

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
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Men Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, November 28th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Isaiah 45:1-8)
..... Stephen Stewart
Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding Eddie J. Hammond
Assisting Brian Word
Serving Jim Phillips
..... Curtis Mosley
..... Daniel Clemmons
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Closing Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading (Isaiah: 45:9-17)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Aric Butler
Lord's Supper
..... Eddie J. Hammond
..... Brian Word
Closing Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Volume XI

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No. 47

A Progressive Problem

Bubba Garner

Life rarely works out according to your plans. You can spend weeks mapping out a course, carefully figuring in all of the twists and turns, but you always run into some unexpected obstacle that steers you off the road and right into the ditch. Sin is that way, too. When you make a conscious decision to sin and accept the consequences, you generally get a whole lot more than what you bargained for.

This is especially evident in the life of Samson, the 13th Judge of Israel. Although he had the strength to tear a lion apart with his bare hands and rip the city gates of Gaza out of the wall, Samson's reputation will forever be tarnished by his weakness for women. In Judges 16, he married a Philistine woman and transgressed the commandment of God that His people should not intermingle with foreign nations.

Sin always takes you further than you planned to go. "And it came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death" (Judges 16:16). Delilah's constant nagging caused him to reveal the source of his strength which eventually drove the Lord from his presence. That's what one sin can do; you take one step and before you know it, you've gone a mile. Few have a life ambition to be an alcoholic, but many find this their journey's end because of poor planning in taking the first drink.

Sin always keeps you longer than you intended to stay. "Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison" (Judges 16:21). Once mighty enough to kill a thousand men with the jawbone of a donkey, sin diminished

Samson to a helpless slave whom his enemies would call into their parties for amusement. The way of darkness offers pleasure, enjoyment, satisfaction, and freedom, but all it delivers is a life of bondage to sin.

Sin always costs you more than you wanted to pay. “And Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines!’ And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life” (Judges 16:30). Samson lost his hair, his strength, his dignity, and his life—all because of sin. What’s even worse is that many will lose their soul because they will have counted its seasonal pleasures as more important than an eternity with God. “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23); is it really worth it?

Thank God He has provided us with a solution to this progressive problem. “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Romans 13:14). It is only Jesus that can blunt the sting of sin and conquer the power of death, releasing us from its chains. And His cure is not some temporary fix that only covers the symptoms, He goes right to the source and eliminates it. The Lord always gives you more than you deserve to receive.

~via *Southside Sundays*; Pasadena, Texas.



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1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The **Gospel Power** in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
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All Things To All Men

Gardner Hall

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

“I have become all things to all men” (1 Corinthians 9:22).

How can these two verses be harmonized? The first emphasizes that Christians must have nothing to do with evil practices of the world. However, the second reminds us that in all matters that do not involve participation in sin, Christians must seek to avoid unnecessary clashes with prevailing customs.

Obedying both divine principles demands that one be balanced. While avoiding sinful conduct, it is essential to refrain from erecting needless barriers between ourselves and those in the world that we want to bring to the truth.

Paul’s Example. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). While among Gentiles, Paul could have dressed and talked as a Jew, thus accentuating the differences between his culture of birth and the prevailing Greek one. While in Jerusalem, he could have blatantly violated Jewish customs to exhibit his liberty for all to see. But such actions would have needlessly distanced himself from those he wanted to reach with the gospel. Therefore he adapted himself to the different cultures. He became a Jew to the Jews and a Gentile to the Gentiles. In doing so, he violated no divine laws while opening doors for the proclamation of the gospel.

Application To Foreign Evangelism. At times, it seems that American Christians think that the gospel is an American message supported by American money that produces Americanized Christians who always submit to American suggestions and ideas. Such attitudes contrast di

rectly with Paul's efforts to become all things to all men. The word "evangelize" is not synonymous with "Americanize." Great quantities of stateside money and ideas often impede foreign evangelism rather than help it by establishing an American imprint on the gospel instead of allowing it to be "all things to all men."

Christians from the United States who have been most effective in establishing independent churches of God in foreign countries have taken it easy with the distribution of money and ideas from the States. Though they are not ashamed of their nationality (which is obvious to all), they have been careful to emphasize the independence that the Bible teaches and that the local churches that are established should not learn to depend on others for buildings, support of preachers and resources for the work in general.

Being "all things to all men" in foreign evangelism also requires doing all that is possible to live like the people in the country where one is working. Though it is often impossible to live exactly like the masses, especially in underdeveloped countries, it is sometimes necessary to do without common appliances, automobiles and conveniences. Sometimes it requires eating unpalatable foods and getting sick or biting one's tongue upon hearing some ridiculous nationalistic statement. I thank God for the few brethren who are willing to live overseas and daily make hundreds of sacrifices that are necessary to be "all things to all men" that might be too difficult for me. They are willing to become slaves to all that they might win the more, 1 Corinthians 9:19. May there be hundreds and even thousands more like them in the future.

Our Relationship With Others. "It is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:8). Paul's inspired words imply that it will not always be possible to live peaceably with all. The Christian's different outlook must inevitably clash with the world's. And yet, every effort must be made to "get along." Therefore, the Christian cannot be re-

clusive. Though the isolated lifestyle of the Hutterites might seem attractive in the midst of such an evil society, such is not an option to those who want to follow this divine teaching. A Christian must try to "live... with" all men, not disassociate himself from all. He must strive to gain others' confidence and, when possible, share their interests. To do so, it is often helpful to be conversant with others about current affairs, sports, or the economy. Paul's quotations from Greek and Cretan poets reflects a desire to have broad interests to help in communicating with those of the world to win them. Such is a part of living peaceably with others in the ever-present hope of bringing them to the gospel. Those who go out of their way to be insulated Christian eccentrics who quarantine themselves from all associations with non-Christians and their ideas, will bring few to the truth.

Conclusion. The Christian's desire to hate sin while maintaining honorable relations with those of the world can be summarized in verses like the following: "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12).

-via *Susquehanna Sentinel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, is in the ECM hospital following surgery on Tuesday ... *Willie Ridgeway* continues at home ... *Myrtie Williams* continues to recover

at home from her recent fall ...*My mother, Jackie Cox*, is in rehabilitation at J.W. Sommers in Muscle Shoals... *Taylor Mosley* is doing better after being sick this past week...*Phil Pressnell* has been suffering with gout again this past week...*John & Virginia Lovell* have been sick this past week...*Lou Helms' son-in-law, Tim Thornton*, is to return to the doctor on Monday to get the results of his tests. The preliminary results were good...*Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is taking oral chemo ...*Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, is at home, but is continuing to take kidney dialysis ...*Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is at home now, but is awaiting a kidney transplant ...*Curtis Cooper* is nearing the end of his radiation treatments ...Remember *Mattie Blanche Word* is at home...*Kathy Smith's sister-in-law, Sue Gilliam*, is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* is in the Countryside Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ...*James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home... *Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for Communication group four to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening after our service.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Clemmons Michael and Sissy* will be going out of town this afternoon for a few days.

THE RECORD: *For the week of November 21st*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 86
 Morning Worship 111
 Evening Worship 80

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 86

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

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
 Monroe Pressnell (256) 232-0780

Deacons

Jimmy Glass (256) 247-0571
 Mark McIntyre (256) 233-1953
 Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
 Larry White (256) 247-0988
 Brian Word (256) 229-5823

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