

# 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](http://Anderson-church.org)

## Men Priviledged To Serve:

Sunday, December 22nd

### Bible Classes

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 54)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

### Morning Worship

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons  
Serving ..... Larry White  
..... Jim Phillips  
..... Jason White  
Closing Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

### Evening Worship

Song Leader  
..... Jim Phillips  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 55)  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Lord's Supper  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Closing Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre

Volume IX

December 22, 2002

No. 51

## The Need For Divine Authority

J. Mike Johnson

"By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?" These questions were asked of Jesus in the Jerusalem temple by certain chief priests and elders of the Jews (Matthew 21:23). Although not sincerely motivated, these questions bring out two principles. First, there is a need for authority in religion, and second, authority must come from one who has the right to grant it (Who gave thee this authority?). Jesus asked them this question (v. 25), "The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?" This establishes that there are only two sources of authority which are heaven and man. In our service to God, it is very important to understand the need for authority and where authority rests.

Actually, standards of authority are accepted in almost every realm and relationship. For example, in weights and measurements, we know that sixteen ounces equals a pound, twelve inches equals a foot, and three feet equals a yard. These standards are accepted in our country, and a great deal of confusion would exist if, suddenly, everyone had their own standard of weights and measurements.

There are different sources of authority today in religion. First, there is internal human authority. People who are guided by their own consciences, judgments, and feelings are being governed by this type of authority. A second area of authority is external human authority. Examples of this type of authority are customs, traditions, and human creeds. The third realm of authority is divine authority which has God as the originator, is centered in Christ, and is revealed in the Bible. This third source should be man's authority today.

Divine guidance is needed by man because man is not able to guide himself to heaven. Jeremiah 10:23 says, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." This is a very profound statement that we need to be reminded of often. It is God's Word which is able to guide us and save our souls. James 1:21 says, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The "perfect law of liberty" is to be our guide (James 1:25). There is no way that man can get to heaven by following his own council and the doctrines of men instead of the Bible. Doing so, he is doomed to failure.

Our life here on this earth can be compared to a journey. When Pharaoh asked Jacob how old he was, Jacob referred to his life as a pilgrimage (or sojourning NASB). Today, we are on a journey to heaven, thus, it is necessary that we follow God's divine "road map" to get there. Without God's Word, we cannot make it. Nothing that man comes up with can take the place of God's Word to show us the way.

Authority which originates with man causes strife and division; it produces denominationalism instead of the "one church" that we can read about in the Scriptures. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." People, even good people, will differ on things, therefore, we are in need of divine authority.

In John 17:17-21, Jesus prayed for unity among his followers. Paul, an inspired writer, told the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:10) that there should be no divisions among them, and they should be "...perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." How can this unity ever be achieved if we are following various man-made standards? All people following the one steady standard of God's Word is the only possible way that we can

be united as Christ desires.

Man is certainly in need of divine authority to guide him. Without God's guidance, we are helpless and doomed to failure.

~via *Seeking The Way*, Huntsville, Alabama



## *Appreciating Family*

Harold V. Comer

It is often easier to be upset at your family and blame them for many of life's trials and much of our personal unhappiness than it is to see the many reasons that we should appreciate our family.

Husbands are commanded by God to "honor" their wife (1 Peter 3:7). Wives are commanded to "reverence" their husband (Ephesians 5:33). Children are commanded to "honor" their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3). None of these can happen until we learn more about seeing their good points and fairly evaluating what our life would be like without them.

There are poor husbands, wives, parents and children, for sure. Yet there are far more relatives that see more bad in their family than is actually there. So many people see far less good than is actually there because they have not emphasized the importance of "appreciating family".

The Bible warns about the dangerous state of being without family love or "natural affection" in Romans 1:31 and 2 Timothy 3:3.

Family love is not automatic. It must be learned. It can begin when we take time to appreciate each family member.

Sure, you can list the faults and flaws of each relative. Family closeness exposes 90% of a person's worries, warts and sins. Yet how long

has it been since your made a long list of each family member's good points and the positive impact that they have had on your life?

### A Key Family Time

This time of year is a key "family time" With little appreciation and high expectations of what "they ought to be," it is easy for resentment and bitterness to increase in family holidays.

It is also possible that each of us can be humble, thoughtful and appreciative of family members around us. It is great during the holidays to stop and list the good points of each family member as well as the good things that we have learned from them.

Sometimes, it may even be a negative lesson. "I don't want to do that." "I don't want to end up like that." Yet that is better than creating bitterness and hatred and thereby suffering all of the stress that comes from these family poisons.

Take some time to pray about family members. Take some times to list their good points. List their good impact on you and what you have learned from them.

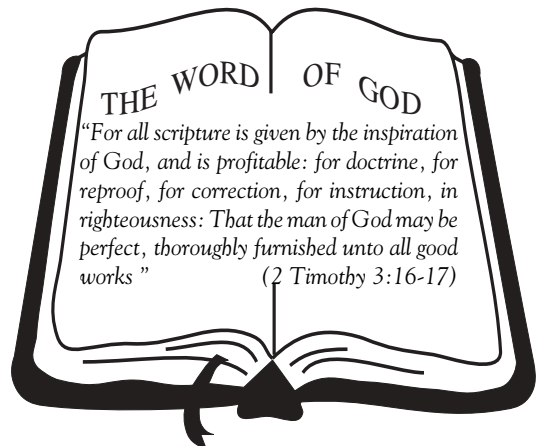
Tell them about your appreciation. Words can "glue" a family together. If you wait till they are perfect, you will never build the family bonds that God commands!

~via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.

Such direction would mean that all conscious decisions would be weighed carefully to see what kind of results they would produce. Hurtful words would never be spoken. Sinful behavior would never be practiced. Such things cause the world to blaspheme the worthy name of God.

However, God is still God and God is still awesome even if we are not the kind of people we ought to be — He does not change because we do not give Him the glory. "who shall not fear the, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest" (Revelation 15:4). Wrong behavior may cause others to speak evil of God but we are the ones who really lose when we fail to honor Him.

~via *Toward A Greater Faith*, Jonesboro, Arkansas.



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## "To The Glory of God"

Jim R. Everett

How different every life would be if everything were done with a view to glorifying God — every thought, every word, every action directed toward this one goal.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Ronnie Phillips* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going for rehabilitation during the week... *Sissy Clemmons* was able to

be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick last week...**Claus Martel** was found to have suffered a broken rib this past week...**Jim Phillips** was sick this past week and was unable to be at services ...**Morgan and Callie Grisham** have been theek and uanble to be at services ...**Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray,** is in the Beverly Healthcare in Florence following her stroke a couple of weeks ago ...**Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson,** is doing better after being hospitalized with pnuemonia this past week. She is scheduled to see a doctor concerning her bone cancer on tommorrow in Murfreesboro, Tennessee...**Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis,** has learned that he has cancer. Remember him in your prayers .... 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 four to meet. If you are in Group four, plan to meet with your group this evening.

**ANDERSON COMMUNICATOR:** Remember to pick-up a copy of the Anderson Communicator on the table in the vestibule.

**OUT OF TOWN: The Bests:** *Jerry and Mary* have been out of town this past week, but are now back home.



**Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

*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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