

# 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, August 18th

#### **Bible Classes**

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 5)  
..... Scottie Goode  
Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons

#### **Morning Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Scottie Goode  
Serving ..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Closing Prayer  
..... James Word

#### **Evening Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 6)  
..... Jason White  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper  
..... Scottie Goode  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

Volume IX

August 18, 2002

No. 33

## **Non-Denominatinal Christians**

T. Doy Moyer

Religion seems so confusing. Look around the city and you'll see hundreds of church buildings with various names. Investigate further and you'll find that these various churches teach different doctrines. If you are like many people, you might be fed up with everything that is done in the name of religion. People are tired of the confusion. Which church is right? How does a person know what to do and where to do? It just seems hopeless sometimes.

The divisions that exist in the religious world do not represent what God wants, according to the Bible. Jesus prayed, concerning all believers: "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in you; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me" (John 17:21).

Jesus prayed for unity among believers. Therefore, when we see the divisions (denominations) that exist among those professing faith in Christ, then we know it is not what Jesus wants.

Sadly, the consequences of such division result in the world disbelieving in Jesus. This is what Jesus said would happen. It is no wonder that there is so much confusion and disbelief.

### **Is It Possible To Be Just A Christian Without Being a Member of a Denomination?**

The common thought is that if you are a member of any church, then you must be a member of a denomination. This is not true. It is possible to be just a Christian without being a member of a denomination.

Read the New Testament. During the first century A.D., when the events of the New Testament were taking place, there were not a bunch of various denominations. There were

Christians in various locations. In their own locations, they would meet with other Christians in order to carry out the work that God desired for them to do together. But when one became a Christian, he or she did not have to become anything else. A Christian was just that (Acts 11:26), and there is nothing in the Bible to support the idea of joining a denomination. In fact, God directly spoke against fragmenting off into various groups and identifying with certain creeds or men. By inspiration, the apostle Paul wrote:

“Now I plead with you, brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I am of Christ.’ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” ( 1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

Christians at Corinth were beginning to divide (denominate) themselves and call themselves after men. This was expressly forbidden. Why should we think it any different today?

Denominationalism is based upon division, and is therefore not what God designed. God designed a simple plan, wherein there would be “one body” (universally) and “one faith” (Ephesians 4:1-6). When we divide ourselves by men and doctrines into differing religious bodies with differing “faiths,” we are not honoring God’s plan for His people, the church. This is why we must oppose denominationalism.

### ***How Can I Be Just A Christian?***

You can be just a Christian, nothing more or less, by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ through faith (Romans 6:3-5, 17-18; 10:13-17; Hebrews 5:9; Galatians 3:26-27, etc.). By doing exactly what the people in the first century did to become exactly what they were Christians.

What did they do? The Scriptures teach that they were to believe on Jesus, repent of their sins, confess Him as Lord, and be baptized into His death (John 3:16; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4). If you do this, you too can be just a Christians.

~via *West Mobile Bulletin*, Mobile, Alabama



## ***“They” Versus “We”***

**Greg Gwin**

Historian Ken Burns makes an interesting observation about how people referred to our nation before and after the Civil War. Prior to the war, the normal expression was “The United States are...” We know that the Civil War was fought largely over the issue of States’ rights, and the current usage (“The United States is...”) reflects the outcome of the war and the resultant emphasis on the union of States.

Words mean things, and we see something similar in the way certain people refer to the church. Specifically, we hear some who refer to the local congregation as “they” or “them,” and others who speak of it as “we” or “us.”

Those who speak of the church as “they” or “them” are showing a certain detachment from the other members. These folks typically like to criticize and complain about what “they” are doing. And while such complainers are quick to find fault with “them”, they are very seldom found helping to resolve the problems. There is much discussion of what “they” did or didn’t do, but there is precious little activity on the part of the one doing the criticizing. We think these members would do well to read what Jesus taught about “beams” and “motes” (Matthew 7:3-5).

We’re thankful for those who consistently

refer to the local church as “we” or “us.” They show that they are a working part of the congregation, and are making a contribution to what is happening. And, while there will always be things that need to be changed and improved about “us,” these folks know that its important that “we” all do our part to accomplish this growth. After all, “we” are a *“body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth”* (Ephesians 4:16)..

Take this test: Do you refer to the church as “they/them,” or do you speak of “we/us”? The answer to that question will tell a lot about you and your heart.

~via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama



## Fools Mock At Sin

Frank Himmel

*“Fools mock at sin, but among the upright there is good will”* (Proverbs 14:9).

The book of Proverbs frequently refers to fools. None is more foolish than he who mocks at sin.

### Not A Joke

Sin is a violation of God’s law (1 John 3:4), either doing what He prohibits or leaving undone what he requires. Such violations are no laughing matter. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2); “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). That is true of any sin (James 2:10). If not forgiven, that separation will extend into eternal punishment (Romans 2:8-9). It is a universal problem (Romans 3:23).

Besides the eternal consequences of sin, it brings immediate problems as well. “Be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23).

Unhappiness, guilt, fear, damaged relationships, civil punishment, financial loss, disease, and even death are a few of sin’s immediate consequences. Sadly, sin is deceitful and has a hardening effect (Hebrews 3:13), too often leaving people blind to the source of these problems.

### Mocking Sin

to “mock” is to treat it with contempt or ridicule. Surely only a fool would make light of that which makes his life miserable and his eternity worse. Yet scoffing at sin is all too common. It occurs when...

**We joke about it.** Drunkenness, drug use, fornication, and divorce are common themes of comedians, especially when they occur in the lives of prominent people. Profanity is also usually past of the act. Coarse jesting is itself a sin (Ephesians 5:4), and laughing at sin in the process only makes it worse.

We minimize it. People tend to categorize sins as big and little, with more and more violations listed on the little side. While it is true that sins are not all equal in all ways, all condemn. Given that, there is no such thing as a little sin. And the fact that all have sinned in no way reduces the weight of my transgressions.

**We tolerate it.** A society mocks sin when it tolerates it. God complained of ancient Judah that they had no shame, “they did not even know how to blush” (Jeremiah 6:15). Churches, too mock sin when they claim to uphold God’s standard while turning their heads from the evils occurring among their members.

**We refuse to rectify it.** The NIV renders our text, “Fools mock at making amends for sin...” God’s view of the heinousness of sin is seen in the price He required for its remedy: the blood of His only begotten Son (Romans 3:24-36). When we refuse his offer, when we substitute token “acknowledgments” for genuine repentance, when we rationalize continued disobedience, we make the fatal mistake of mocking sin.

~via *The Manslick Road Speaker*, Louisville, Kentucky.

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Faye Hammond* continues in the HeathSouth Rehabilitation in Huntsville ...*Lou Helms* returned home yesterday after having surgery to remove the tumor from her lung on Monday ...Remember *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, continues at home taking his medication...*Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home...*Marcia Cooper* 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.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Hughes Road at Gooch Lane church* in Madison is beginning a meeting on Friday and it will continue through Sunday. *David Tant of Roswell, Georgia* will be the speaker in this meeting..

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Ashley Goode and all the family* in the passing of her father, *Robert Barringer*, late yesterday afternoon. His body will be at Spry in Rogersville with visitation from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. tonight.

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

**SONG PRACTICE:** This afternoon at 5:15 we will meet for our song practice. Our young boys will practice leading a song and we will sing some new songs that we are not as familiar with. I hope that as many as can will make their plans to be present to encourage these boys in their development.

## Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m. & Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

## 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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