

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 17, 2001

No. 23



Beginning

Today 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

Two Preachers: Amos and Amaziah

Mark W. White

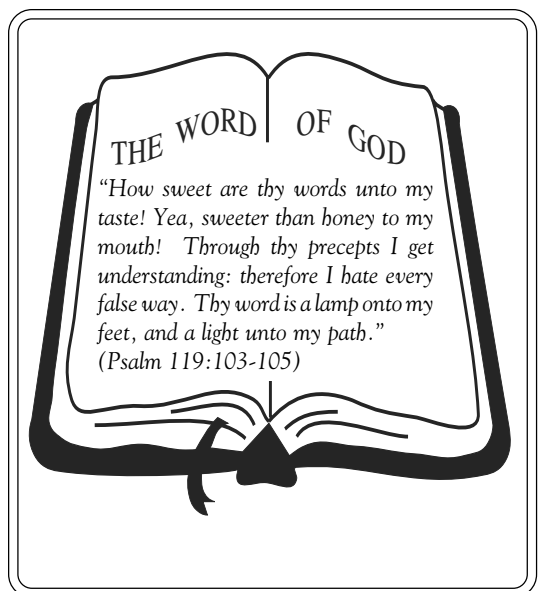
The Old Testament prophet Amos was a shepherd turned preacher. The crowd to whom he preached was the upper class of Israel, including the King himself. He was not their choice of a preacher, however. They did not choose him – God chose Amos for them. His oratory was not refined eloquence. His preaching was not “polite” by their standards. If they could have “fired” him, they would have, but Amos was God's preacher, not theirs. Amos 7:10-13 provides commentary on his work in Israel. *“Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel saying, ‘Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said: ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, And Israel shall surely be led away captive from their own land.’”* Then Amaziah said to Amos: *“Go you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread and there prophesy. But never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the King’s sanctuary, and it is the royal residence.”* This text shows Amaziah to be a different kind of preacher than Amos. Amaziah would preach what his hearers wanted, rather than what they really needed. He disliked Amos’ style and message. He scoffed at the warnings Amos issued about judgments coming upon Israel because of her sins. Doubtless, it pleased King Jeroboam to hear Amaziah rebuke Amos. Amaziah told Amos to leave Israel and go to Judah, where his kind of preaching might be more appreciated. *“We are too refined and sophisticated for this kind of preaching,”* Amaziah might be heard to say. But Amos did not keep quiet. He did not allow Amaziah to ridicule him and his work. He said, *“I was no prophet, nor was I the son of a prophet, but I was a herdsman and a tender of sycamore fruit. Then the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go prophesy to My people Israel.’ Now therefore, hear the word of the Lord...”*

Amos was not a preacher for hire! He was

not a prophet because his father was, or because he had gone to a “brotherhood preacher school.” Nor did he preach because he was looking for employment! He was preaching because God told him to prophesy. We are made to wonder, “Why was Amaziah preaching?”

Many churches today want preachers like Amaziah. He would never be so rude as to disturb the peace of a congregation by pointing out its errors. He would not bother people by calling on them to repent! No one would leave his preaching with feelings of guilt. Everything would be so sweet and pleasant that God would become nauseous! Conversely, Amos’ preaching would not always be pleasant. It might even be troublesome at times if people insist on remaining in sin. His harsh rebukes might even cause some guilt feelings and unrest. But, remember – Amos was God’s preacher! Honestly now, which kind of preacher would you prefer – Amos, or Amaziah?

~via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama



“No Power But of God”

Jim Ward

“For there is no power but of God” (Romans 13:1).

On my wall is a picture of a windmill silhouetted against the rising sun. Underneath are the words quoted above. I like the picture, obviously, or it wouldn't be on my wall. I often look at it and ponder its meaning. It stirs a sense of wonder in me at the power of God. (Yes, Romans 13 deals with civil authority, but it is still true that there is no power of any kind but of God.)

In the picture, the sun rises. By whose power? By that of the Father: “He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good” (Matthew 5:45). I see his power and Godhead in this universe, in the “things made.” Then, when I see His nature and will in His word, I know I am doubly without excuse when I doubt Him.

In my mind I see that the windmill in the picture gently turns. But whose wind moves the blades? It belongs to our God, who “walks on the wings of the wind.” He is the Lord of all nature. The power of Jesus to command the winds and waves struck fear and amazement into his disciples.

Then I imagine the water. The artist didn't show it, but it is there, I know. It rushes to the surface, cold and life giving. It was that way on the farm of my boyhood. When the heat shimmered across the fields and burned into our bodies, we panted after the cold water from the windmill down by the small peach orchard. We drank in great gulps; we filled our hats and poured the water over our heads and down our shoulders. God's water! His gift to man. Little wonder that He connects us to Himself in the waters of baptism.

These gifts, these manifestations of power, make me trust God for the power to redeem my soul from sin. Sun, wind, and water are the pledge of His power; Jesus, the pledge of His grace.

~via *Biblical E-Sights*; Vol. 1 No. 37

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Willie Ridgeway* was taken to ECM hospital in Florence on Saturday night... *Judy Williams' father, Herbert Kazzire*, is in the Druid City Hospital in Tuscaloosa following a heart attack this past Wednesday and surgery on Thursday... *Cindy Pressnell* was sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Tika White* was sick and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray*, is doing some better now... *Kerry Cox's sister-in-law, Evie Lowman*, is to have surgery in Birmingham on Thursday ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Leedy Tate*, is very sick at homeRemember *Millinea Word* as she continues her chemo treatments... *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 *Cindy Mosley and all the Haney family* in the passing of Cindy's father, Tom Haney this past week. His funeral was Tuesday in Athens.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for Communication group 3 to meet.

If you are in group three remember to meet this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: The Dickeys: Jerry, Charlotte, Justin and Brandon have been in Gulf Shores this week...**The McIntyres:** Mark, Suzette and Sadie have been in Florida this week...**Sissy Clemmons** has also been in Florida this past week.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: Brian and Lisa Word have expressed their desire to be members of the church here at Anderson. We rejoice to have *Brian and Lisa* here among us along with their two sons, *Michael and Corey*. They have recently moved here from Orlando, Florida. We look forward to working with them and them with us. Let us extend a warm welcome to the Words. Their phone number and address is as follows:

4331 County Road 93
Anderson, Alabama 35610
(256) 229-5823

GOSPEL MEETINGS & VBS: The *New Georgia church* will begin a vacation Bible school on Monday and it will continue through Friday with services at 10:00 a.m. The speakers in the adult class will be *Bill Hall*...The *Parkway church* in Lawrence County is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday of this week with different speakers: Sunday– *Greg Chandler*; Monday – *Phillip Owens*; Tuesday– *Lowell Sallee*; Wednesday– *Steve Mosley*; Thursday– *Bobby Graham*; Friday– *Steve Klein*. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m...*Centerview church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Bill Hall* preaching. Services will begin 7:30 each evening.

Vacation Bible School

July 9-13 – 10:00 a.m.

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South
Anderson, Alabama

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

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