

# 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 Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 3rd

### Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 35:1-18)

..... Daniel Clemmons

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

### Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons

Serving ..... Jim Phillips

..... James Albert McConnell

..... Corey Goode

Closing Prayer

..... Claus Martel

### Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading .... (Psalm 35:19-28)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

Closing Prayer

..... Jerry Best

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No. 44

## Examine Yourself

W. Frank Walton

*"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you unless indeed you fail the test?" (2 Corinthians 13:5).*

The unruly Corinthians had given the apostle Paul fits, while overlooking their own sins. Yet, Paul turns the tables on them that they must be more concerned with examining themselves than him. The objective test is if Jesus' personality is truly being formed within themselves. Failure would result in the tragic results of wasted life.

In 1 Corinthians 11:28, each Sunday at the Lord's Table is a commanded time for "a check up from the neck up." As I contemplate His great sacrifice for me at the Lord's Supper, I must look inside my mind to see if Jesus really means everything to me. I must examine my heart to see if I am honestly and openly living for Jesus as first in my life. Accurate self-examination is a key to spiritual self-development. No one else can do this for me. Self-awareness is when I stand apart from myself and evaluate myself as I really am. We are not helpless pawns of our environment or conditioning.

Yet, a completely candid self-examination may not be a pretty sight! There are 3 views of self: how I see myself, how others see me, and then how God sees me. Others may have only a partial view of me, or even a skewed one due to my self-serving desire to fake an image better than my true self. Or, I may rationalize and distort how I see myself to flatter and protect my fragile ego. This denial of my real, flawed self is being out of touch with reality. However, if I can honestly see myself more clearly, as God does, it is like I can begin a new and better life, as God intended me

to be. We need the courage to recognize that only “the poor in spirit” (those penitent sinners who see themselves as a holy God does) qualify for God’s kingdom (Matthew 5:3-4). “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way” (Psalm 139:23-24).

Candid self-examination can be a wake up call for the soul. This is illustrated by the intriguing story of a rich Swedish industrialist name Alfred. One morning in 1888, this inventor of dynamite was shocked to read his own obituary! The newspaper had made a simple but profound mistake. It was Alfred’s brother that had died, but the reporter had carelessly reported the death of the more famous but wrong brother. Instead of being enraged, Alfred became very sober and introspective. He saw himself as the world saw him, “The Dynamite King.” He was only seen as the great industrialist who had made an immense fortune as a death merchant. This, as far as the general public was concerned, was the entire meaning of Alfred’s life. As he read the obituary with horror, he resolved to make clear to the world the true purpose of his life. His personal ideals would be manifest through the final disposition of his fortune. The last will and testament of Alfred Nobel created the annual award called the “Nobel Peace Prize.” The turning point of his life came through seeing himself as he came across to others.

If someone accurately wrote your obituary, what would it say? What would your co-workers say about you? What would your children remember most about growing up around you? In marriage, I must ask myself, how would it be to be married to me? Am I demanding my spouse to do ALL the changing for us to have a better marriage? Although we will not be around to read our obituary, we can begin rewriting by starting today to examine and change myself by God’s Word.

First, I must use God’s Word as a mirror to see my authentic self, in order to improve my

personality (James 1:22-25). Second, it is most helpful to have a mature and gentle friend who will honestly help me evaluate my flaws and how I come across to others (Romans 15:4, Proverbs 27:6). Such loving honesty may hurt at first, but we can heal. We’ll be better for it. We can make the world a better place for Jesus’ sake, when we authentically make a better self.

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 2 No. 30



## Truth

Dee Bowman

Russell Lowell was well within the mark when he said,

*“Truth forever on the scaffold,  
Wrong forever on the throne,  
Yet that scaffold sways the future,  
and behind the dim unknown,  
Standeth God within the shadow,  
keeping watch over His own.”*

We live in a world where truth has no real definition, where right is relative, where good wears a strange garment, and where wrong is held out as beautiful. It’s a strange world indeed.

The world has no conscience in this age. Whatever one wants to do, he can do it just so long as it doesn’t do too much damage to someone else or – perish the thought – just so long as he doesn’t get caught. What is advertised is pleasure, what is aggrandized is joy, what is honored is popularity. It’s a strange world, this one.

Values are distorted, worth is demeaned, morals are debauched, and strangely, those who are supposed to be moral, those who are ostensibly the proponents for truth and piety, timidly look the other way, apparently feeling that if they don’t look too much, the evil won’t be as great. Or, worse still, who sneak a peek with

some strange reasoning that it's alright to sneak a peek with some strange reasoning that it's alright to sneak a peek as long no one is watching.

Relatively has set in with a vengeance. Truth is not definitive. It is relative to what we want to do. Principles suffer the damage of moral pollution and we stand by unconcerned. Standards are no longer strong enough to hold back temptation, and regulations are only applicable to those who are moral fanatics, and, if we are not careful, we – those proponents of truth – stand by unconcerned. We have constructed a method of moral tolerance that allows us to do whatever we want and still be free from any invasion of conscience. “The world had no conscientiousness of things not seen, no traffic with eternal, no dealing with the undying ages, no sense of God.” (G. Campbell Morgan)

Truth is either truth or it is not. Truth is neither relative nor is it tolerance of impiety; rather, it is objective, provable, reliable, and applicable. If not, we are miserable, wretched, and poor, for God will judge us by that which we cannot ascertain and condemn us by that which has no real meaning. If there is no truth, there is no God. If there is no truth, there is no true love, no real grace, no saving Jesus, no connection to the Eternal. If there is no truth, why bother?

God is truth. He is eternal, uncaused, and true in every aspect and by every standard of measurement. He never has offered to man some record of why and how He is, for he needs no vindication and he requires no proof. Nature declares Him (Psalm 19), salvation vindicates His existence (1 John 3:19-21). He is truth just because He is.

Jesus is the personification of truth (John 1:14). He is “full of grace and truth.” What He says is true and cannot be wrong because of Who He is (Matthew 22:16). His word is truth (John 17:17). He is true. His word is true. His way is true. He is discernible, because His word is ascertainable, His way is applicable. Truth is

by and through Him, He Is and He is true.

In a world where truth is indeed on the scaffold, where men regard what they say as being on a level with God, let us take a stand. Let us desist from being diffident or ashamed. Let us begin again to say – *out loud* – what we know to be true and right. Let us be those “who are of the truth,” those who will stand for right and make plea for the good, who will rescue the perishing and care for the dying, who will make time to tell the truth and who will make a life living it.

~via *Focus Magazine*, Vol. 6 No. 4

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## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Ronnie Phillips* had a myelogram done on Thursday and they determined that ha disc in his back is not getting spinal fluid as it should. This will require surgery at some point in the future ... *Jerry Best* had cataracts removed on Monday...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.

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

**NEW DIRECTORY:** I hope all of you got a copy of the new directory last Sunday. If you did not there are still some on the table in the vestibule. Please keep us informed of any changes

that need to be made.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **West Rogersville church** in Rogersville will be having a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday night. They will have their regular services today and Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. *Leon Mauldin* will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Helton Drive church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with service Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. *Jerry Accetura* will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Jackson Heights church** in Columbia, Tennessee will begin a meeting on Friday and it will continue through next Sunday with services Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. *Buddy Payne of Tampa, Florida* will be the speaker in this meeting.

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

**BENTON, ARKANSAS MEETING:** This past week I had the privilege of preaching in a gospel meeting for the **Highway 5 church** in *Benton Arkansas*. The meeting was very enjoyable and it was good to get to know the brethren there. *Boyce Barger* is the preacher for the church there. The meeting closed on Thursday and we arrived home about 8:00 p.m. on Friday night. We enjoyed staying with *Ray, Judy and Chase Williams* during the meeting and getting to visit with them throughout the week. I want to express my appreciate to *Randall Hammock* and *Claus Martel* for preaching for me and to *Michael Clemmons* for teaching my classes while I was away. We thoroughly enjoyed the meeting, but missed all of you.

**THE RECORD:** *Averages for October 2002*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 92  
Morning Worship ..... 108  
Evening Worship ..... 78

**Wednesday:**  
Bible Classes ..... 71

*Remember Our Evening Service at 5:00.*

### 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

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Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
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