

# 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 Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 12th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 63)

..... Mark McIntyre

Prayer

..... Ronnie Phillips

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Jerry Dickey

Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons

..... Phil Pressnell

..... Ethan Pressnell

..... James Albert McConnell

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading ..... (Psalm 64)

..... Jimmy Glass

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

Closing Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Volume X

January 12, 2003

No. 2

## *Active Faith In Christ*

**Warren E. Berkley**

"And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as he gave us commandment" (1 John 3:23).

There is a popular and traditional religious teaching that promises salvation by faith alone; sometimes expressed as "faith only." Billy Graham and others in the Protestant denominational community have repeated this teaching over and over, leading some to accept it without actually checking what the Bible says. In the modern evangelical, denominational world salvation by "faith alone" is assumed, cherished and promoted by repetition.

The doctrine fails the test of Scripture. Briefly, here are four simple New Testament statements which contradict the "faith only" teaching:

1. Mark 16:16 - "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Jesus said this and it does not teach "faith only." Belief in Him must produce obedience to Him in baptism, in order to be saved.

2. Acts 2:38 - "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." Just look at what the apostle Peter said, without coloring your interpretation with creed or tradition. If you hear the gospel and repent but just neglect baptism, do you think you receive the remission of sins?

3. Acts 10:35 - "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." What if you fear Him but do nothing else; salvation by "fear only?" The fear (reverence for God) must lead to obedience, as you engage yourself in "works of righteousness." This response to the gospel brings you to divine

acceptance, because Jesus died for you.

4. James 2:14-26 - Read this entire passage, and don't miss this: "faith, by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (verse 17).

We can add 1 John 3:23 to the testimony of Scripture against "faith only" and in favor of active, obedient faith - both initially and after baptism. Notice, twice in the verse John uses the word "commandment." "This is his commandment," and "He gave us commandment." Every Bible student knows what God expects us to do with His commandments. His commandments are given for our obedient response - to govern and direct our behavior away from sin and into the light of God. Here is a verse about faith in Christ, believing on the name of the Son of God, and this belief is connected to commandments given by God. By what sort of "doctrinal leap" can we grab "believe" out of the verse, isolate it (faith only) and then tell people or imply that mental acceptance of Christ saves the sinner, before and apart from obedience? Well, the "doctrinal leap" amounts to leaving the text and building a human creedal formula.

Next, look into 1 John 3:23 once again - this time notice, whatever "believe" means in this verse, it is not a solitary condition. "... We should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment." Do you think faith minus love (that is, faith by itself) will bring salvation to the "believer?" Can one hear the message (the gospel), believe in Christ and not love, and be saved in spite of the absence of love? Belief and love are connected by John. We must not separate them. {Look at the verse previous to verse 23. "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight," 1 John 3:24. This is also the activity and obedience of faith, that affords us access to God in prayer. Not faith alone, but faith as expressed in our obedient response to God.}

The verse does not include every product of faith, but it shows that saving faith must be

productive of obedience to divine commandments, including love. Earlier John said: "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 John 2:3).

-via *Expository Files*, Vol. 9 No. 1



## *The Importance of Togetherness*

**Andy Deistekamp**

From the beginning of the church there was togetherness (Acts 2:42-47). Those who believed were together and had all things in common. Perhaps our abhorrence of communism has caused us to skim over these texts as irrelevant, but let us not confuse government-imposed sharing of the wealth with the voluntary spirit of brotherhood.

The Jerusalem church continued with one accord in the temple, and this togetherness even spilled over into house-to-house togetherness on a smaller scale. Brethren, for us to be an influence and encouragement to one another we need to spend time together.

Certainly in some churches the problems of sinful attitudes are so acute that some might question whether assembling is as valuable as I am making it out to be. The church in Corinth was coming together supposedly to eat the Lord's Supper, but their divisiveness and selfishness was making that impossible (1 Corinthians 11:17-21). In light of the problem, it would seem that the easiest solution would have been to just have everyone stay home. However, despite the negativity associated with their assembly, the solution that Paul offers is not to quit coming together (or to break into two assemblies), but to wait for one another (vs. 33). The Lord's Supper is the only congregational fellowship meal authorized, and churches are supposed to take it together. Apparently Paul thought being together was important.

Assembling together is something that we are

not supposed to neglect. It is an important forum in which to motivate one another to do what is right (Hebrews 10:23-25). Think about those who were reading this letter in the first century. Most are agreed that the motive for the letter seems to be to encourage Jewish Christians to remain faithful despite the strong pressures to return to Judaism.

These were very likely persecuted people. Persecution may have been one of the main reasons that people were neglecting to assemble. Assemblies, groups, and multitudes are much more conspicuous. Still, they were admonished not to forsake this important time together. Is persecution the reason why so many neglect their assembling with the church today? If our persecuted brethren of the first century were told not to forsake this important time together, and to do it all the more often, what would our twenty-first century brethren be told?

Our comfortable affluence has us convinced that we don't really need to spend time together. We are self-sufficient and "have need of nothing," (Revelation 3:17). It is just another way in which we are deceived by riches and become unfruitful (Mark 4:19). Don't be so proud of your independence, and don't put your trust in your self-sufficiency but in the living God who is the giver of all good things. "Be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (even your time), that you may "lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

-via *Think On These Things*, December 2002

## "Some Hindering Causes"

**Richie Thetford**

I have heard some say "I would get baptized but I just feel hindered right now". There are many outside factors that can hinder any person from doing all kinds of various duties and tasks. Where do these hindrances come from? Not from God. Paul tells the Galatians "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you" (Galatians 5:7-8). We find in 1 Thessalonians 2:18 that hindrances come from Satan as Paul was "thwarted" by Satan. One might ask "what are some of the hindrances that may cause me to be lost?" There are many hindrances that may cause one to be lost such as various temptations (Luke 8:13); lusts (Mark 4:19); unbelief (Hebrews 13:22); false teachers (Luke 11:52); pleasures of life (Luke 8:14); neglect (Hebrews 2:3); and the love of money, where Paul tells Timothy "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:10). All of these things can and will hinder one from four very important things. These are to obey the truth (Galatians 5:7), eternal salvation (Hebrews 2:3), winning the race for the Lord (Galatians 5:7), and entering into the kingdom of God for eternity (Luke 11:32). We should strive to not be hindered with the cares of this world because We can't afford it! Won't you strive now to live your life for the Lord and do His will.

-via *The Castleton Light*, Indianapolis, Indiana.



### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

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

### Remember:

- What?** Young Adult Home  
Bible Study
- When?** Sunday, January 19th  
following our evening service.
- Where?** At the home of  
David & Kerry Cox
- Subject?** Instrumental Music In Worship

# News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Jean Ray* has continued to be out due to sickness ... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home in Florence... *Aldeen Noles* is back at the SunBridge Nursing Home following her surgery this past Monday ... *Faye Hammond* continues at home and is going for rehabilitation during the week... *Luke McIntyre* has been sick this past week and unable to be at services... *Scottie and Robyn Goode* were sick this past Wednesday evening and not able to be at Bible study ... *Anber Hammond* was sick this past week and unable to be at services ... *Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, went to the doctor on Friday and is to return on Monday to have the growth in his throat trimmed. ... *Janice Glass' uncle, Fred Masonia*, continues in ECM in Florence in room 255 following surgery... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, has cancer and is being treated... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* ... *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.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Bests: Jerry and Mary* are out of town this weekend and will be back this week... *Cindy Pressnell* was out of town this past week in Washington with her work.

**AWAY:** This past Wednesday *Melissa Martel* left for Orlando, Florida to work an internship there. She will be gone until August. We will miss her and look forward to her return.

**THE RECORD:** *Average for Jan. – Dec. 2002*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 84  
 Morning Worship ..... 100  
 Evening Worship ..... 71

**Wednesday:**  
 Bible Classes ..... 68

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

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