

# Gospel Power



*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)*

Volume VIII

June 10, 2001

No. 22

*Come and Join Us As We Look At  
The Bible and Study The Word of God*

*In A*

## ***Gospel Meeting***

**June 17-22**

(Sunday – Friday)

### **Schedule of Services**

***Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.***

***Monday – Friday: 7:30 p.m.***

**Mark W. White, Speaker**  
of Florence, Alabama

***Anderson church of Christ***

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

# *Abstain from Fleshly Lusts: The War Within*

Mark W. White

War is terrible. Casualties take so many forms, with some being innocent people who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. The atrocities of war are nearly beyond belief. The old adage, “all is fair in war” has been played out time and again through the ages as people have suffered the ravages of warfare. Since the American Civil War, we have very little historical experience with war on our own turf, and no personal experience whatsoever with war in our own backyards. For Americans, war is always something we wage “over there.”

Our shores have been safe from the all-out bombardments which other societies have frequently experienced and for whom there is almost automatic acceptance that warfare is a fact of life. The carnage of dead bodies strewn about the shattered streets of our hometown is a picture we have not seen. Try to imagine your home a bombed-out shell. Picture in your mind your livestock slaughtered, your workplace destroyed, and your way of life completely decimated. Visualize if you can the little children of your neighborhood with missing limbs, or raped, or perhaps dead. Most of us cannot even begin to imagine what it would be like to live in war-besieged places like Iraq, Croatia, or Palestine. There, human life is so poorly regarded that the leaders of these peoples do not mind spilling the blood of their own countrymen in what sometimes appears to be senseless, petty strife. Perhaps those of our nation who have seen active combat know something the rest of us do not. War is not pretty, and those who glory in it are misguided. It is serious business, and armed conflict always produces loss from which neither the victor nor the conquered ever fully recovers.

If carnal warfare is merciless and horrific, how must more so the spiritual warfare in which

Christians are engaged.

Peter warns the readers of his epistle to realize the seriousness of the struggle they were making against immorality of all sorts. In fact, he uses several strong terms in 1 Peter 2:11 to impress the imagery upon the minds of first century Christians, and also upon us. He wrote “*Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.*” Since we are really living in a place which is not home to us, we must be careful lest we succumb to the alluring temptations of the flesh. Just as American travelers must not drink the water in some foreign lands no matter how sparkling pure, and refreshing it may appear — even so Christians in the world must avoid the contaminants to our souls which come so attractively packaged. A Nigerian preacher-friend of mine learned this lesson in a severe way upon visiting the United States. The rich, fat, sweet diet of Americans proved to be intolerable for his bland stomach. Those southern pecan pies were no alluring, but eating an entire pie at once will sicken the best of Southerners, much less a Nigerian! Peter said we must “abstain,” which literally means “to hold oneself constantly back from.” Fleshly lusts are seductive, promising, and so palatable — especially at the first. Solomon’s wise instruction concerning the fleshly lust of alcohol is an appropriate illustration of the fact that it may be alluring at first, but in the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper” (Proverbs 23:32).

These “fleshly lusts” of which Peter speaks “war against the soul.” If a good military strategist never underestimates his enemy, then Christians must surely realize that lust is a serious deterrent to spirituality. Lusts of the flesh are insidious and powerful. They mean to win, not just tease and toy with the Christians affections. Pornography entices and excites,

then enslaves. Filthy speech is at first “cute” or “cool,” but becomes a mindset reflecting a soiled heart. Adultery titillates the libido, but ultimately destroys the soul and even the body. Immodesty is at first “trendy” and “fashionable”, but finally lewd and lascivious. “It’s war out there,” dear brothers. Arm yourselves with the Spirit’s sword and shield and do battle for your spiritual self-preservation.

~via *Christianity Magazine*, Vol. 15 No. 5



## Keep Focused

David A. Cox

One of the greatest hindrances to accomplishing things is “keeping focused.” In the work place jobs are not finished or are not properly completed because of a lack of focusing on the job at hand. The Hebrew writer addresses this very problem with regard to the Christian’s spiritual journey when he says “Lay aside the weights and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). Let us notice what the writer teaches us:

1. There are things that will beset us (cause us to lose our focus) if we continue to allow them a place among us.
2. We must rid ourselves of the hindrances that we have. This requires that we look objectively at ourselves and then make the changes needed.
3. We must “keep focused” on the goal that is before. The home in heaven promised to the faithful. How we do this is “by looking unto Jesus” (Hebrews 12:2). Keeping our minds on Him who died for me and looking to his example. We must “set our affections on things above, not on things on earth” (Colossians 3:1).

The spiritual goal is the greatest goal. Let us not slumber and allow other things in life to blind our sight of it.

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Willie Ridgeway* is in the ECM hospital in Florence undergoing tests...*Cindy Mosley's father, Tom Haney*, had surgery for his pneumonia on Friday in Huntsville hospital...*Millinea Word* began another round of her chemotherapy treatments this past week. It was good to see Millinea able to be with us this past Sunday...*Ragan White* was sick and not able to be out Wednesday night...*Curtis Mosley* has been recovering after a wisdom teeth extraction and is now doing better...*Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Leedy Tate*, is very sick at home... Remember *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, who is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia...*Helen Trousdale and Gurtie Snoddy's niece, Martha Henson*, who is battling cancer...*Sheila Goode & Lou Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton*, is nearing the end of her treatments for her cancer... *Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland*, who is continuing her treatments for her cancer...*Mattie Blanche Word* who continues at home and not able to be out...*Aldeen Noles* who is not able to be out... *Gurtie Snoddy* who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home...*Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is at home...*Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, and *Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty*, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Dwain Robbins* in the passing of his uncle, *Charlie Dupree* last week in Florida.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight is the night for Communication group 2 to meet. If you are in group two remember to meet this evening.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Coxes: Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I* are out of town this week for a family reunion in Missouri. We plan to be back

on Tuesday afternoon...It is good to have **Jason White** back Wednesday night after being in Florida.

**BAPTISM & CONFESSION:** We are rejoicing over the baptism of **Faye Hammond** this past Friday morning and **Hoyt Hammond** in his confession of faithfulness. We appreciate Hoyt and Faye and their determination to do that which will please the Lord. They expressed their desire to be members here at Anderson and we are glad to have them here. May the Lord bless them with many years to serve Him faithfully.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS & VBS:** The **O'Neal church** in Athens will begin a vacation Bible school on Monday and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. The speakers in the adult class are as follows: Monday – **Steve Klein**; Tuesday – **David Cox**; Wednesday – **Buc Chumbley**; Thursday– **Jeff May**; Friday – **Allen Dvorak**...The **West Rogersville church** in Rogersville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday of this week with **Bobby Graham** preaching. Services tonight will be at 7:30 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m....**College View church** in Florence is conducting a lectureship this week beginning Monday morning and continuing through Thursday. They will have morning sessions beginning at 9:30 and 10:30 and in the evening they will begin singing at 6:30 followed by two sessions at 7:00 and 8:00. The speakers in the lectureship will be **Leon Goff, Sewell Hall, Jason Moore and L.A. Stauffer**. The particulars concerning times and speakers is on the bulletin board in the vestibule...The **Eastside church** in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. **Donnie Rader** will be the speaker in this meeting. They will have services beginning at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**PREACHING TODAY:** In my absense today **Lorenzo Gonzales** will be preaching. Lorenzo is working with the **Jackson Heights church** in Columbia, Tennessee and with **Ken Weliever** in their preacher training program this summer.

# Gospel Power

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

## 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.

## Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

### Elders

Michael Clemmons .... (256) 247-0836  
Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

### Deacons

Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988

### Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox ..... (256) 247-1049  
Office-(256) 247-5539  
E-mail address: dacox@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Bulk Rate  
Anderson, Alabama  
Non-Profit  
Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ  
P.O. Box 66  
Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested