

# 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

February 17, 2002

No. 7

Anderson  
church of Christ  
5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, Alabama

## Visit Us On The Web

Anderson-church.org

## Men Priviledged To Serve:

Sunday, February 17th

### Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Bible Reading ..... (Col. 3:18-25)

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

### Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Brian Word

Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding ..... Rocky Rose

Serving ..... Daniel Clemmons

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Corey Goode

Closing Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

### Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading ..... (Song Service)

..... Eddie Hammond

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Lord's Supper

..... Rocky Rose

Closing Prayer

..... Jerry Best

## Preach The Gospel

Darrell Hymel

If we are making an attempt to restore Christianity of New Testament times, we must not forget to imitate their methods of evangelism and making disciples. If the New Testament is a book authored by the Holy Spirit and, therefore, a book for all centuries, the ways that worked then, will also work now.

There is a simple, but yet, dynamic pattern laid out in the Scriptures that will guarantee our acceptance with God as laborers in the kingdom. Our first point to understand is this: our acceptance with God is not dependent upon the number of souls that are harvested, but whether we have planted seed. Paul was just as much a bond-slave of Christ at Athens, where the response was minimal, as he was at Ephesus where the "word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing" (Acts 19:20). We must sow the seed "in season and out of season," when it is convenient and when it is not, when dozens are being baptized and when there are none. How many times have we sowed some seed and then, when we do not see immediate results, we stop laboring steadfastly? How successful would a farmer be if he ceased his labor when he did not receive a harvest immediately after sowing? If we would learn how to measure success, we would not grow weary in well doing. Our job is to plant and water, not to give life. We can no more force a sinner to live, than we can force the green stalk out of the grain. Let us sow in faith, knowing that His word will not return unto Him void (Isaiah 55:11). The great success story of the church in the first century, which we are to imitate, is not that every person was converted – they were not – but that every creature heard the gospel story (Colossians 1:23; Acts 19:10). The key to successful Christian labor today is to "be steadfast,

immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

The success of Paul’s labors is outlined for us in Acts 14:21-23: “And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they believed.” To follow Paul in these five steps will insure God’s approval of our labor and most certainly will produce the same results.

If the results are not the same today, we can be sure that something in this plan is being left out. In my judgment, it is needless to talk about the last four points if we are failing to preach the gospel. Many times, the gospel is not preached as it should be by each Christian, simply because we don’t think it will work in the twentieth century like it did then. Maybe we think it was easier during a time of miracles. It is true that multitudes flocked after Jesus when He fed five thousand with a few loaves and fishes, but not very many were true disciples (John 6:66). Jesus made it plain that if men would not listen to the writing of Moses, they would not listen even if someone rose from the dead (Luke 16:31). We must comprehend that, in the first century, the gospel was God’s power to save, and we have the same gospel today. The power is the same, man is the same, and obstacles are the same. If the results are not the same, it is because we are not sowing.

When the Sanhedrin summoned Peter and John, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:18). If the apostles had obeyed that command, the resurrection of Jesus Christ would have had no power, the blood of Jesus would have been shed for naught, the eternal kingdom

of Jesus Christ would have died right there. No government official has given such a command today, yet the gospel remains locked in our buildings. We must become convinced of this cause-effect relationship: when first-century Christians taught the word, the number of disciples increased. Compare Acts 4:2 with 4:4; 5:25, 28, 42 with 6:1; and take note of 6:7.

Too often, when our hearts are moved to want to convert the lost, we want to “organize.” “Personal” work begins and ends with a “group” meeting at the building to discuss how to visit a cold, two-year-old list of names. Effective teaching of the gospel in the first century did not result from “grouping together,” but from being “scattered abroad” (Acts 8:1-5). We must stop emphasizing “how to,” and start emphasizing faith as the chief ingredient of successful soul winning. We need to have the same spirit of faith that was in the apostles: “We also believe, therefore also we speak” (2 Corinthians 3:13). As important as knowledge may be, it cannot replace the spirit of the Samaritan woman who, with limited knowledge, said, “Come see a man” (John 4:29), and many believed in Him because of the word of the woman (verse 39). The simple knowledge of the great need of salvation led Cornelius to “call together his relatives and close friends” (Acts 10:24). This is the way that works.

~via *Gospel Observer*, Avondale, Pennsylvania



## *Words Fitly Spoken*

Glen Young

The ability to communicate with words is the one gift from God which sets man apart. It gives man the proficiency for mastery of the earth. Without communicative skills, man could never have subdued the earth and dominated it.

Communication with words is also the means, which God has chosen to disseminate

the gospel. The apostles were told to go into the entire world and preach [teach] the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20). Paul tells us that faith comes to individuals through hearing the word (Romans 10:17). He had previously taught by asking rhetorical questions that one hears the word from the preacher (Romans 10:14). He also gave Timothy instruction to preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2).

The Christian's communication skills are to be used to edify one another (Ephesians 4:29). We accomplish this when we sing in the assembly of the church (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). This puts emphasis on the necessity of assembling ourselves together to provoke unto love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Having considered the potential importance of communication, we must also contemplate the responsibility to use this ability judiciously. If we are not careful how we speak, we will do more harm than good. This is especially true in our age of instant communication through such technology as e-mail.

Consider the case of the Illinois man who left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife, who was on a business trip, planned to meet him there the next day.

When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper, on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter, and his note was sent to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away the previous day.

When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a faint. At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen. "Dearest Wife, Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. P.S. Sure is hot down here!"

James' teaching on the tongue (James 3:1-10) informs us how destructive words can be. Not only do they destroy the hearer but also the one who fails to control his tongue. The idea that one has the right to 'speak his mind' when offended by another is a lie of the devil. Those who hurt others by their words will suffer the consequences of their action.

In teaching on the marriage relationship, I caution spouses about their words. Husbands and wives do not fight fair because they know the other's flaws. They can say things to the other spouse that wound deeply. Be careful what you say, it could destroy your marriage, destroy another person or even destroy you in Hell.

~via *The Road Creek Bulletin*, Elkhorn City, Kentucky.

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## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Millinea Word's brother, Paul McCafferty*, continues in the ECM Hospital in Florence in room 173...*Cindy Mosley* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night .. *James Albert McConnell's cousin, Sue Frazier*, continues in the ECM hospital room 272...*Eddie Hammond's grandmother, Ila Mae Terrell*, was released from the hospital at the end of the week and is at home ..*Billy Wallen's grandmother, Tex Hooie*, is home from the hospital ..*Amber Hammond* is doing better after suffering a fall and not being able to be with us this pastweek ..*Sam Noles* had oral surgery this past Wednesday .....*Janice Glass* was feeling better after being sick last weekend ..*Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey*, is now back at home ... Remember *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, has taken his treatments ... *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 ... **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 **Wanda Tucker and all the family** in the passing of Wanda's cousin, **Kathy Abernathy**, this past Monday.

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

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **Russellville church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday also with services each evening at 7:30. **Dennis Scoggins** will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Eastside church** in Red Bay is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. **Cecil Cox** will be the speaker in this meeting.

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY:** Remember that on March 3rd, **Claus Martel** will begin making pictures for our pictorial directory. Be sure to get with him to get your picture made.

**SONG PRACTICE:** Remember tonight we will be meeting at 5:15 for song practice. Come and encouragement our young boys as they develop their abilities in leading singing and as we learn to sing some songs that we are not as familiar with.



Tonight is the time for our regular scheduled song service. **Ronnie Phillips** will be directing the service. Make your plans to be present as we sing songs of glory and praise to God.

**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**

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 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

**Deacons**

Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
 Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
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