Let's remember those that travel and are away from us.



Next Sunday evening at 5:00 will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Mark McIntyre will be directing the service. Make your plans to join as we sing songs of praise to God.

## 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

Michael Clemmons .... (256) 247-0836  
 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

### Deacons

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