

# 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, September 15th

#### **Bible Classes**

Song Leader  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Bible Reading .... (Psalm 18:20-30)  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips

#### **Morning Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons  
Serving ..... Mark McIntyre  
..... Corey Goode  
..... Jim Phillips  
Closing Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

#### **Evening Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Claus Martel  
Bible Reading .... (Psalm 18:31-50)  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Lord's Supper  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Closing Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

Volume IX

September 15, 2002

No. 37

## **It's A Miracle**

**Allen Dvorak**

"It's a miracle!" I have heard that expression more times than I care to remember. According to many, it is a miracle when someone survives a car crash. The car may be completely totaled and look like it would be impossible for anyone inside to survive. However, if someone does remain alive, "It's a miracle!" Many people believe that it is a miracle whenever someone is told by a doctor that they will never walk again, yet, after much rehabilitation, they take their first few steps. Some people even call childbirth "a miracle!" Apparently, miracles are very common occurrences.

One recent example of a "miraculous" experience is when the miners who spent over three days underground where not only rescued, but also alive and healthy. They had been working in a Pennsylvania mine when it flooded and trapped them. They were trapped more than 200 feet underground. After days of digging and drilling, rescuers finally made contact with them and pulled them out of the mine. I heard more than a few refer to the event as "a miracle."

Are all of the above mentioned events considered miracles? The answer is simply no. When we consider the miracles of the Bible, we see distinct differences compared to our "modern day miracles." For example, in Mark 2:1-12, Jesus heals a paralytic. The paralytic cannot walk and must be carried into the presence of Jesus. According to Mark's account, Jesus tells the paralytic to "arise, take up your bed, and go to your house" (v. 11). The paralytic immediately arose from his bed and left the building (v. 12).

There are two distinct characteristics to this miracle as well as to the rest of the miracles performed in the Bible. First, there is immediate action that takes place and it fully accomplishes the desired outcome. Second, the miracle cannot be explained by any natural law that we have. None of the “miracles” that we hear about today have these two characteristics.

I am overjoyed that the miners in Pennsylvania were rescued, but it was by natural means, not miraculous. I am sure that any of the rescuers would be happy to explain how difficult their work was. I am sure that any of the rescuers would be happy to explain how difficult their work was. I am sure they would testify to the fact that there was no immediate action; they spent days digging for the miners. Natural law fully explains how the miners were rescued just like it explains how babies are born.

We need to be careful about calling everyday events in life “miracles.” Childbirth is an amazing process that demonstrates God’s power, but it is not a miracle. Doctors continue to astound us as they come up with new cures and medicines. However, when a patient is healed, it’s not a miraculous event. When nine miners can survive for days trapped underground it “beats all of the odds,” yet it is not a miracle. We need to always give God the glory for these amazing events, but we must also realize that they are not miracles.

~via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.

## *I Believe In God*

Jim H. Deason

It shouldn’t come as a shock to you for me to say that I believe in God. After all, I am writing for a religious paper whose very foundation is rooted deeply in the belief that God exists. Nevertheless, sometimes I think that folks take faith in the existence of God for granted. Perhaps you haven’t examined the evidence nor thought through the questions.

In this article, I want to present to you the evidence for my own personal faith in God. I don’t have a Ph.D. I am not a scientist. Therefore, of necessity, the evidence that I am presenting to you is a common man’s approach.

**1. I believe in God because of the law of cause and effect.** The law of cause and effect affirms that every effect must have an adequate cause. We recognize this law every day in our lives. We come upon an accident and we asked, “What happened?” We look for a cause. Every material thing we see and everything that happens is an effect produced by some cause. This law is universal and absolute.

The Universe, in which we live – the sun, stars, planets, moon, the earth, and everything it contains – is a phenomenal effect. The question: What caused it? There is only one rational answer. Someone created the universe by some intelligent cause. This Someone, this intelligent cause, is Who I call God!

**2. I believe in God because of the law of design.** The law of design affirms that for every design there must be a designer. We recognize this law every day in our lives. You cannot have a poem without a poet; you cannot have a law without a lawgiver; you cannot have a painting without a painter; and you cannot have design without a designer. The Bible itself makes the argument for the existence of God for Hebrews 3:4 says, “For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.”

Since the Universe displays purposeful de-

## Gospel Meeting

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2

Leon Mauldin, Speaker  
Anderson church of Christ  
Highway 207  
Anderson, Alabama

sign, there must be a Designer. David said, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1). Can we reasonably be expected to believe that this design happened merely as an accident of atoms?

**3. I believe in God because of the moral nature of man.** Man is unique among all of the creatures of the earth in that we have a sense of right and wrong. We know the difference between good and bad conduct. From whence did this sense of what we ought or ought not to do come? Did it come from God or evolution? Reason demands that man's moral nature comes from a moral God who created man in His own image.

I understand that there is no empirical evidence for the existence of God – that is, I haven't **heard** His voice, I haven't **seen** His Person, and I haven't **touched** His face. However, the overwhelming evidence points to the fact that there is a God and that He is alive. Furthermore, one day we must stand before His throne in judgment!

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



## *The Wages of Sin*

Hal Hammons

Sin has its appeal; it's pointless to deny that. Satan has just the right approach for each individual, making it look like sin is preferable to obeying God. But is sin really so wonderful? Many Christians can look back at their lives before Jesus and marvel that they ever found gratification in the things of the flesh. They seem so shallow from their new perspective.

Paul appeals to the memories of his brethren in Romans 6:21 - "Therefore what benefit

were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed?" We might ask ourselves the same question: Just exactly did we get out of sin when it was our master? Disease? Addiction? Broken homes? Hangovers? Was any of it worth hanging on to? And if not, why do we give consideration to going back to it?

We work until the end of the day, and then we get our paycheck. If we like, we can serve sin. We can toil away in meaningless, self-destructive work all day, and then at the end we get our paycheck – death. What a waste. Then consider how we could spend that same day in service to God, deriving sanctification, true purpose, self-worth, and eventually eternal life (verse 23). Now that's a paycheck worth working for.

~via *Bible Viewpoints*, Katy, Texas.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Lou Helms* is at home and is doing better after the doctors changed her medication...*Faye Hammond* is at home from her rehabilitation ...*Willie Ridgeway* continues his recovery from his recent foot surgery ...*Wynell Ridgeway* is at home after spending a couple of days in the hospital this past week...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.

**SONG SERVICE:** Remember our song service will be this evening at 6:00. *Claus Martel* will

be directing the service. Let us all make our plans to be present for this service as we sing songs of praise to our heavenly father.

**SONG PRACTICE:** We will meet this afternoon at 5:15 for our song practice. Each of our young boys that would like to lead a song will lead one and we will sing some new songs or songs that we are not as familiar with. I hope that every who can will be present to encourage the development of our young boys in their leading of singing.

**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.

**OUT OF TOWN: *The McIntyres:*** Mark, Suzette, Sadie and Luke are away this morning as they return from being in Fayette yesterday.

**SINGING:** The *Carriger church* in Limestone county is having a singing this afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

**CENTERVIEW MEETING:** It was a privilege for me to be with the *Centerview church* in Russellville this past week in a gospel meeting. This is a church that my father preached for during my junior high and high school years. It was good to be with them and to see so many people at Centerview and from other congregations in Franklin county as well that have meant so much to the Cox family through the years. It was good to be able to spend time with preacher at Centerview, *George Hutto* and his wife *Carla* and to get to know them better. The meeting went well and one was baptized on Thursday following the meeting. I appreciate *Randall Hammock* and *Jonathan Keenon* for preaching for me and for *Michael Clemmons* for teaching my class.



**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

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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