

# 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, January 11th

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading .. (Proverbs 15:1-16)

..... Eddie Hammond

Prayer

..... Scottie Goode

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

Serving..... Jimmy Glass

..... James McConnell

..... Rodney McCrary

..... Mike Rogers

..... Stephen Stewart

Closing Prayer

..... James Word

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading (Proverbs 15:17-33)

..... Mark AMcCrary

Prayer

..... Brian Word

Lord's Supper

..... Mark McIntyre

..... Jimmy Glass

Closing Prayer

..... Claus Martel

Volume XI

January 11, 2004

No. 2

## *What Needs Preaching*

**Dan S. Shipley**

If worship service attendance be a fair indication, there are many who feel that nothing needs preaching. Some who do attend lament about nothing being preached — and preached and preached. Others seem to like it like that. But regardless of personal preference, public preaching has an important and God-given place deserving of our respect. The content of such preaching is equally important. For Paul that meant preaching the whole counsel of God and not shunning to declare anything that was profitable (Acts 20:20-27). Not all medicine that does good tastes good and not all preaching that profits is pleasant. Reproof and rebuke are essential in preaching the word (2 Timothy 4:2), but that which is aimed at other people in other places is not likely to have much effect locally. As a preacher friend says, "put the salve where the sore is!" To put it another way, pertinent preaching must include dealing with prevailing problems among us. And that is not always an easy task — as most preachers "amen".

No preacher would have found it easy or pleasant to preach what Stephen preached in his last sermon — but it was needful. When Paul saw Peter and others "*walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel,*" he dealt with them promptly, and "*to the face*" (Galatians 2:11ff). Whether the problem was false teaching or immorality, Paul told brethren what they needed to hear and when they needed to hear it, even when it made them sorry (2 Corinthians 7:8). Were Paul and Stephen wrong? If not, then why would similar efforts by faithful evangelists be less appreciated now?

Regrettably, however, it seems that a few preachers are reluctant to speak out on what they think might be volatile issues among their

brethren. Worse, some of the brethren love to have it so (as Jeremiah 5:30). Such, like those in Stephen's audience, have uncircumcised hearts and ears especially with reference to certain subjects. We read of Paul facing such a group in Acts 22. They were willing to listen — until he mentioned a subject they didn't like. Most among us have long lamented the refusals of others to hear the "whole counsel of God" on such subjects as baptism. Yet, some claiming to be Christians manifest a similar disposition, only toward other divine counsel. Until we are prepared to receive it all (all of it), we are not really prepared to recommend it. Bad enough that some would "time-out" certain preaching or that some would go elsewhere to avoid hearing it, but what have we come to when gospel preachers are discouraged or outright forbidden to speak about the sins in their midst? Can this be far from what Paul wrote about those who would not endure the sound doctrine? (2 Timothy 4:3). Brethren, when the time comes that we would try to muzzle the faithful gospel preacher in order to appease the sinner, we're in trouble.

What needs preaching? For starters tell me what men don't want to hear. That's the second thing they need to hear. The first thing they need to hear and learn is what it means to love the Truth and its Author. Suppressing truth is like "pulling the plug" on our spiritual -life support system — we just can't live without it!

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

## **Gospel Meeting**

**March 28 - April 2**

**David Hartsell, Speaking**

**Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

## ***"O To Be Like Him"***

**Allen Dvorak**

According to the gospel accounts, people came in great numbers to see Jesus. They followed Him from place to place in huge multitudes. What was the source of such attraction to Jesus? He wasn't wealthy; as far as we know, He never owned a home or accumulated much in the way of physical assets. He was born the son of a carpenter, laid in a manger at his birth. He didn't attend a prestigious school and never became one of the socially elite.

The fact that He healed sick people by miraculous means obviously attracted some people. The striking wisdom of His teaching and the authority with which He spoke also attracted followers. Yet I suspect that there was also a personal magnetism which drew people to Jesus. For centuries artists have struggled to capture in ink or paint that special "look" in their portrayals of Jesus.

May I humbly suggest that the answer may be in a statement of Scripture that we sometimes pass over quickly? The author of Hebrews affirmed that Jesus was "in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). From the standpoint of the redemptive work of Jesus and from a purely doctrinal viewpoint, His sinless life made Him the perfect sacrifice for sinful men. There is, however, another fascinating aspect to the inspired writer's statement.

Sinless! That means that Jesus never gossiped about anyone. He didn't pass on to James "juicy tidbits of unflattering information" about Simon Peter. He never lost control of His temper, "flying off the handle" and wounding others with sarcasm or biting remarks. Never. He was never mean or cruel; He took no pleasure in the pain of others. He never told a dirty joke or an off-color story.

Sinless! It means that He never played the

hypocrite. He was exactly what people saw. When Jesus said something, it was always the truth; He never lied to make Himself look good or to avoid a confrontation with others.

Sinless! It means that He wasn't selfish and unwilling to share when He saw someone in need. He didn't "use" people for selfish purposes. He never valued things more than people. He wasn't arrogant or hardhearted, but rather He was compassionate. He knew how to be gentle at the same time that He was firmly committed to God's truth.

Sinless! It is no surprise that people wanted to be around Him! He was perfection in the midst of imperfection. No one ever saw in Jesus any of the unflattering, annoying or even disgusting things, the sins, which characterize the lives of all of us.

Paul said of himself, "Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20), not as a boast, but as a goal. It is a humbling thought that the Christian's mission in life is to imitate, as closely as possible, the character of the Savior. To look at the life of a Christian should be like looking at Jesus. What a glorious and challenging task!

-via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena Texas.



## *Feeding Sparrows*

Al Diestelkamp

Some time back my wife and I bought a bird-feeder that was specially designed to attract cardinals. I remember it even had a tag that made that claim. We attached it to our deck, filled it with the kind of birdseed that is formulated to the desire of the colorful birds and waited for results.

Time has passed and nary a redbird has appeared on our deck. What we have seen, are hundreds of sparrows. I've counted as many as ten on the feeder at one time with others waiting a few feet away for an opportunity to perch. I was somewhat disappointed until I realized, sparrows have to eat too. Just because they are not as attractive doesn't mean they shouldn't eat.

Then I began to think about how we sometimes are like that when it comes to preaching the gospel. We build a meetinghouse and hope some people much like ourselves (beautiful souls that we are) will show up to be fed with God's word. Seldom do they come. Instead, many times the ones who do show do not appear very "colorful" in our eyes. However, they need to be "fed" just as much as anyone else.

Then there are gospel preachers who have similar mind-sets regarding where they will preach. They look only among the "beautiful" churches where there are elders, fine buildings (with projection systems) and are self-supporting. No doubt, these churches need preachers, but so do "sparrow" congregations.

Sometimes I wonder if preachers who limit their options to larger, established congregations do so because they think too highly of themselves. They're "too valuable" to squander their talents on behalf of so few.

If past experience is any indicator, I have already written more than enough to raise the ire of a few, so maybe it's best that I end this and go check on the sparrows.

-via *Think On These Things*, Vol. 34 No. 3.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Hoyt Hammond* is home after spending over a week in the hospital ... *Willie Ridgemay* has continued to be sick and has been unable to be out... *James McConnell* has been

sick to his past week and unable to at services... **Morgan Grisham** has been sick this past week... **Roger Mosley** is doing better now after suffering with kidney stones last week... **Samuel Phillips** has been sick this past week with RSV... **Taylor Mosley** has been sick and not able to be at services... **Tyler Cox** was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night due to recovering from his oral surgery... **Myrtie Williams** continues at home and is not able to be with us... 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... **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:** **Cindy Pressnell** has been in California with her work this week... **Eddie Hammond** has been out of town working this week.

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY:** Beginning today pictures are being made for our pictorial directory. Please have your picture made within the next few weeks for our new pictorial directory.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the time for Communication group two to meet following our evening assembly. If you are in group two plan to meet this evening.

**THE RECORD:** *For The Week of January 4th*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 95  
 Morning Worship ..... 112  
 Evening Worship ..... 90

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 76

**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 ..... 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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