

# 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, January 6th

### Bible Classes

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (Eph. 2:1-22)  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

### Morning Worship

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Mark Intyre  
Serving ..... Ray Tucker  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Jason White  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

### Evening Worship

Song Leader  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Bible Reading ..... (Eph. 3:1-21)  
..... Eddie Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Scottie Goode  
Lord's Supper  
..... Rocky Rose  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

Volume IX

January 6, 2002

No. 1

## Time Is Swiftly Passing

David A. Cox

This past week we entered a new year. The year 2002. As we enter the new year I am reminded of the old song we sometimes sing that says, *"Swiftly were turning life's daily pages,  
Swiftly the hours are changing to years.*

Indeed, life is passing by quickly and the year that is past is a memory now and forever. As we think of the past year, let each of us ask ourselves the question in the song, "How are we using God's golden moments? Shall we reap glory or shall we reap tears?" The question is sobering, but true. Each day our lives are spent either being what God desires us to be or being what the world would have us to be.

### Draw Closer To God

This past year some have drawn themselves closer to God. They have made the decision to stand up and be counted among God people. But one may ask, "How can I be drawn closer to God?"

1. To draw closer to God, one must **give more time to God in prayer**. Jesus taught that "men ought always to pray" (Luke 18:1). Prayer does not just happen. Each one must determine to make the effort and to take the time to pray. As one prays he is then drawn closer to God. Prayer is absolutely essential if one is to remain close to God.

2. Drawing closer to God will require that one **spend time reading and studying the word of God**. Getting to know the mind of our Father in heaven will help us to be more like Him. The world will not give us this standard, but the word of God gives us the standard and reveals the mind of God to us (John 12:48; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16). When one is drawn closer to God, then necessary virtues will be added to our lives (2 Peter 1:5-7) and

these qualities will replace the problems that hinder spiritual growth such as selfishness, worldliness and a lack of commitment.

### **Becoming More Like The World**

This past year some have not drawn closer to God and are not living and using the golden moments granted to them in ways that God desires. Some have allow the world to begin to control their lives. They are now making decisions that are and will lead them away from God. This kind of living is summed up by Paul when he writes, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21). One that is drawn away from and is given over to the works of the flesh has a tragic future awaiting, if they are not awakened to the reality of it before it is too late (Hebrews 9:27).

Let us each resolve to draw closer to God and to encourage those around us to do the same. We shall only live for a brief period of time (James 4:14) and time is swiftly passing. Let us not misuse “God’s golden moments” and reap tears for eternity. Rather, let us use them diligently doing His will and enjoy the blessings for eternity.



### **“Have Faith In God”**-(Mark 11:22-24)

**Warren E. Berkley**

Jesus said, “have faith in God.” The scene was Jerusalem and the time a few days before His death. In the immediate context, He had (the day before) used a fig tree with “nothing but

leaves” to illustrate the barren state of Israel due to unbelief. He cursed that tree, and on the next day Peter commented on the withered tree. “So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘have faith in God,’” (Mark 11:22).

I am convinced, the next two verses in Mark eleven cannot be well understood or authentically applied – if we fail to tie them to these four simple words in verse 22: “have faith in God.” Let’s see how this works.

In the next verse the Lord said: “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says,” (Mark 11:23). Verse 23 is about the power of “faith in God.” A topic is announced in verse 22 (“faith in God”), then something is said about it in verse 23 and 24.

And it will be useful for us to keep in mind, this passage is not about faith in general; it is about “faith in God.” There are people in the world who have faith in the sense of self-confidence. There are people with faith in men (religious leaders, dead and alive). There are people with faith in various religious systems, human creeds or philosophical methods. Mark 11:22-24 is not about generic faith; it is about “faith in God.” We must let the Lord’s statement in verse 22 identify and limit the subject.

**Verse 23 should not be taken as a blanket promise or command to change terrain.** We have no record in the New Testament of an apostle, gifted Christian or believer changing terrain (moving mountains into the sea). Nor do we have any record of a camel literally passing through the eye of a needle. The language is designed to create a visual picture; as we re-create the picture in our minds – we are led to the point. In this case, the picture evokes images of great strength and power, and the point is: Peter and the other disciples would need this kind of faith (as opposed to the unbelief demonstrated by the withered tree).

L.A. Stauffer says it well: "Casting mountains into the sea is not a specific objective of the will of God or Christ, but does illustrate vividly and memorably the unlimited power of God when working through men who believe and doubt not (see James 1:5-8). That is all Jesus intended by this instruction," (Truth Commentaries, Mark, by L.A. Stauffer, p. 270).

There is something in this picture for us to contemplate. We can face and conquer great difficulties by faith in God. The challenges we face in life often seem like huge mountains we cannot climb and cannot cross. Deeply rooted, active faith in God is our strength to confront these mountains and move them out of the way.

This same contextual approach (the connection back to verse 22) ought to be used with verse 24: "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

The only way to spin this verse into a blank check to get anything you ask for, is to ignore the context. Remember, the topic is identified in verse 22: "have faith in God." I cannot use verse 24 for anything that would not harmonize with faith in God. Using prayer to get anything I want does not harmonize with faith in God (see James 4:3, 1 John 5:14,15). Within the realm of obedient faith in God and dependence upon His will, prayer is effective and yields good results.

When I think, live and pray by faith in God, I do not wither away like the barren fig tree; I grow and produce the fruit of faith, to the glory of God. Jesus said, "have faith in God." Do you?

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!" I was astray, Yet you never mentioned Him to me."

~via *Preceptor*, Vol. 50 No. 12.

### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

## What Has Become of Us

T. Doy Moyer

Daniel Webster once said, "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, and the people do not become religious, I do not know what is to become of us as a nation."

The founders of this nation tried to establish the United States upon principles from God word. Schools of the last century made the Bible part of their curriculum. Even most politicians were somewhat religious. Presidents unashamedly professed faith in God, and court decisions were always in favor of moral principles found in the Bible. What has become of this nation?

Atheists began to parade for their cause. Politicians succumbed to cries of humanists, schools quit teaching moral principles from the Bible, and now those who claim faith in the Bible are all but outlawed. As a result, we are reaping the harvest of atheism: immorality, violence, and wickedness of every kind. Take God out of the picture, and there is nothing for any people to stand on.

~via *The South End Expounder*, Louisville, Kentucky

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## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Millinea Word's brother, Paul McCafferty*, continues in the ECM Hospital in Florence in ICU and not doing well ... *Sanda Martel* was sick and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Billy and Buffy Wallen* have both been sick this past week...*Lakin Hammond* was also sick and

unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night...**T.J. Tucker** has been sick this past week with chicken pox...**Sadie McIntyre** was feeling better and able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick the first part of the week ..**Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey**, is in the Florence Comprehensive Care Rehabilitation ... Remember **Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode**, as he is taking treatments in Athens... **Kerry Cox's grandfather, Coy Lowman**, continues about the same at home ... **Millinea Word** is taking medication treatments ... **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out ...**Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, and **Aldeen Noles** are in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ..**Sheila Moore's mother-in-law, Laurene Whitehead**, is in the Athens Convalescent Center ..**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**OUT OF TOWN: The Mosleys:** *Curtis and Jamie* are in Tuscaloosa this weekend...**Todd and Christopher Rose** have been in Arkansas this past week.

**COOMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight is the night for Communication group one to meet. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group.

**THE RECORD:** *Averages for December 2001*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 82  
 Morning Worship ..... 100  
 Evening Worship ..... 68

**Wednesday:**  
 Bible Classes ..... 68



**Bible Questions?**

Do you have questions about the Bible? If so, please contacts us. We would be glad to study with you.

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 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  
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