

# 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 3rd:

***Bible Classes***

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading ..... (2 Peter 1:12-21)  
..... Stephen Ste4wart  
Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

***Morning Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Larry White  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Jimmy Glass  
Assisting ..... Andrew Gatlin  
Serving ..... Mark McCrary  
..... Eddie L. Hammond  
..... Aric Butler  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Closing Prayer  
..... Monroe Pressnell

***Evening Worship***

Song Leader  
..... Brian Word  
Bible Reading ..... (2 Peter 2:1-11)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jimmy Glass  
..... Andrew Gatlin  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker

Volume XII

July 3, 2005

No. 27

***"Looking 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

# *Doing Our Part or Partly Doing?*

**Tim Smelser**

In Luke 13, Jesus spoke about the subject of church growth. He used the illustration of a mustard seed within the context of talking about God's spiritual kingdom. "Unto what is the kingdom of God like, and unto what shall I liken it? It is like unto a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and cast into his own garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the heavens lodged in its branches" (Luke 13:18-19).

One of the lessons we can learn from this parable is the importance of little things. We live in a world where faster, stronger, bigger and better are emphasized. (Just consider super size value meals and our fascination with big SUV's.) But Jesus taught that something as great as the kingdom of God began with a small start – just like the mustard seed.

When we actually stop to consider the things that we would call great, we realize that they all began with little things. For example, bricks, notes and letters are of little value by themselves. But you put those bricks together with other materials and you have a great building. Arrange the notes in a certain way and you create harmony. Put words into sentences and form those sentences into speech and we can communicate. No matter how small or insignificant each part may seem, it is vital to the completion of the project.

Consider how large the kingdom of God is today and then think back to the Day of Pentecost where its beginning started with just twelve men teaching the truth to three-thousand receptive souls. From that small beginning the gospel spread throughout the world because each part, or member, was doing its job.

Often we become discouraged because our individual efforts do not yield the fruit we had hoped. We consider our contribution to the

cause as unimportant and dispensable. But when everyone does his or her part then there is going to be congregational success. Like the small mustard seed there will be no stopping us. We simply need to put forth the effort and put our trust in God.

Paul spoke of his planting the seed, Apollos watering the seed and God giving the seed growth, or increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). When we do our part God will bless our efforts and in turn He will be glorified. Paul also said "those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary" (1 Corinthians 12:22).

All of this is said to remind us that, as individuals, we are important. Our efforts do count and I do have something to contribute. The kingdom of God began with twelve men doing their part and it grew in great numbers! That kingdom will continue to grow today if we will all just do what we can, as we can, no matter how small a role it may seem.

Through our efforts, enthusiasm and determination we can grow just like the mustard seed. We can grow just like the church in the first century. God is willing to bless our efforts and give the increase, but He needs willing workers who will plant that seed!

-via *The Parchment*, Indianapolis, Indiana



**Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

# *The Death That Jesus Wants*

Allen Dvorak

A recent television program detailed the practice of people being crucified in imitation of Jesus. The camera panned men tied to crosses with large nails driven through their hands. The narrator commented that each person spent only a few minutes on the cross and that no one had died from these mock crucifixions despite the limited medical care provided after the ordeal. He noted that those who had been crucified blended into the crowd after being taken down from the cross.

I purposefully used the phrase “mock crucifixion.” In the time of Jesus, crucifixion was not just a means of torturing an individual, it was a method of execution! It was common for a man to be scourged or beaten prior to crucifixion in order to weaken him, but crucifixion was designed to be a relatively slow, lingering death. Death by crucifixion was often the result of slow asphyxiation. The victim was nailed on a cross in such a fashion that he must push against the nails in his feet and/or pull against the nails in his wrists to be able to breathe. As his muscles tired and cramped, his respiration became more difficult and shallow. According to historians, such a death could take days, depending upon circumstances (physical strength, type of cross, severity of scourging, etc.). Jesus wasn’t simply tied to a cross and carefully nailed so that He could be taken off of the cross a few minutes later after He had suffered some pain.

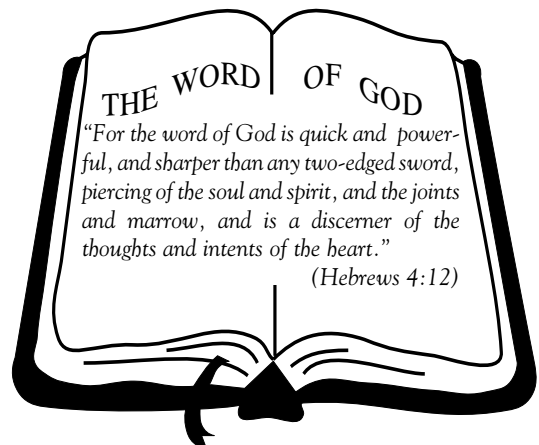
Jesus said that anyone who desired to be His disciple should take up his cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:27). He was not referring to the “mock crucifixion” which I have described. He meant that a man had to put to death his own sinful desires, i.e., die to himself. Paul described such a death: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in

the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

We must crucify “the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). When a person submits to the will of Christ, allowing the Word of God to regulate his life completely, only then has he denied himself, i.e., crucified self (Mark 8:34). This is the death that Jesus wants, rather than some brief show of bravado in front of a crowd.

It may seem a greater sign of commitment to have nails driven through one’s hands, but the truth is that such “dedication” need only last a few minutes and then the nails are removed and the hands bandaged (according to the television program). Crucifying self involves the transformation of one’s life. It is easier to suffer the pain of being nailed for a few moments than to live one’s entire life in righteous service to Jesus! Those who crucify self will stand out from the world.

—via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.



# News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Myrtie Williams* is now at home ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, is in a nursing facility in Fayette ... *My aunt, Martha Morris*, has been diagnosed with colon cancer and will be having surgery in a couple of weeks in Florence ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is continuing her chemo treatments ... *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*, continues to take kidney dialysis at home ... *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

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Remember next week will be our vacation Bible school. The teachers have been working diligently preparing for the classes. I hope that everyone is remembering to invite others to come and join us. This is a work of the Anderson church and everyone needs to be involved to the greatest extent that you can. If there are some that need a ride, let us know.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the night for group 1 to meet following our service. If you are in group 1, plan to meet.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of June 26th*

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 94  
 Morning Worship ..... 121  
 Evening Worship ..... 81

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 76

*Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.*

**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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