

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 Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, March 13th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Bible Reading (Hebrews 1:1-14)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Jerry Dickey

Morning Worship

Song Leader

..... Claus Martel

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

Presiding Larry White

Assisting Brian Word

Serving Jim Phillips

..... Stephen Stewart

..... Curtis Mosley

..... James McConnell

Closing Prayer

..... Rocky Rose

Evening Worship

Song Leader

..... Mark McIntyre

Bible Reading (Hebrews 2:1-18)

..... Wesley Phillips

Prayer

..... Andrew Gatlin

Lord's Supper

..... Larry White

..... Brian Word

Closing Prayer

..... Ray Tucker

Volume XII

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No. 11

God Wants To Forgive You

Randy Harshbarger

Some people doubt the truth expressed in the title to this article. Some reason that their past life has been so vile and sinful that a loving God simply could not forgive them. The Apostle Paul lived with the remembrance of his former life. He identified himself as the chief of sinners. Yet, he believed that he had received the mercy and grace of God. Did he ever completely forget about holding the coats of those who stoned Stephen? Did he ever completely forget about his mission to persecute Christians? It is doubtful that such memories were ever totally erased from his mind. Yet, Paul pressed on in the hopeful anticipation of heaven (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

The Old Testament prophets are instructive about God's desire and ability to forgive. We are concerned about our lives past sins that remain with us. Consider, though, the Israelites. They were chosen by Jehovah as the vehicle through whom the Messiah would come. They were blessed immeasurably. Yet, they committed apostasy. The northern kingdom, the ten tribes, was taken into Assyrian captivity and never again functioned as a cohesive nation. The southern kingdom was eventually taken into Babylonian captivity. They did return after a period of seventy years, as the plans and purposes of God were continued.

Through it all, God made it clear that He desired His people to repent. They were to turn from their sins; and when they did so, could again walk in a covenant relationship with their God.

"Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the Lord God of hosts may be gracious to the remnant of Joseph" (Amos 5:15). After Amos condemned the sins of Israel's neighbors, he turned his message to God's people. Sins, such as oppressing the

poor, accepting bribes, using dishonest scales in business transactions, and taking advantage of the poor were common among God's people. They were to learn to hate these sins. More, they were to be actively involved in the pursuit of what was good. Perhaps the Lord would forgive them. To presume that the Lord will always be there to forgive us is to presume on the goodness and grace of God. When sin is committed, it needs to be taken care of right away.

"Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, Though your sins are scarlet, they will be as white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, They will be as wool. If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land" (Isaiah 1:18-19). Israel was to consider her condition before God; the only real choice was the opportunity to repent and obey God. Jehovah reassures Israel that even if her sins were as scarlet, they could be as white as snow. Worship, sacrifice, and a covenant relationship to Jehovah through the Law was not enough. Each person's individual life and behavior was on display before God.

And so it is today. Will we consent and obey? The Lord's way to forgiveness is the only way to forgiveness.

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*; Nachogdoches, Texas..



The Anderson
church of Christ
website at:

[www. Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

On the Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The **Gospel Power** in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

Carnaval For Jesus

Allen Dvorak

It is sometimes hard to believe what religious groups will do to try to attract the attention of worldly people. During a recent trip to Brazil, I traveled to Flora Rica, a small city in the interior of Sao Paulo state. My host in Flora Rica, a brother in Christ, explained to me that his oldest son would not be going to school on one particular day because the school, the equivalent of our elementary school, had arranged activities for the students to coincide with the arrival of Carnaval. The activities included parties where the students dressed in Carnaval-like costumes and danced.

For those not familiar with the celebration of Carnaval in Brazil, it can best be described as a unrestrained party with emphasis on dancing, drinking and sensuality (parade participants are sometimes nearly completely naked and casual sexual relations are common). Many billboards in Sao Paulo, just prior to Carnaval, advised the use of birth control devices in the upcoming "festival," a fact which illustrates that the licentious nature of Carnaval is widely understood. It is celebrated across Brazil, but the celebrations in Sao Paulo, Salvador and Rio de Janeiro are commonly held to be the wildest and most extensive in their preparation. Mardi Gras is the equivalent celebration in the United States.

My Brazilian host explained that one religious group in Brazil has tried to draw people away from the lascivious nature of Carnaval by sponsoring a "Carnaval for Jesus." This celebration (party) also features dancing, but supposedly of a more restrained nature. I did not witness this "religious" Carnaval, but it strikes me as an attempt to compromise with worldly behavior. Carnaval is extremely popular with the Brazilian population in general and opposing it outright would require courage. Rather than take a firm stand against the extremely immoral behavior

which characterizes Carnival, this religious group is trying to “Christianize” (dilute) such sinful behavior and then associate it with Jesus! The attraction of the gospel is Christ and Him crucified, not entertainment somehow loosely connected to Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:2). The proper response to sin is not to dilute it, but rather repent of it and forsake it.

We are instructed by the apostle Paul to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2). Rather than being transformed by the renewing of their minds, it seems that many religious people are content to run along behind the world, involved in many of the same sins -- just not to the same degree! Jesus, however, does not call people to be a little better than the worst in the world; He calls them “out of the world” and into His kingdom (John 15:19; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Colossians 1:13). The challenge to Christians is to “be separate” from the world and “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit” (2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1).

-via *News & Notes*, Madison, Alabama.



Wanted: An Open Mind

Phillip Mullins

While traveling around the Mediterranean coast preaching the gospel, the apostle Paul came to a city by the name of Berea. In the previous cities Paul had visited he had met stiff opposition to the message of the gospel of Christ he was preaching. The people he met in Berea must have been a breath of fresh air. “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

What did Paul find in Berea? People who had an open mind. So many of the audiences that Paul encountered would quickly turn against him when they began to get an idea of what he was saying. Not the Bereans. They investigated the Old Testament Scriptures to make sure that the news about Jesus of Nazareth matched the prophecies of the Messiah. They gave the gospel a fair hearing and as a result, “...many of them believed” (Acts 17:12).

If you ever expect to find God, to find the way of salvation to God, and to continue to walk in the way of God, you must be open-minded. One attitude that will keep you from finding and living the Lord’s will is that of placing a wall between you and everything with which you disagree. God’s truth will often challenge our preconceived ideas and unless we allow those ideas to be challenged, we run the risk of locking God’s truth out of our hearts and minds. We need to always be willing to hear the other side of a matter regardless of how strong we may disagree with it. We need to always be willing to expose our beliefs and practices in religion to an examination by the Bible. The truth will only shine brighter under the light of Biblical inspection.

Do you have an open mind? It is the only mind that will receive the teaching of God, it is the only mind that will lead one to the way of God.

-via *Messages*, Kingsport, Tennessee.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Myrtie Williams* is to go back to the doctor on Tuesday of this week concerning the poor circulation in her feet... *Jerry Dickey’s father, David Dickey*, is in Mitchell-Hollingsworth rehabilitation in Florence... *Myrtie Williams’ neice, Misty Fulks*, underwent surgery in Nashville last Monday and is doing

well ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, was not able to begin her treatments for her multiple myeloma, but hopes to begin them this week... *C. L. Weathers* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at services... *Stephen Stewart* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at services ... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, continues to take kidney dialysis ... *Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is at home now, and is doing well ... *Curtis Cooper* is continuing his chemo treatments ... *Mattie Blanche Word* is at home... Remember *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 time for Communciation group two to meet. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group this evening.

BUSINESS MEETING: The elders have schedule a business meeting for all the men of the congregation next Sunday afternoon, March 20th, at 4:30 p.m. I hope all the men will make their plans to attend.

ANDERSON COMMUNICATOR: There is an *Anderson Communicator* on the table in the vestibule..Please be sure to pick up your copy today.

THE RECORD: *For the week of March 13th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 100
 Morning Worship 118
 Evening Worship 90

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 85

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 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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