

# 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, February 6th:

***Bible Classes***

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 60:14-21)  
..... Jimmy Glass  
Prayer  
..... Andrew Gatlin

***Morning Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons  
Assisting ..... Jerry Dickey  
Serving ..... Daniel Clemmons  
..... Stephen Stewart  
..... Jim Phillips  
..... James McConnell  
Closing Prayer  
..... Rocky Rose

***Evening Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 61:1-11)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond  
Lord's Supper  
..... Michael Clemmons  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Closing Prayer  
..... Larry White

Volume XII

February 6, 2005

No. 6

## *Oh, The Things We May Do*

**Dee Bowman**

Responsibility is the lot of every normal person. Things that have no purpose have no right to exist. When Jesus came across the fig tree that bore no fruit, he cursed it and it died. Why did He curse it? It was not performing according to its purpose. Just as "to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1), there is a purpose for man. His primary purpose is to "fear God and keep His commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

You have individual purpose, personal responsibility. Your purpose and responsibility is measured by several things: your native personality, your peculiar abilities, your station in life, your opportunities. In fact, all responsibility is ultimately measured by ability and opportunity. Obviously, you can't do what you have no ability to do, nor can you do what there is no opportunity to do. But when you can, you must.

Here are some things all of us can do.

**I can pray often.** A strong prayer life is lacking in the lives of many Christians. We know we ought to pray more. We admit it. But we get involved with other things and forget. Would we forget to stay in touch with our children or grandchildren? Would we let our friendships deteriorate because of a lack of attention? See what I mean? It indicates a lack of interest when we don't pray like we ought. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) may not be saying we ought to pray continually, but it does say we should do it regularly. Are you?

**I can be present.** I seriously doubt there is one person who actually can't do more than be present at every service possible, but

I have no doubt at all that it's one thing we all can do. Sometimes you feel tired on Wednesday night and you say to yourself, "I just don't think I can make it tonight," but instead of giving in to the temptation to say home, you force yourself and get up and go. After the stimulating Bible study, after the refreshment of spirited singing together with those who love God and having shared the other good things of so rich an association, you feel great. I've had it happen lots of times. Being together is what the local assembly is all about. It stimulates, it refreshes, it edifies. And everybody who has not been hindered by something over which he has no control can be here. Will you?

**I can make a contribution.** "Oh, now we have to talk about money," you say. No, let's talk about time. How much can a person give to the Lord? Can you give Him more than the three or four hours you spend each week at the building? And let's talk about talent. How much of that have you given to Him? And let's talk about sacrificial giving, giving where you actually have to make an extra expenditure of time, effort, ability to help someone. There's lots of giving to be done that has little to do with money. Do you?

**I can do my best.** Now there's something everybody can do, his best. What is my best? Do I really know? Many of us don't. We've never stopped and asked the question, "can I do better?" That's hard, isn't it? But it must be done. Can you give God less than your best? Will He be satisfied with paltry service, with abbreviated time, with less than you can give? We best think about that. God deserves the best we have to offer and we dare not give Him second place in anything we do. "Give diligence to show thyself approved to God," Paul said (1 Timothy 2:15). If I can do better, I must. Can you?

**I can watch my tongue.** How many problems could be prevented if people would learn to watch what they say, how they say what they say, where they say what they say, and to whom they say what they say. "What they say" is the operative

phrase. Every person should make sure that whatever he says about anything, is true. Not hearsay, not what someone said someone said, but truth. James says, "the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity (James 3:6), and "behold how great a forest a little fire kindles!" (James 3:5). Huge conflagrations are started by little, uncontrolled sparks. We best be careful that our one little remark doesn't start a huge rumor that eventually spreads out of control. Will you?

Well, those are some things each of us can do. Isn't it good we can be together today, together to warn and admonish one another, together to enjoy our common faith in Jesus, together to benefit from each other's warmth and friendliness. Let us love one another, for love is of God.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



## *If We Died With Him*

**Daniel Bailey**

In 2 Timothy 2:11, the apostle Paul speaks of the salvation which is in Jesus Christ, stating that:

*"This is a faithful saying:  
For if we died with Him,  
We shall also live with Him."*

In this passage, Paul (as inspired by the Holy Spirit) makes it clear just who will live eternally with Jesus Christ, namely, those who died with Him. What does this statement mean? How does someone die with Christ, and what does that death involve?

One passage to which we could turn for an answer to these questions is the book of Romans, chapter 6, where, in the first four verses, the holy apostle writes:

*"How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?  
Or do you not know that as many of us as*

*were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*

*Therefore we are buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

Reading further along in this same chapter, note verse 8, "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him" – the exact same principle stated in 2 Timothy 2:11 – and furthermore, verse 11, "...consider yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." These verses speak not of a physical death but a death of the spiritual body of sin in the likeness of Jesus Christ's own death to sin once for all (Romans 6:5,10). As here taught by Paul, death in the likeness of Jesus takes place when a person turns away from sin and is baptized (an immersion, or burial, symbolic of Jesus' own burial in the tomb). Subsequently, this symbolic burial of baptism is for the remission of sins, just as the apostles taught in Acts 2:38, for a person who thus dies in the likeness of Jesus Christ is raised from baptism to "walk in newness of life," that is as a new spiritual person, freed from sin, starting anew in the sight of God (Romans 6:4; cf. 1 Peter 1:3-4).

The death to sin as described in Romans 6:1-11 involves two action: (1) the body of sin is taken away by God (the only Being with authority to forgive those transgressions of the past), and (2) the person who puts off that old man of sin refuses to live any longer in the iniquity which caused spiritual separation from God in the first place. Repentance and baptism form the first step in this death for eternal life, after which the new Christian must live in a manner "dead indeed to sin, but alive to God" (Romans 6:11). Therefore, the resultant victory – "we shall also live with Him" mentioned in 2 Timothy 2:11 and Romans 6:8 is available to children of God who have not only been initially forgiven of sins and experience spiritual rebirth through baptism and faith in Jesus Christ, but who also carry out their respon-

sibility in this death to sin, presenting themselves as "instruments of righteousness to God" (Romans 6:13). This is precisely the conclusion that the apostle Paul makes both in Romans 6:11-14, and in Colossians 3:3-5 where he writes:

*"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God... Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."*

"If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him" conversely, if a person has not died in the manner described in Romans 6 and Colossians 3, he or she shall not live eternally with Christ. In light of 2 Timothy 2:11, all individuals are called upon to examine themselves: do you have assurance of this reward? Have you put off the body of sin by submitting to baptism in the name of Jesus? Or, having done so, are you striving to present yourself as an instrument of righteousness to God?

*-via College View Columns, Florence, Alabama*

## News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Jean Ray* is in the ECM hospital following another stroke this past Wednesday night ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, will be entering Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville to receive treatments for her multiple myeloma ... *My father, Cecil Cox*, is to have an arteriogram done on Tuesday... *Myrtie Williams' great niece, Misty Fulks*, is now at home from the hospital, but is to have surgery in the coming weeks... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence in CCU ... *Corey Word* has not able to be at services ... *Yvonne Pressnell* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... ... *Willie Ridgeway* is now at home...

...*Myrtie Williams* is at home and is experiencing some circulation problems in her foot ... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, is taking kidney dialysis ... *Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is at home now, and is doing well ... *Curtis Cooper* continues to take his chemo treatments ... *Mattie Blanche Word* is at home ... *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.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Coxes: Hunter and I* are out of town to attend the Florida College lectures this week. We plan to return on Friday.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight is the time for Communication group one to meet. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening.

**PREACHING TODAY:** *Warren Glass* is preaching here today at both services due to my being away at the Florida College Lectures.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of January 30th Sunday:*

Bible Classes ..... 105  
 Morning Worship ..... 124  
 Evening Worship ..... 85

*Wednesday:*

Bible Classes ..... 82

## Gospel Meeting

March 27 – April 1

Randall Hammock, Speaking

**Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
 Anderson, Alabama

### 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  
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