

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

Men Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, November 30th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Proverbs 5)
..... Rocky Rose
Prayer
..... Claus Martel

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper Mark McIntyre
Serving Phil Pressnell
..... Ray Tucker
..... Aric Butler
..... Cutris Mosley
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Proverbs 6:1-19)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre
Lord's Supper
..... Mark McIntyre
..... Phil Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Volume X

November 30, 2003

No. 48

War Has Been Declared!

Mark W. White

War is terrible. Casualties take so many forms, with some being innocent people who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. The atrocities of war are nearly beyond belief. The old adage, "all is fair in war" has been played out time and again through the ages as people have suffered the ravages of warfare. Since the American Civil war, we have very little historical experience with war on our own turf, and no personal experience whatsoever with war in our own backyards. For Americans, war is always something we wage "over there." Our shores have been safe from the all-out bombardments which other societies have frequently experienced and for whom there is almost automatic acceptance that warfare is a fact of life. The carnage of dead bodies strewn about the shattered streets of our hometown is a picture we have not seen. Try to imagine your home a bombed-out shell. Picture in your mind your livestock slaughtered, your workplace destroyed and your way of life completely decimated. Visualize if you can the little children of your neighborhood with missing limbs, or raped, or perhaps dead. Most of us cannot even begin to imagine what it would be like to live in war-besieged places like Iraq, Croatia, or Palestine. There, human life is so poorly regarded that the leaders of these peoples do not mind spilling the blood of their own countrymen in what sometimes appears to be senseless, petty strife. Perhaps those of our own nation who have seen active combat know something the rest of us do not. War is not pretty, and those who glory in it are misguided. It is serious business, and armed conflict always produces loss from which neither the victor nor the conquered ever fully recovers.

If carnal warfare is merciless and horrific, how much more so the spiritual warfare in which Christians are engaged. Peter warns the

readers of his epistle to realize the seriousness of the struggle that they were making against immorality of all sorts. In fact, he uses several strong terms in 1 Peter 2:11 to impress the imagery upon the minds of first-century Christians, and also upon us. He wrote, "*Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.*" Since we are really living in a place which is not home to us, we must be careful lest we succumb to the alluring temptations of the flesh. Just as American travelers must not drink the water in some foreign lands no matter how sparkling, pure, and refreshing it may appear – even so Christians in the world must avoid the contaminants to our souls which come so attractively packaged. A Nigerian preacher-friend of mine learned this lesson in a severe way upon visiting the United States. The rich, fat, sweet diet of Americans proved to be intolerable for his bland stomach. Those southern pecan pies were so alluring, but eating an entire pie at once will sicken the best of Southerners, much less a Nigerian! Peter said we must "*abstain*" which literally means to "hold oneself constantly back from." Fleshly lusts are seductive, promising, and so palatable especially at the first. Solomon's wise instruction concerning the fleshly lust of alcohol is an appropriate illustration of the fact that it may be alluring at first, but "*in the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper*" (Proverbs 23:32).

These "fleshly lusts" of which Peter speaks "wage war against the soul." If a good military strategist never underestimates his enemy, then Christians must surely realize that lust is a serious deterrent to spirituality. Lusts of the flesh are insidious and powerful. They mean to win, not just tease and toy with the Christian's affections. Pornography entices and excites, then enslaves. Filthy speech is at first "cute" or "cool", but becomes a mindset reflecting a soiled heart. Adultery titillates the libido, but ultimately destroys the soul and even the body. Immodesty is at first "trendy" and "fashionable", but finally

lewd and lascivious. "It's a war out there," dear brothers. Arm yourselves with the Spirit's sword and shield and do battle for your spiritual self preservation.

- via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.



It's Just A Building

Monroe Pressnell

My house is just a building, but it's mine. I paid for it. The fact that it's mine is recorded at the local courthouse and all the neighbors know that it's mine. I may allow certain activities to go on at my house but because it's mine you must have my permission to conduct those activities in my house. You may not have activities in my house just because it's convenient or it's just the right size or because that's where lots of people would come for that kind of event. The key to what happens at my house is "who owns my house."

Many times when we question people about activities taking place in a church building, their reply is "it's just a building." Let me suggest that it is not just a building. That building was paid for by the Lord. The fact that it's the Lord's is recorded in heaven and all the people in the community knows that it belongs to the Lord. The Lord allows certain activities to go on in His building, but because it's His, we must have His permission to conduct those activities there. We cannot use His building for events just because it's the right size or because it's where lots of people would come for an event like that. We must have His permission to use His place. The key to what happens in the house of the Lord is who owns it. Other people cannot make those decisions for the owner.

We have just completed a new auditorium where I worship. We built that building because He gave us permission to (Hebrews 10:25). We

did not build a kitchen, game rooms, or a family life center, because the owner has not given us permission to do that. We will use this new building for activities that we have permission from the owner to do. We'll meet there to sing together (Ephesians 5:19), to pray together (Acts 2:46), to give (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), and to edify each other (1 Corinthians 14:3-4). We do this because the owner has given us permission to. But you say the building is not the church and I agree. Still the Lord's money purchased that building just like my money purchased my house. Don't you think that the Lord has the same rights about a building that he funded as I do for a building that I funded?

The Lord has given us instructions about what goes on in His building. To do other things there surely does not please Him. I wonder how many people who say in reference to the church building "it's just a building" feel the same way about the house that they own — would they allow activities in their house without their permission? Would they give the Lord as much respect as they demand? Think about it!



Borderline Christians

B. C. Goodpasture

There is story about a county superintendent of education who had three applications to fill one vacancy among the school bus drivers. He devised a scheme for selecting the proper driver.

He took the first applicant to a sharp curve on a steep grade along the road and asked, "How close can you drive the bus to the edge of the road on the curve without going over the cliff with the children?" The interested driver looked and replied, "I believe I can drive to within two inches

and still be safe."

The second person who had applied for the job heard the same proposition. He checked the curve and told the official, "I believe I can drive within one inch of the edge without going over the precipice."

When the superintendent took the third driver to the same highway scene and made a similar proposition to him, the applicant immediately asked, "Do you think I am crazy? I'm not interested in seeing how close I can get to the edge with the bus. I'll be trying to see how far I can keep away from the danger line with the bus!"

He got the job!

There is a borderline between the church and the world for the Christian. The church means "the called out" from the kingdom of sin (Colossians 1:13). John said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

One who seeks to stay just as near the world of sin as possible, and still follow Christ, has the wrong attitude. An individual, like the driver, should stay just as far from the danger zone as possible. Paul wrote, "Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).

-via North Parkway Edifier, Arab, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Amber Hammond* is now at home following her stay in the hospital and was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Myrtie Williams* continues at home ... *Curtis Mosley* was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend ... *Scottie Goode* went to the doctor this past Tuesday and is being treated for polymyalgia rheumatica...

Wynell Ridgeway is scheduled to have an arthrogram on Monday... **Jean Ray** continues to be sick and is at home, but not able to be out... **Jerry Best** was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night due to be problem with his vision. He scheduled to have surgery on Wednesday... **Hubert Goode** continues at home and is not doing well ... **Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis**, is not doing well at all in Ohio ... Remember **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home ... **Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty** who is at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ... **James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell**, continues at home... **Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, continues at home ... **Faye Hammond** continues at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... **Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray**, who is at home... **Janice Glass' grandmother, Emma Ray**, who is staying with family.

OUT OF TOWN: **June Calvert** is in North Carolina this week... **The Coxes: Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I** are in Tennessee this week on vacation... **The Words: Brian, Lisa, Michael, Corey and Olivia** are in Gatlinburg this week.

PREACHING TODAY: In my absence today, **Evan Lancaster** from the College View church in Florence will be speaking this morning. Tonight **Dan Bailey** will be here to preach for me. I appreciate Evan and Dan filling in for me while I am away.

TAPES/CD's & DVD's: Remember the church here is now making video recordings of all the sermons preached here. You can receive a DVD of any sermon that you wish. The cassette tapes and CD's are still available as well if any one would like a copy.

THE RECORD: *For The Week of November 23rd*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	106
	Morning Worship	116
	Evening Worship	88
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	75

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 5:00 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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