

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, July 10th:

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (2 Peter 3:1-9)
..... Eddie L. Hammond
Prayer
..... Aric Butler

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Prayer
..... Rocky Rose
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry White
Assisting Brian Word
Serving Stephen Stewart
..... Mike Rogers
..... Ethan Pressnell
..... Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer
..... James Word

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Bible Reading (2 Peter 3:10-18)
..... Andrew Gatlin
Prayer
..... Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
..... Larry White
..... Brian Word
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Volume XII

July 10, 2005

No. 28

*Join us This Week As We Look At
Some of Jesus' Parables*

Vacation Bible School

July 11-15 – 10:00 a.m.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Adult Class Speaker</u>
Monday	Bobby Robinson The Parable of the Sower
Tuesday	Matt Oglesby The Parable of the Laborers In the Vineyard
Wednesday	Bobby Graham The Parable of the Talents
Thursday	Mark White The Parable of the Good Samaritan
Friday	Oscar Miles The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

There will be classes for ages:
Nursery through Adult.

Sunday, July 10

9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Daniel Bailey, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

For the Remission of Sins

Daniel Bailey

On the day of Pentecost 50 days after Christ's crucifixion and about 10 days after His ascension, the apostles, together in Jerusalem, received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). As promised, the Holy Spirit called to their remembrance the words of Jesus and guided them into all truth that He had yet to teach them (cf. John 14:26; 16:12-15), and thus they were able to preach the "*wonderful works of God*", with authority and power (Acts 2:11). On this occasion, Peter stood up and preached Christ crucified, accusing the listening Jews of rejecting and murdering God's Messiah, and boldly declaring that God raised this Jesus from the dead to be both Lord and Christ. Upon hearing this message, the Jews were cut to the heart and turned to Peter and the rest of the apostles to ask what they could do to escape the wrath of God (Acts 2:37). In response to this earnest plea, Peter gave a command—a command bound first in heaven, now to be bound on earth by the apostles (Mark 16:19) — "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), that is, repent and be baptized in order to obtain forgiveness of sins.

Some argue that the little word **for** in this passage means not "to obtain" but "because of," striving to prove that baptism is not a condition of forgiveness but an outward sign that a person had already been forgiven, not because they still needed to be saved.

An appeal to the language of Acts 2:38 reveals the error of this theory. One can show by researching in authoritative Greek lexicons (such as Thayer's or Strong's) that *for* (Greek, *eis*) does not mean "because of," but denotes purpose. In fact, Thayer notes that the Greek phrase here translated "for the remission of sins" literally means "to obtain the forgiveness of sins" (*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 94).

Consequently, the New Revised Standard Version translates this phrase, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven." Interestingly enough, Edgar J. Goodspeed, the Baptist theologian and Greek scholar who translated the American Translation of the New Testament, evidently drew much criticism from his denominational peers for abandoning faith-only theology in striving to accurately translate the text of Acts 2:38 — "Peter said to them, 'You must repent, and every one of you, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, in order to have your sins forgiven...'" (Goodspeed; cf. Reese, *New Testament History — Acts*, p. 78). Furthermore, the exact same Greek phrase is used in Matthew 26:28 by Jesus Himself — "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Surely no one would argue that Jesus sacrificed Himself because the sins of the world were already forgiven, but so that the world might obtain the forgiveness of sins.

Just looking at the context of Acts 2:38 shows that a casual use of *or* does not make logical sense: the Jews were not rejoicing in their saved condition, but were cut to the heart because of their tremendous guilt and shame. These persons wanted to know what they must do in order to be saved, and Peter responded by inspiration of the Holy Spirit to that earnest question. Furthermore, if Peter meant that his audience should be baptized because they had already been saved — he said that repentance was "*for the remission of sins*" too. However, the scriptures show that repentance (a change of will/mind and a turning toward God caused by a sorrow for sin) must precede salvation, not follow it — "godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation" (2 Corinthians 7:10 NIV; see also 2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 9:13; Luke 13:5; Acts 3:19).

All of these factors examined, Acts 2:38 simply cannot be properly handled to advocate the doctrine that baptism follows the salvation of a believer in Jesus. Peter, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, clearly commands that believers must repent and be baptized in order to obtain the forgiveness of sins, that is, in order to be saved. And Peter never changed his story!

“There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 3:21).

-via College *View Columns*, Florence, Alabama

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Helen Stewart* has not been feeling well this past week and has not been able to be at services. She went to be neurologist on Tuesday but is stilling awaiting word on the tests...*Helen Trousdale* is going to have hip replacement soon ... *Samuel Phillips* was sick Wednesday and was unable to be at Bible study ...*Shelia Goode* was sick and unable to be out Wednesday night ...*Ronnie Phillips* was sick Wednesday and was unable to be at Bible study ...*Myrtie Williams* is now at home ...*Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, is in a nursing facility in Fayette ...*Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is scheduled to enter to the Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville on Tuesday to begin the harvesting of her stem cells for her treatment...*Tisha Rogers' mother, Rhonda McConnell*, is scheduled to have surgery on Friday...*My aunt, Martha Morris*, is scheduled to have surgery for her colon cancer on July 18th ...*Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*,

continues at home ...*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*, has been diagnosed with myeloma and is scheduled to have out patient surgery in Birmingham on July 19th ...*Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is awaiting a kidney transplant*Mattie Blanche Word* is at home... *Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

OUT OF TOWN: *The McIntyres: Mark, Suzette, Sadie and Luke* are in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania this weekend...*The Whites: Eric, Tika, Ragen and Mycala* are in Atlanta, Georgia this weekend ... *The McCrarys: Rodney, Angie and Mark* are in Atlanta this weekend and plan to be home this evening... *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* are away on vacation this week... *The Phillips: Jim, Brooke and Samuel* are back home after being out of town last week.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Faye Hammond* in the passing of her nephew, *Phil Thigpen*, this past Wednesday.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Phil Campbell church* in Phil Campbell is beginning a meeting tomorrow and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Mark White of Florence* will be the speaker... The *Eastside church* in Red Bay is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Karl Diestelkamp of Kenosha, Wisconsin* will be the speaker... The *Posey church* near White Oak in Franklin County is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Dan Henderson of Jasper, Texas* will be the speaker.

SINGING: There will be singing this coming Friday evening at the *River Bend church* in Western Lauderdale County. The singing will be begin at 7:00 p.m.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Our Vacation

Bible school will begin in the morning at 10:00 a.m. Remember this work and if it is at all possible plan to be present. The teachers have been working diligently preparing for the classes. Preachers from around North Alabama will be speaking to our adult classes. On Wednesday night, *Bobby Graham* will be preaching to us at 7:00 p.m. I know that many have been invited to come and join us this year and I hope that all will come. Remember this is a work of the Anderson church and everyone needs to be involved to the greatest extent that you can. If you know of some that will need a ride, let us know.

PREACHING TODAY: Today it is our privilege to have *Daniel Bailey* here to preach. Dan will speak at 9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Dan has been with us several times in the past when I have been away, but I am glad to have this opportunity to hear him today. Dan and his wife, Leah, will be moving to Buffalo, New York on August 10th.

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

THE RECORD: *For the week of July 3rd*

Sunday:

Bible Classes 102
 Morning Worship 120
 Evening Worship 93

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 78



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
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