

# 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, August 14th:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading ..... (Jude 12-25)

..... Stephen Stewart

Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Monroe Pressnell

Lord's Supper

Presiding ..... Jimmy Glass

Assisting ..... Mark McIntyre

Serving ..... Mark McCrary

..... Jason White

..... Andrew Gatlin

..... Mike Rogers

Closing Prayer

..... Larry White

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Daniel Clemmons

Bible Reading ... (Revelation 1:1-8)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Michael Clemmons

Lord's Supper

..... Jimmy Glass

..... Mark McIntyre

Closing Prayer

..... Brian Word

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No. 33

## *I Hate Sin*

**Matthew Allen**

I hate sin. I absolutely hate it. I hate it because it can wreak havoc in marriages. I hate it because it causes couples who formerly had a burning love for each other to become bitter, spiteful, and ridiculous. I hate it because I have seen its effects destroy entire families. I hate it for it's destruction of trust and good faith in people. Sin makes it so easy to become cynical.

I hate it because it can devastate a life filled with endless opportunity and promise. I hate how it destroys the best of friendships. I hate it because it deceives us into thinking that it's not a big deal. I hate sin because it says there will be little or no consequence for wrongdoing. I hate it for the bad attitudes it causes. I hate it because it impedes the forward progress being made within a local congregation of the Lord's people. I hate it because it separates man from God - "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). Most importantly, I hate it because if there is no repentance it brings forth spiritual death. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

These are just a few of the reasons why I hate sin. I must confess that this intense hatred was not always there. There are still times when I flirt with it and even succumb to its myriad of temptations. Even after owning up to my wrong doings (confessing my sins to God); asking God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9-10); and moving forward with my life-there is still the memory of the dreadful behavior to haunt me. Yes, this is one of the unforeseen consequences to sinful behavior. This was something that Paul had to deal with throughout his life. "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, putting me into

service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all” (1 Timothy 1:12-15).

After putting on Christ through the waters of baptism (Galatians 3:26-27) we must begin to develop extreme dislike (hatred) for sin. This principle is found in a commandment given to the Israelites. Deuteronomy 7:26 says: “You shall not bring an abomination into your house, and like it come under the ban; you shall utterly detest it and you shall utterly abhor it, for it is something banned.” Note Psalm 119:113: “I hate those who are double-minded, But I love Your law.”

We should hate sin because it defiles. We need to picture sin as being dirty; grimy; rotten; putrid; or just plain awful. The Bible paints a clear picture showing our need to be cleansed from it. Psalm 51:2 and 7 show this clearly: “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” See also Isaiah 1:18 and 1 John 1:7.

Our hatred for sin will also grow as our desire for heaven increases. Why? Sin will keep a soul out of heaven! In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life (Revelation 21:25-27).

I don’t know about you, but as I grow older I find myself tiring of the temptation; grief; anguish; disappointment; and heartache associated with sin. I want to be in a place where the wiles of the devil pose no threat to me! I want to be in a place where he will wipe away every tear

from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

I encourage every Christian to develop a healthy dislike for sin. Don’t let the devil deceive you into thinking there will be no consequence for sin. Don’t let yourself be conned into the idea that your sins will not be found out. “Be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23). Remember the truth found in Hebrews 4:13: “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

Let us have the courage to repent when we find ourselves dirtied with sin. If sin is wreaking havoc in your relationships with friends, family, and Jesus Christ-resolve now that you are going to do something about it! Doing so will help you to realize many of the blessings of this life and joyously anticipate the life that is to come.

-via *Biblical Insights*; Vol. 1 No. 11; November 2001.



## *The Perfect Tree*

**Tim King**

After four years of baseball training in St. Petersburg, Florida, there are some things I will never forget. I will always remember the morning agilities and stretching that took place on dew-filled grass with the morning’s heat rays flowing from the surface. I can still see some of the nation’s top prospects crushing baseballs over the fence and gassing 96 mph fastballs. Along side that is the athletic enthusiasm that is as contagious as a yawn.

Then there’s the tree. Almost sounds dull after spouting off those memorable events that took place daily, huh? This tree that stands perfectly postured beyond the leftfield fence and has

possibly never been noticed by anyone else. But I noticed it. I'll never forget it. I regret not taking a picture of it. Day after day, my attention would be directed towards this tree because of its full and sound features. This tree is complete, its color is entirely blended testifying of its health, the branches are in well circumference and the overall appearance from afar is catching. I could go on and on about the attributes of the tree. Especially the shade that thing can produce.

Along with mesmerizing over its wholeness, I remember thinking to myself, "I only hope I can be like that tree." Spiritually, I desire that. To be sheer and absolute. To be good and intact. To be undamaged, unbroken. I only hope.

As Christians, we have the opportunity to reach the heights of spirituality. Today is a new day and if the Lord wills, tomorrow will be, too. Therefore it is a new beginning. Or an opportunity to make addition to what has been reached. We will have our bodies and souls broken at times but our God is here to take care of that stuff. When a limb of the tree is broken, it gets past it. We must do the same.

We are obliged to achieve higher standards and invest our bodies for new growth and development. To know where you are rooted is important. What I mean is your surroundings. Are they healthy or unwholesome; productive or inefficient?

The Bible compares it to being "like a tree firmly planted by streams of water" (Psalm 1:3). It is healthy, vibrant, bearing its fruit and persistent through all weather due to firmly attached roots. Its depends on the stream of water that refreshes it continually.

"Long for the pure milk of the word so that by it you may grow" (1 Peter 2:2). Through His word we receive augmentation. "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). His word provides what we need to weather any storm. "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17). He is our source, our stream, and our life.

The writer of Ecclesiastes says, "there is a time for every event under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Spiritually, we are going to spend time in cold, sometimes freezing weather. We are going to live through fiery circumstances as well. It is all part of God's perfect plan. We will feel at times thirsty and other times broken. It's all part of increasing our spiritual stature.

Our brother James tells us to be joyful during trials, knowing that our faith is being tested to achieve perseverance (James 1:3). Your successful triumphs will then be illustrated for others to see your productivity, what God irrigated within you. We can make ourselves known amongst men when we personify godliness in our lives—when we portray His beautiful features, when we show our unbounded goodness, when we display our unique characteristics, thus becoming the perfect tree.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Helen Stewart* had surgery this past Thursday and continues in the Huntsville Hospital due to some numbness in her arm ... *Wanda Tucker* received a good report from her arteriogram done on Wednesday... *Glenda Phillips* had a biopsy done on Wednesday and is awaiting final results. The preliminary reports were good... *Angie McCrary* entered the hospital on Wednesday and had some tests done on Thursday and was released... *Sissy Clemmons* has been able to be at services this week, but is still dealing with the severe break to her ankle ... *Virginia Lovell* has been down with her back and has been unable to be out... *Angie McCrary's mother, Edna Shook*, is now at home after spending several days in the hospital ... *Eric White's father, Jim White*, is at home ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, continues to deal with dialysis... *Myrtie Williams* is at home .. *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nurs-

ing facility in Fayette ... **Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson**, continue in the Vanderbilt Hospital with her treatments... **Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell**, is 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

**OUT OF TOWN:** **Madia Haraway** is out of town on vacation this week... **The Stewarts: Stephen, Valerie, Michelle and Trenton** are back home now after their trip to the Grand Canyon.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **Oneal church** in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Randall Hammock** will be the speaker... The **Eastside church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Frank Rickey** will be the speaker in this meeting... The **Gooch Lane church** in Madison is scheduled to begin a meeting on Friday and it will continue through next Sunday. The schedule of services is on the bulletin board 9in the vestibule. **Brent Hunter** will be the speaker in this meeting.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of August 7th*  
**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 114  
 Morning Worship ..... 131  
 Evening Worship ..... 73  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 82

**Gospel Meeting**  
**September 25 – 28**  
**Cecil Cox, 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 ..... (256) 247-1451  
 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 ..... (931) 565-3799

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