

# 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, March 3rd

### Bible Classes

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Bible Reading .... (1 Thess. 4:1-18)  
..... Eddie Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey

### Morning Worship

Song Leader  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Prayer  
..... Claus Martel  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Larry White  
Serving ..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Jason White  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

### Evening Worship

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading .... (1 Thess. 5:1-11)  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
..... Larry White  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brian Word

Volume IX

March 3, 2002

No. 9

## "One Thing Is Needful"

David A. Cox

If the question was asked, "What is the most needed thing in your life?" the responses would most likely be varied. In Luke 10:38-42, we read of an incident that occurred in the life of Christ, when He visited some of His dear friends in Bethany. The friends were Mary, Martha and Lazarus. During the visit of Jesus, Martha was doing everything to make Jesus' visit enjoyable. But as Martha was busy, her sister Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet and hearing the things He taught. In a moment of frustration at her sister's apparent lack of concern, Martha asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her in the serving she was doing. Jesus responded, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42). I want to focus on the statement here that Jesus made, "One thing is needful."

In life there are so many things that demand our attention. It may even seem that these things are of great importance and they may be. As in Martha's case the serving of her company was important, but she failed to realize that something else was of even greater importance. It may be that even in our own daily affairs of life that things such as work, school, etc. cloud out what is truly the most important thing. Jesus made it clear to Martha what the proper priority should be. It was the very thing that Mary had chosen. It was that "good part" Mary chose that Jesus compared to the "many things" that troubled Martha.

The "many things" in this passage refers to the temporal or physical things of this life and the "good part" deals with the heavenly or the eternal things which "shall not be taken away."

This an important lesson for us to learn that while we must attend to physical things, let us not become preoccupied and lose sight of the one thing that is needful.

Mary in choosing the “good part” had not lost sight of her priorities. She was absorbed with the spiritual and eternal things of God. Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Mary understood this and was not sidetracked by the physical things around her.

Let’s remember this great lesson that Mary teaches us and not neglect the things that will help us to build a spiritual and a close relationship with God. Let’s read and study our Bibles, feeding on the word of God daily. Let us be faithful in our attendance with the saints on every occasion possible. Go regularly in prayer and communicate with our Father in heaven. Remember our close relationship with God is the key to our enjoying the abundant life now (John 10:10) and the joys of heaven for eternity (John 14:1-3).

May we ever be aware that even though there are many good things that we may spend our time doing, we must put first the “one thing that is needful” if we are going to form an abiding relationship with our heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Let us give strict attention to hearing and heeding what the scriptures teach which will help us to grow in our relationship with Him.



## ***“In The Days of Noah”***

**Dan Richardson**

*“...that aforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is,*

*eight souls were saved through water”* (1 Peter 3:20). Please consider some matters the Bible teaches about the days of Noah.

**Many Were Wicked.** “And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented Jehovah that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart” (Genesis 6:5-8). Consider what this scripture says: 1) God saw man’s wickedness. God is not indifferent to the activities of man upon this earth. He sees us all individually and nothing escapes his eye: “And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:13). 2) Humanity was under law to God, or else they could not have been counted wicked: “...sin is not imputed when there is no law” (Romans 5:13). We are reminded that what makes man wicked/sinful is their transgression of divine law (1 John 3:4). 3) God views us with regard to our relationship with him. He observed most of humanity as wicked in Noah’s day, but, “Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah” (vs. 8). All would do well to examine their lives and see ourselves as God sees us (2 Corinthians 13:5). 4) God looks on the heart of man; it is here that sin against God or service to God begins. The heart is the inner man, the composite of intellect, will and emotions which make up who we are as individuals. “Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).

**God Gave Warning.** “By faith Noah, being warned of God concerning things not seen as yet, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house...” (Hebrews 11:7). Warnings are given to alert of oncoming danger, resulting from our choices and actions. Because of the reality of sin in our lives (Romans 3:23), God’s warnings are for our good, with the intent that we heed His word and escape the sorrows that sin causes now and in eternity (Galatians 6:7-8; Revelation 21:8). In

Noah's day, He warned concerning something not yet seen – a devastating flood brought upon a sinful world. God has given man many warnings so that we may, “live life and see good days” (cf. 1 Peter 3:10-12): 1) “Remember also thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come and the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, “I have no pleasure in them’ (Ecclesiastes 12:1). 2) “...fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). 3) “but I say unto you, that every one that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye causeth thee to stumble, pluck it out and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish and not thy whole body be cast into hell” (Matthew 5:28-29). 4) “Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God; he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son” (2 Jn. 9). God's warnings demand the proper response from man. If we make light of them, or neglect them in any way, it will be to our peril.

**God Was Longsuffering.** “...when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah” (1 Peter 3:20). God waited in the days of Noah and provided precious opportunities for man's obedience. In like manner, God's longsuffering today gives man opportunity to study God's word and obey. Unfortunately, many despise God's goodness toward this end (Romans 2:4; 2 Timothy 2:25-26; 2 Peter 3:3-9). But, those who have a penitent heart, seeking God's will for their lives, do “account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation” (2 Pet. 3:15), using their opportunities to the glory of God.

**Few Were Saved.** “...wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved through water” (1 Peter 3:20). Those who serve God are in the minority (Matthew 7:13-14). But, on a positive note,

Noah did save his family, an endeavor many Christians today fail to do. How were these eight people saved? 1) They were saved through God's grace - Noah found favor with Jehovah (Genesis 6:8). Grace is the unmerited (undeserving) favor of God. Divine grace has brought salvation to all in Jesus Christ (John 1:17), and has given us “the word of his grace” (Acts 20:32), so we may receive instruction unto salvation (Romans 1:16; Titus 2:11-12). 2) They were saved through faith. “By faith” Noah prepared an ark (Hebrew 11:7). Though Noah was surrounded by a wicked environment, he did not allow himself to be swept away by the tide of the “immoral majority” to become wicked himself. He moved with “godly fear” and he obeyed the pattern God gave him (Genesis 6:14-16, 22). His faith, therefore, was that trust and reverence for God which moved him to the proper response according to God's will. Such is characteristic of saving faith in every age. 3) They were saved through water. Noah and his family sought refuge by entering the ark, and the water that destroyed a wicked world was the means by which they escaped it – “eight souls were saved through water” (1 Peter 3:20). But salvation from sin today is likewise accomplished through water - the water of baptism, “which after a true likeness doth now save you...” (1 Peter 3:21). There is perhaps no clearer statement in the New Testament concerning the purpose of baptism than that found here. Does my faith in this verse – that baptism saves – in any way suggest that I am trusting in myself for salvation? Absolutely not! God saved Noah and his family through water but by his grace and through their faith in him. Likewise, to accept what the New Testament teaches about the essential nature of baptism does not negate faith in God, but rather affirms it because we are trusting in what God commands (Mk. 16:16; John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Eph. 5:26; Titus 3:5). Many stumble at God's command to be baptized and it has become as in Noah's day, the water that saves the few becomes the means whereby many perish.

~via **Search**, Bell City, Missouri.

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Millinea Word's brother, Paul McCafferty*, is now the SunBridge nursing home in Lawrenceburg... *Cindy Pressnell* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Willie Ridgeway* was sick and unable to be at services this past week...*Donna Rose* was not feeling well and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ...*Tisha Rogers* continues to have problems with her back...*Charles Glass* is sick this week with a virus...*Ronnie Phillips* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at services... *Kerry Cox's grandfather, Coy Lowman*, is now in the nursing home in Haleyville ... *Millinea Word* has been sick with Bronchitis this past week ... Remember *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 *Michael Clemmons* and all the family in the passing of Michael's uncle, *Billy Clemmons*, in Chicago this past week.

**GOSPEL MEETING** The *Westview church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services each evening Monday through Friday at 7:00. *Jeff May of Gardendale, Alabama* will be the speaker...The *Jackson Drive church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Lowell Sallee of Huntsville* will be the speaker in this meeting.

**THE RECORD:** *Averages for February 2002*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 81  
 Morning Worship ..... 100  
 Evening Worship ..... 69

**Wednesday:**  
 Bible Classes ..... 56

## 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  
 Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988

### Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox ..... (256) 247-1049  
 Office-(256) 247-5539  
 E-mail address: dacox@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Bulk Rate  
 Anderson, Alabama  
 Non-Profit  
 Permit #6

*Anderson church of Christ*  
 P.O. Box 66  
 Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested