

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, June 12th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (James 3:10-18)
..... Brad Hammond
Prayer
..... Mark McIntyre

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Phil Pressnell
Assisting Brian Word
Serving Daniel Clemmons
..... Jim Phillips
..... Rodney McCrary
..... Mike Rogers
Closing Prayer
..... Ray Tucker

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (James 4:1-10)
..... Wesley Phillips
Prayer
..... Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper
..... Phil Pressnell
..... Brian Word
Closing Prayer
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume XII

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No. 24

Give Him Your Best

Bubba Garner

If we're not careful, the passage of time can turn that which is special into that which is ordinary and commonplace. Once we have been engaged in some activity for a lengthy period, we often grow accustomed to doing mediocre work—whether it be at school, on the job, or even in our hobbies and other areas of interest. We do the bare minimum, just enough to get by, barely sufficient for the task, and even that much is done without our full intensity. Can you imagine if everyone worked this way? What if brain surgeons and airplane mechanics approached their daily activities with the spirit of levity with which we often approach our own responsibilities?

Solomon said, "whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). He speaks to the need of giving our best and our all no matter what we are doing as this not only gives us a greater sense of accomplishment, but also finds favor with God. We must not allow the worship service to become some customary event in which we simply "go through the motions." We should have the same genuineness and sacredness that the disciples had the first time they ever met on the Lord's day and the first time they ever observed the Lord's Supper.

The Lord rebuked the priests of the Old Law because they offered the lame, blind, and sick for sacrifice, that which they would never offer to the governor. Not only that, they were complaining about what little they did offer by saying, "my, how tiresome it is!" (Malachi 1:8, 13). The Lord told them that He would rather have no sacrifice at all than for them to pollute and defile His altar with substandard ones. "Oh that there were one among you who would

shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar!" (Malachi 1:10).

I shudder to think that this might be a picture of what we are offering. What service do we render when we don't make preparation for the period of worship by getting sufficient rest, preparing for Bible class, having readiness of mind? What great sacrifice do we make when we spend more on Sunday dinner than we do on the Sunday contribution? He gave the best of heaven and deserves the best of what we have to offer in return. This is true no matter how long you have been a Christian and regardless of how many times you have taken the Lord's Supper. Just as His care for us is ageless, our devotion to Him ought not to dim or tarnish with the passage of time.

I wonder if the Lord would rather we "shut the gates" of worship than to continue giving Him second-rate service. Give Him your best today; give Him your life, give Him your soul, give Him your all.

-via *Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.

Externals and Internals

Hal Hammons

Sometimes it is difficult to draw a distinction between God's law and our application of the law -- particularly if we have been trained for decades to apply it in a certain way. That was not the case on the day described in our text. The Pharisees themselves characterized their precepts regarding the washing of hands as "the tradition of the elders" (Mark 7:5). They did not (at least in this context) claim that the Law of Moses forbade eating with unwashed hands. However, they reacted to this violation of their policy in the same way they did in Mark 2:23-27, where they claimed plucking grain was a transgression of the law.

Jesus exposed their hypocrisy, showing that in some instances they were willing to ignore the law in pursuit of their own traditions. He illustrates by accusing them of earmarking money that could have gone to their needy parents as "corban" (that is, it would go to pay their temple tax). He describes this attitude as characteristic of their obsession with appearing righteous and holy in their outward behavior while doing little or nothing to actually become the kind of people God wanted them to be.

Jesus told His listeners in verse 15, "there is nothing outside the man which going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man." At least one brother in written form has used this text to argue that smoking is not sinful – the rationale being that it is external in its nature and therefore cannot "defile the man". But this cannot be the meaning of the text, regardless of the position you take on smoking. If it is, we would be forced to legitimize the use of alcohol (in any volume) and narcotics as well. The New and Old Testament alike condemn both.

Jesus' point here is that you cannot focus on external activity to such a degree that it changes the kind of person you are on the inside; rather,



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.
4. The sermons preached in our recent meeting with Randall hammock.

Please Visit Our Site Regularly.

He says, we should focus on internal attitudes and dispositions, which when brought into compliance with God's word will naturally result in the proper external conduct. As He goes on to say in Mark 7:18-19, it makes no sense that food would make a person either better or worse before God; after all, it is only in the body a short time and is then eliminated. Eating pork and other prohibited foods was wrong for the Jews because it demonstrated a rebellious attitude toward God's law, not because there was necessarily anything wrong with the food. In fact, according to the parenthetical expression in the New American Standard Bible, it appears the Christians in Mark's day appealed to this statement of Jesus to justify the eating of previously banned food ("Thus He declared all foods clean."). The translation of verse 19 in the New King James version -- "...it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods" -- would imply that something in the digestive tract turns improper food into proper food, a patently absurd concept.

The things that truly defile a man, Jesus says in Mark 7:20-23, are the evil attitudes that manifest themselves in evil deeds. Instead of trying to become people who constantly do good deeds, we should instead focus on becoming truly good people. The distinction is more than semantic. It is the difference between the fake and the real, the imposter and the genuine article.

Take one brother for example. He makes sure he never misses an assembly or Bible class. He leaves his check and eats his Supper every Lord's Day. He would never be seen in a liquor store or an adult bookstore. An all-around model citizen. Now take another brother. He focuses on his moral shortcomings, which may be many. He strives to improve himself before God. He stresses kindness, mercy, self-control and generosity.

We just described the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, which Jesus tells in Luke 18:9-14. Why did the publican go home justified and

not the Pharisee? Because of what was on the inside of each one of them. Jesus Himself called justice, mercy and faithfulness "the weightier provisions of the law" (Matthew 23:23). When we live our lives in pursuit of these things, we wind up behaving the way God would have us behave. If we cleanse the inside of the cup thoroughly, as Jesus goes on to suggest later in Matthew 23, the outside tends to take care of itself.

-via *Book, Chapter and Verse*, Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Vacation Bible School

July 11-15 – 10:00 a.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

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ews and Notes

THE SICK: *Myrtie Williams* is in the Glenwood Rehabilitation Center in Florence *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence ... *Virginia Lovell* was able to be at services this past week after being sick for some time ... *Valerie Stewart's grandmother, Ollie Bell Rochelle*, continues at Life Care Center in Columbia... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is continuing her chemo treatments ... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, is back at home after being in the hospital last week ... *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae*

McConnell, is at home ... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, is taking kidney dialysis at home ... *Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is awaiting a kidney transplant ... *Curtis Cooper* is continuing his chemo treatments ... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home... *Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

OUT OF TOWN: *Judy and Cori Williams, Kerry Cox, and Suzette, Sadie and Luke McIntyre* will be at camp this week ... *Sissy Clemmons* will be in Florida this week.

ARAB, ALABAMA MEETING: It was a privilege for me to be with the *North Parkway church* in Arab this past week in a gospel meeting. Kerry and I went to North Parkway just after our marriage 18 years ago. Tyler and Hunter were born during the time we lived in Arab, so we have many fond and lastly memories there. It was good to see many brethren in that area that have meant so much to the Cox family. *Mike Douglas* is the preacher at North Parkway.

TEACHERS' MEETING: Remember their will be a VBS teachers' meeting today.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for Communication group 2 to meet following our service. If you are in group 2, remember to meet tonight.

THE RECORD: *For the week of June 5th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 84
 Morning Worship 108
 Evening Worship 79

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 81

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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