

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.*

Volume IX

December 8, 2002

No. 49

Anderson
church of Christ
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
Anderson-church.org

Men Priviledged To Serve:

Sunday, December 8th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading (Psalm 48)
..... Larry White
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Mark McIntyre
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper/Collection
Presiding Rocky Rose
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Curtis Mosley
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading (Psalm 49)
..... Jimmy Glass
Prayer
..... Claus Martel
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
Closing Prayer
..... Scottie Goode

Love Finds A Way

Sewell Hall

All Christians want to bring the lost to Christ. But each of us has some handicap which causes us to feel limited in our ability to do so. It may be a weakness of knowledge or difficulty in expressing ourselves. Perhaps it is a personality deficiency or even a lack of transportation. Whatever it may be, we tend to feel that it excuses us from responsibility. Actually, our most debilitating handicap is a lack of zeal. Once zeal is stirred, love will find a way to overcome all obstacles.

Take June McNeese as an example. Just 4 years ago, June held a responsible position with a Tennessee-based company which manufactured automobile hoses. She was, however, experiencing considerable throat trouble and the problem grew steadily worse, slurring her speech, until she could no longer function in the office. Doctors discovered that she had dreaded Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more popularly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Rapidly it began affecting the other parts of her body until all of her limbs were paralyzed.

Her speech continued to deteriorate until now only a constant companion can understand anything she says, and then only when she uses the simplest of words. Often she must spell out very slowly what she is trying to say. Meanwhile, her sparkling eyes and the few words she is able to get across reveal a mind that is still keen and active.

If ever anyone would be excused from "personal evangelism" it would be June. Without use of her lower limbs she cannot go on her own. Without her arms and hands she cannot write. And with her damaged speech mechanism she cannot talk. But June

does not look for an excuse. She looks for a way.

When a nurse was employed, one stipulation was that she would take June to worship just as long as possible. Patti, the nurse who was chosen, found the services strange and the sermons very different from what she was accustomed to in her own religious experience. Soon she was asking questions which June found very difficult to answer with the communication problem. To add to the frustration, Patti could never seem to remember her questions when Joe Olson, a gospel preacher, came to visit.

Somehow June had to find a way to get those questions answered, either by herself or by Joe. But all she had to work with were her neck muscles. Then an idea! An electric typewriter! One was borrowed to see if she could use it. Her father cut a wooden dowel rod and placed a rubber tip on one end. Placing the other end of the rod between her teeth, June happily began typing some answers for Patti and typing questions for Joe when he came.

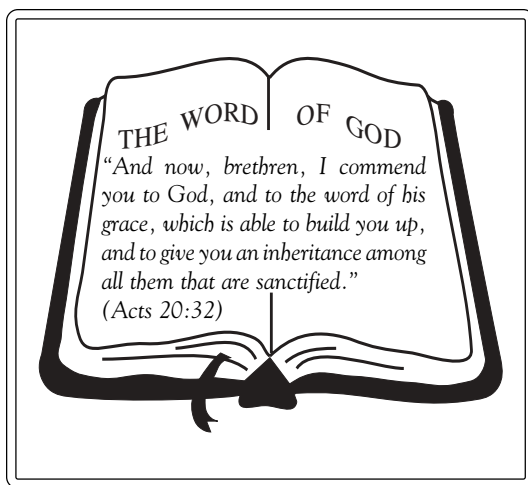
Patti was not easily converted. She had already changed religion once and she wanted to be sure this time. But little by little the truth, adorned by the life of her cheerful patient, did its work. Patti was baptized into Christ.

Patti is not her only convert. A Christian couple who were in error visited her on occasions. She loved them and longed to see them come closer to the truth. She successfully used her limited opportunities to teach them "the way of the Lord more perfectly." There are many others whom she hopes to reach before her time runs out. The limited life-expectancy characteristic of those with her disease makes her constantly aware, as Jesus was, that she is approaching a night "when no man can work." This lends urgency to her efforts.

Perhaps all of us would be more zealous and more diligent if we could only realize how short is the time each of us has to accomplish whatever is to be accomplished in this life. I visited June recently in her Tennessee home. I

did not understand a single word she said. But, at her usual speed of 5 words a minute, she typed a message for me, perfectly capitalized and indented. "Dear brother Hall, I am very glad you could come to see me this afternoon."

~via *Gospel Observer*, Ashland, Kentucky



Am I Ready?

W. Frank Walton

Zachary Taylor, Commanding General and U.S. 12th President (1849-50), was known as "Old Rough and Ready." He lies buried in Louisville, Kentucky.

"You, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober....But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1

Thessalonians 5:4-10).

Zachary Taylor was a commanding U.S. General and the 12th President of the United States. As a soldier and general, he was known as “Old Rough and Ready.” History remembers him thus: “Taylor had no formal education but plenty of frontier common sense...‘General Taylor’s battles were not distinguished for brilliant military maneuvers, but in all he seems to have conquered by the exercise of a sober and steady judgment’ – Abraham Lincoln...His last words were ‘I am prepared. I have endeavored to do my duty’” (To the Best of My Ability, p. 96,94). This reflects the readiness the Apostle Paul teaches for the Christian as a faithful soldier of Christ.

Christians, in armor like a Roman legionnaire, must be alert soldiers at their post of duty. This world is not a playground but a battleground for the souls of men. We are not to waste time speculating when He will come, for this is not revealed. God has hidden the time of His return so we will be in suspense and alert. We must be focused on being ready for whenever He returns. Through faith in Christ, we know how the war of the worlds will end. We must gird ourselves with spiritual virtue and remain on active duty to be on the winning side. Jesus will return suddenly, at any moment, so we must be ready. Today may be our last. If not careful, we can become lax, drift away from God, and lose our salvation (Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 2:1; James 5:19-20; Revelation 2:4-5, 3:1-3).

What is life all about? It is about getting ready. The record of our lives is written day by day, with thoughts we think and the deeds we do. When we face the Lord at the end of the way, what will our story say? This mortal life is to prepare us for the next eternal one. At our funeral, what will be said? What would we like to be said?

It is within our power today to record the virtues of faith, hope and love in our lives. If I knew Christ would return within the next 24

hours, how would I live? We would be incredibly focused spiritually! With fervent faith in God, Christ-like love toward others, and eager hope in the future home of heaven, our duty is clear until Christ returns. He wants us to fight the good fight for Him, so we’re fitted to live with Him in eternal fellowship.

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 2 No. 35



Remember our song service will be next Sunday evening, December 15th, at 5:00. Phil Pressnell will be directing the service. Make your plans to join as we sing songs of praise to God.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Jean Ray* has been week for over a week with a serve cough/cold...*Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going for rehabilitation during the week ...*Claus Martel* has been sick this past week with brochitis/pnuemonia and is doing some better ...*Luke and Sadie McIntyre* have both been sick this past week ... *Sanda Martel* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Buffy and Ella Wallen* were both sick andnot able to be at services last week...*Tisha Thomas’ mother, Shelia Johnson*, has been diagnosed with bone cancer and is to go to the

doctor on Dec. 20th..**Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis**, has learned that he has cancer. Remember him in your prayers ... **James Albert and Freda McConnell's daughter-in-law, Karen McConnell**, has had some problems as of late in her pregnancy. Remember her 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 two to meet. If you are in Group two, plan to meet with your group this evening.

NEW BABY: We want to congratulate **Brian and Lisa Word** on the birth of their new baby daughter this past Tuesday night. *Olivia Grace* was born at 9:52 p.m. and weighed 8 lbs and 11 ozs. She is now at home with her parents and her big brothers, *Michael and Corey*. May the Lord richly bless them.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Isbell church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Bill Hall of Rogersville* will be the speaker in this meeting. The services will begin Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Remember:



- What?** Young Adult Home Bible Study
- When?** Sunday, December 15th following our evening service.
- Where?** At the home of Mark & Suzette McIntyre
- Subject?** The Lord's Supper

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

- 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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