

# 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, March 30th

##### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading .... (Psalm 89:38-52)

..... Aric Butler

Prayer

..... Claus Martel

##### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper/Collection

Presiding ..... Mark McIntyre

..... Larry White

..... Daniel Clemmons

..... Jason White

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

##### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading .....

..... No Reading - Meeting

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

Closing Prayer

..... Aric Butler

Volume X

March 30, 2003

No. 13

*Beginning Today*

# Gospel Meeting

## March 30 - April 4

(Sunday - Friday)

### Schedule of Services

**Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.**

**Monday - Friday: 7:30 p.m.**

Robert Harkrider, Speaker

Orlando, Florida

## *Anderson church of Christ*

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

# *Saved By The Grace of God*

David A. Cox

The fact that man is saved by the grace of God is one which there is almost unanimous agreement among those that regard the Bible as the word of God. In fact, it would be very difficult for one to find a person who would contend that people are not saved by the grace of God. However, there are vast differences among professed believers regarding how people are saved by grace.

## **What Is Grace?**

Grace is often defined as unmerited favor. It is a benefit bestowed upon one who does not deserve it. Those who need it can do nothing to merit it. If grace was given as a payment of debt or something one had earned it would not be grace.

## **We Are Saved By Grace**

The scriptures clearly teach that man is saved by grace. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Many will claim that we are saved "wholly of grace"; that it is God that saves us and that really there is nothing for us to do. But we must notice that is not what the passage says. Notice the passage says we are "saved by grace through faith." What part does faith have to do with our being saved by grace? Let us notice some examples where the Bible shows us what grace through faith means.

*The Case of Noah.* In Genesis 6 we read about the wickedness of man during the life of Noah. It was so wicked that God determined that He was going to destroy the earth. But in verse 8 we read, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Here God's grace was extended to Noah to save him from the destruction of the earth. Was it automatic? No. Was there nothing Noah was expected to do? No. The following verses in Genesis 6 tells of explicit instructions God gave Noah to do. The Hebrew writer says,

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen yet, moved with fear prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (Hebrews 11:7). Did Noah's obeying God command negate God's grace? No! Without the grace of God Noah would have perished in the flood as did those Noah preached to while building the ark.

*The Children of Israel.* In Numbers 21:4-9, we have the children of Israel after they have been led out of Egyptian bondage. They are murmuring and complaining. God sends fiery serpents and that bit the people and they began to die. God then tells Moses that he is to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole. The people were then to look upon that serpent of brass and they would be cured. Was God's grace extended to the children of Israel who were sure to die as a result of being bitten by the fiery serpents? Yes, most certainly. God did not owe them anything, but His grace extended to them a way to be saved. Did they have to do something? Yes. What if they had not looked on the serpent of brass on the pole, would they have lived? No. Was the power in the serpent of brass on the pole to cure them or was it the power of God? The power to cure them was in God. Indeed, we see again that God's grace was extended, but something was required to access that grace.

*Application.* We have looked at two examples where God's grace was extended, but something was required to access the grace. They were saved by grace through faith. Many more examples can be found in God's Word of God's grace being accessed through faith. Now what about our being saved from sins today? Should we assume that since we are saved by grace that there is nothing we can do or should do? Absolutely not. If we are saved by grace through faith today we will do what God has told us to do in His Word. We will: *Believe* (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24); *Repent* (Acts 2:38); *Confess* (Acts 8:37

Romans 10:10); *Be Baptized* (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38); *Live faithful to Him* (Revelation 2:10). Doing the things God commands us is not earning or meriting our salvation anymore than Moses and the children of Israel earned their salvation. But in our obedience, we access the grace of God through faith, by which we are saved. To God be the glory.



## Is There A Second Chance?

Robert Harkrider

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, where few, that is., eight souls were saved by water, the like figure whereunto even baptism doeth also now save us...” (1 Peter 3:18-21a, KJV).

The question has been asked, “Who were the spirits in prison” Christ preached to, and were they given a second chance?”

The New American Standard Version renders the nineteenth verse as “In whom also he went and made proclamation to the spirits *now* in prison...” Notice that the word “now” is italicized, indicating it was supplied by the translators to convey the complete thought. The people to whom Christ preached are now spirits in prison. At the time of the preaching they were alive in the flesh, but because of their disobedience they perished in the flood, and now, at the time Peter is writing, they are in a disembodied state and are under restraint as wicked beings. “In prison” is used several times

to denote the state or condition of those spirits which because of disobedience await condemnation at the last day. See 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6, Revelation 20:7.

Those who perished in the flood were given opportunity to be saved. In the spirit Christ preached unto them, i.e., God’s word was preached. Noah is called a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), and as he was moved by the Holy Spirit in his preaching he served as the Lord’s agent in making known the warning of impending destruction. God was longsuffering then even as he is now, “not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9). However, “by the same word” that brought destruction upon those who ignored the preaching of righteousness “the heavens and the earth, which are now ... are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7).

The Bible nowhere hints of anyone being given a second chance for salvation after death. Those who perished in the flood did not have one. The rich man was told that he could not be comforted by so little as a small drop of water on his tongue, for there was a great gulf fixed between him and righteous Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). We must use wisely the time we now have, for “it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). The judgment will be according to the things done “in the body” (2 Corinthians 5:10). The resurrection is pictured as a time of rewarding, not of a second chance. “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28-29).

~via *Gospel Guide*, Vol. 26, No. 9

### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

# News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Billy Haraway* is at home and is getting better. He continues treatments each Friday... *Janice Glass's grandmother, Emma Ray*, in the ECM hospital in Florence, room 180 ... *Jean Ray* has continued to make progress in her health... *Hubert Goode* has been some better this past week... *Lakin Hammond* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Faye Hammond* continues at home and continues her rehabilitation during the week... *Henry Trousdale* was sick this past Wednesday night and not able to be at Bible study ... *Eddie Hammond's cousin, Ricky Davis*, has cancer and is being treated ... Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home ... *Marla Clemmons's grandmother, Mildred Blackburn*, is in the Glenwood Nursing Home in Florence... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* who is at the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ... *Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is at home ... *Tisha Thomas's grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski ... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, who is at home.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Cindy Mosley and all the family* in the passing of Cindy's brother, *Tommy Haney*, this past Wednesday afternoon. His funeral was Friday in Athens.

**OUR MEETING:** Our spring gospel meeting is beginning today. *Robert Harkrider* will be preaching this week and I know that we all will benefit from the week in sthe studying of God's Word together. Bob will be preaching during our Bible class period and Morning worship period and again this evening at 7:30. We will be meeting each evening at 7:30 through Friday. Remember to tell others about the meeting and invite them to join us as we look to God's Word and its instruction to us.

## 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.

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