

# 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 29th

#### **Bible Classes**

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 57)  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Larry White

#### **Morning Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Jerry Dickey  
Serving ..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Curtis Mosley  
Closing Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons

#### **Evening Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 58)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jerry Best

Volume IX

December 29, 2002

No. 52

## **Do You Love The Lord?**

David A. Cox

If some people were asked the question, "Do you love the Lord?" most in our society would answer in the affirmative, "Yes!" Most people would claim to love the Lord and could recite reasons perhaps for their expressed love. Loving the Lord is good and right. It is not an option, it is a command. Jesus recalled the command, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Matthew 22:37). However, when one claims to love the Lord, what is meant? What is involved? What is expected?

### **What Is Meant?**

To many, love means to have an affection for, to admire, etc. But the command to love the Lord "with all thy heart", does not mean just an affection or a tendency of good will toward. Jesus is meaning by this that man is to love God with the total man, (the heart, soul and mind). A love that is the very best one has with the highest faculties of man's ability. The affections and desires of man who loves with his all will be fixed on God and his will. This kind of love will cause one to have a greater loyalty to God than anything else. God will not be pleased when His whole-hearted love toward man is returned half-hearted.

### **What Is Involved?**

As we have noted, more is involved in loving this way than just a mere warmth of gratitude. In 1 John 3, as John is writing about the need to love the brethren, makes the point that if you say you love your brother, but do not give him the things he needs, this is not love. John then says, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). John points out that our love for our brethren ought to be shown

and be evident. The same is just as true with our love for God. Many will say that they love God, but what do their lives show? Are they really doing the things God wants them to do in order to please Him? Remember God will only reward those that diligently seek to please Him (Hebrews 11:6).

### What Is Expected?

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus mentions a group of people that in their lives surely would have said they loved the Lord. “Not every one that saith unto Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23). Notice this group had worked and done many things in the name of the Lord. Surely, this group of people claimed that they loved the Lord. But Jesus made it clear that regardless of how much they may have done or how much they may have claimed to love the Lord, it was not pleasing to God because they had not done what the Lord desired. In John 14, Jesus told His disciples, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Here is the expectation of the love the Lord desires; it is being faithful to Him and doing what He has told us to do in His word.

Let us learn that we must truly love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind. May we learn that this involves more than a good feeling and outwardly saying “I love the Lord.” Let us confess our love for Him daily in the lives we live and in the things we do. Faithfully and diligently do the will of God in all things.

### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

## I’ve Sinned, What Now?

Aaron Beard

The following circumstance is one to which every person can relate. You are staring temptation in the face. Instead of fighting the devil, you give in, taking the “easy” but sinful way out. You realize what you have done and are faced with a decision, “I’ve sinned, what now?” The way you respond to this question has eternal consequences.

Today’s “modern” world is one of pride and arrogance. It is a world that teaches men to look out for self and then others, but only if it is convenient. Therefore, it is no surprise that man’s most frequent response upon realizing he has sinned is to try to conceal it from men. This may provide some temporary relief. You may hide sin from your family (both physical and spiritual), elders and even the preacher. It is possible that no one else on this earth knows your sin.

David, a man after God’s own heart, was faced with this very same decision. He committed adultery with Bathsheba and she soon found she was with child. Her husband was off in battle so David knew there was no way to cover this up. He then tried to get him to go home with his wife, but he refused (2 Samuel 11:6-9). David then tried getting him drunk and sending him home to his wife (2 Samuel 11:11-13). This did not work either. Running out of options, David sent him back to battle with orders to go to the front line — a sure death sentence (2 Samuel 11:14-15). This final plan worked just as David had hoped. He was sure no one knew.

The person who covers their sins from man’s eyes only may find some temporary relief, however, it is just that — temporary! 1 Timothy 5:24-25 says, “Some men’s sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and

those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.” Some may get away with concealing their sin from man, but one day those who seek this action will face the Righteous Judge. We must remember that God knows. David knew this and the fact that he was covering something up was devouring him emotionally and physically. Psalms 32 describes this well. David writes, “When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long.” One may be able to tell when a brother is eaten up with sin because his physical health, appearance, and attitude deteriorates.

There is an old quip that says, “Sin will take one further than he ever meant to go and cost one more than he ever meant to pay.” This statement is especially true when it comes to concealing sin. In doing so one’s pride takes over. Since he is ashamed and does not want anyone to know his weakness, he starts becoming hard hearted and unwilling to repent. The combination of shame and stubbornness starts working on them. He begins to quit showing support at different functions that Christians conduct. This individual is not present at singings, bible studies and dinners. It soon begins to affect their attendance at worship services. Before long they are no longer meeting with the saints. Others try what might be called “church hopping.” When their spiritual family discovers that the one has sin in his life and they begin to try and encourage him, he gets upset and moves to another church. There is a good possibility that this person will not stay at one local church for any length of time.

Christians never want to deal with their sins in this fashion. Christians, by their nature, are lovers of light. John writes, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare unto you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth” (1 John 1:5-6). Christians desire their sins to be brought out because they love truth and light

and hate deception and darkness. When a Christian stumbles he seeks those who he sinned against and corrects it as soon as possible (1 John 1:9). As David wrote after he corrected his sin with Bathsheba, “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” Forgiveness through the blood of Jesus is the only real way to cover one’s sins.

~via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*, Montgomery, Alabama.



## “Walking With The Wise”

Irvin Himmel

He that walketh with the wise shall be wise” (Proverbs 13:20). It takes more than being casually acquainted with a few wise men to become wise like them. It also takes more than just talking with them to become wise. To take on the wisdom of the wise one must be completely absorbed in what they say and do.

The wise project the fear of God in their lives. They make practical application of knowledge. They are skilled in the art of living. They discriminate between good and evil. They keep the precepts of the Lord. The psalmist said, “I am a companion of all that fear thee, and of them that keep the precepts of the Lord” (Proverbs 119:63).

To walk with the wise is to have habitual and close friendship with them. The man who walks with wiser men than himself imbibes their thoughts, and those thoughts become part of himself. As the health of the body depends upon the kind of food which it receives, so the health of the mind depends on the character of the thoughts it receives and its power of making them its own. Good habits are learned by constant association with good and righteous people.

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

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Jean Ray* has been sick this past week a with a severe cold/cough and has been unable to be at services...*Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence, room 261...*Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going for rehabilitation during the week...*Kerry Cox* was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night due being down with her back...*Ronnie Phillips* was sick this past Wednesday night and was unable to be at services ... *Sadie and Luke McIntyre* were unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Zack and Jacob Rogers* were sick and unable to be at services last week...*Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, went to the doctor this past Monday in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and had several tests done and is awaiting the results... *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.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Lou Helms* and *all the family* in the passing of Lou's mother, *Louease Thomas*, last night. Her funeral will be Tuesday afternoon at McConnell Funeral Home in Athens.

**VOLUME 9 ENDS:** With this issue volume 9 of the Gospel Power closes. I appreciate the many encouraging comments that I have received from many of you this past year concerning this work. I appreciate *Kerry Cox* helping to proof-read of the bulletin each week and *Marcia Cooper* for addressing and mailing the bulletin each week. They are a big help to me. I hope and trust that only good is being done through the bulletin and if you ever have any questions or comments, I would be glad to receive them.

## 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  
 Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
 Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988

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