

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

July 14, 2002

No. 28

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
Anderson-church.org

Men Priviledged To Serve:

Sunday, July 14th

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading (2Pet. 1:1-21)

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Phil Pressnell

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Mark McIntyre

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding Scottie Goode

Serving Phil Pressnell

..... Ethan Pressnell

..... Corey Goode

Closing Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading (2 Pet. 2:1-22)

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper

..... Scottie Goode

Closing Prayer

..... Brian Word

Terms For Unity

Jerry Fite

Do the Scriptures promote diversity of beliefs? Is religious division caused by a complicated Bible? Or, does God reveal one way, and set it forth for a common understanding? Before we drown in the sea of religious division with a cynicism that despairs of ever finding solid footing for a common ground, or out of desperation for some semblance of unity, we acquiesce to the erroneous theory of "Be sincere, and believe what you want" – let us examine God's word for the divine grounds for unity.

We Must Unite in God's Facts of Oneness

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). From the time that we heed the gospel call to the final reward of eternal life in heaven, God's people are surrounded with oneness. We have only one Father over us to whom we must submit. He has authorized only one Lord to serve. The Lord Jesus Christ is served by only one faith. Only one baptism brings all into fellowship in one body. Each member of the body longs for the one hope of heaven provided by the Lord. God did not create the many religious bodies which promote diverse and mostly contradictory faiths. They exist because man has not agreed to accept the facts, and be governed by God's oneness.

We Must Unite in Respecting God's Authoritative Word.

The revealed message of the gospel of Christ is the standard for faith, doctrine and practice. The gospel of Christ is the one faith. We must receive it, Galatians 1:8-9, 23. Our teaching and manner of life must be "according to" and "worthy of" the gospel

of Christ (1 Timothy 1:10-11; Philippians 1:27). Since God does not authorize any other message for our guidance today, we can unite by appealing to none other.

But we must make the appeal. How can Jesus be our **one** Lord when we do not honor all that He has enjoined, and follow His methods of doing His work? How can He be truly our one Lord if we add man's wisdom and teachings to what we practice religiously? By not adding to nor subtracting from the authoritative word we remain with God, and promote the unifying gospel, 2 John 9.

We Must Unite With a Pure Heart

When we preface our wherefores with, "That's old fashioned, it will not work today," "It's not fair," or "I deserve to be happy," and not with, "Thus saith the Lord," we will disrupt unity. It was not that the Corinthians could not be united in speech, will and purpose that caused division; it was because their hearts were contaminated with the desire to promote and praise men, 1 Corinthians 1:10-12. The solution was not to get a degree in "higher criticism," but rather "not to go beyond the things which are written" (1 Cor. 4:6). The "destructive heresies" of 2 Peter 2 was not a problem of intellect or an unintelligible gospel, but a problem of the will. Peter speaks of men who would desire to throw off the bonds of God's authority to serve self. Their hearts would be contaminated with a selfish desire to fulfill their lascivious lusts, and entangle others in corruption. The solution was not to present a more intelligible faith, but "contend earnestly for the faith which was once and for all delivered" (Jude 3).

For unity to exist, we must also keep our hearts free from jealousy that leads to faction, James 3:14. Only God knows how much division and faction has been blamed on a complicated Bible when the real culprit was a contaminated heart.

We Must Unite With a Loving Heart

God tells us to "put on love which is the

bond of perfectness" (Colossians 3:14). Striving to obey God's commands and consequently seeking the well-being of our neighbor is love. Such action will promote the peace of God.

Only a humble heart can love. The humble will love by foregoing liberties in deference to another's weak conscience. Only the humble heart can manifest "forbearing one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).

If we love God and seek the well-being of man, we will be quick to measure our teaching and practice by the infallible standard of God's word with those who disagree with us. We will recoil from impugning the motives of those with whom we disagree. That only creates divisive fall-out, and a further barrier to unity when the issue is settled.

Jesus prayed that believers would be one "in us," not with some contrived unity apart from the directives of the Father and Son (John 17:21). God commands unity, and has made it practical for us. We do not have to create a new platform for unity, for the divine terms are already given. Let us be a people "giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

~via *Christianity Magazine*; Vol. 6 No. 1



"Sabbath Made For Man"

Robert Turner

As Jesus' disciples walked through a grain field on the Sabbath, they plucked grain, rubbed the husk from it, and ate it. Jesus healed a man's withered hand on the Sabbath (Luke 6). The Pharisees had been looking for an accusation to bring against Him, and were furious when He said He was Lord also of the Sabbath – and went right ahead with His good work. Jesus could have claimed authority to act as He did (some think this is the explanation); while others see a justification of His actions on the basis of the

Pharisee's hypocrisy. I do not believe He argued their sin made His "sin" (?) Acceptable. But He did point out that Temple needs outweighed Sabbath laws (Matthew 12:5), and cited extreme hunger and human needs (in David's case) as outweighing other ceremonial rules (Mark 3:25-26). The key for all this may be Mark's citation of Jesus' saying, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 3:27).

Genuine submission to divine authority, obeying as best we can each detail, is a good thing highly recommended by our Lord (Matthew 23:23). This supposed violation of the Sabbath does not argue that man's subjective judgment of "good" can set aside the laws of God. At the same time, God is not worshiped with men's hands, "as though He needed any thing" (Acts 17:25). The details of worship and service are given for our benefit – are made for us, not we for them.

It is possible for us to reduce the kingdom of God to particulars; to "meat and drink" (Romans 14:17) or tithe of "mint and anise and cummin" while we omit the weightier matters. It is difficult for us to teach the importance of assembling to sing, pray, and partake of the Lord's Supper without becoming slaves to the acts per se, rather than to the God who is worshipped in these things.

I think Jesus did not lessen the importance of the Sabbath (to the Jew) but enhanced it, by making it a tool of God that could be used for man's greater good. "I will have mercy and not sacrifice" (Matthew 12:7), does not negate commands to sacrifice, but demands more of man than externals.

~via *Castleton Light*, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.



The Anderson
church of Christ
website at:

www.Anderson-church.org

On the Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The *Gospel Power* in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.
Recent Meeting with Bill Hall on-line.
Harold Comer's lessons from last Sunday on-line.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Faye Hammond* is in room 824 at Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville after suffering a stroke on Wednesday afternoon ...*Cindy Pressnell* is doing better following her gallbladder surgery this past Tuesday morning...*Ashley Goode's father, Robert Barringer*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ...*Tisha Thomas* is now able to be back with us following her surgery ...*Ronnie Phillips* has been sick this past week...*Freda McConnell* had some tests done this past week...*Ivy Wallen* has been sick this past week ... Remember *James McConnell's father, Albert McConnell*, as he is finishing his treatments ...*Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, continues at home taking his medication... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home...*Marcia Cooper* and *Brian Word's grandmother, Nola McCafferty*, and *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.

OUR VBS: We concluded our vacation Bible school this past Friday morning. It was a very good VBS with great attendance and interest. We averaged 82 each morning. We appreciate all of our teachers that taught during the week: *Marcia Cooper, Lisa Word, Marla Clemmons, Amber Hammond, Donna Rose, Sanda Martel, Kerry Cox, Sissy Clemmons and Scottie Goode.* We had over 75% that attended a majority of the week. I want to thank all of the teachers for their dedication and work, without it the VBS would have not been nearly what it was. Also, during the VBS we had different speakers in our adult class: *Cecil Cox; Collin Stringer; Warren Glass, Jr.; Matt Oglesby and Norm Webb, Sr.* The adult speakers all did an excellent job in discussing the theme "Daily Challenges From God". I would encourage anyone that was not able to attend to hear these men to let us know and we will be glad to provide you with tapes/CD's of the lessons.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The *Oakland church* in Limestone county is beginning a Vacation Bible School on Monday and it will continue through Friday with services each morning at 10:00.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: This week is Communication Group two's week to meet. If you are in group two, plan to participate with your group tonight.

LAST SUNDAY : Last Sunday, July 7th, *Harold Comer* of Florence was here preaching to us and spoke on about the importance of Bible Classes to the development and growth of the church. We appreciate his coming to be with us and the lessons he presented. If you would like a tape/CD of these lessons, please let us know.

THE RECORD: *Averages for Jan.-June 2002*

Sunday: Bible Classes 81
 Morning Worship 98
 Evening Worship 67
Wednesday: Bible Classes 64

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

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