

# 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

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## "My Sin Is Always Before Me"

Mark W. White

King David of Israel had sinned. Yielding to lust and passion, he brought another man's wife into his palace and committed adultery with her. A child was conceived. To conceal his sin, he tried to arrange for her husband to come in from battle and spent an evening at home with his wife. But Uriah was too loyal to his king and to his comrades in arms to enjoy the comforts of home, even for the night. Instead, he spent the night on the steps of the King's house. The next morning, he was sent back to the battle carrying orders from the king for his own death. "In the hottest part of the battle," David said, "put Uriah at the front and then withdraw from him so he will be killed" (See 2 Samuel 11).

Sin was snowballing on David. One sin led to another, then another. He was covering his sin the wrong way. Sin covered by other sin is equivalent to solving a dandruff problem by wearing a tweed jacket. The real problem is still there and it can only grow worse until proper remedies for it are sought and applied. David's conscience, however, would not let him forget what he had done. Even though he married Bathsheba, and although he was punished by the death of the child conceived out of wedlock, there was a price to pay for his sin. There were deep regrets and the loss of joy and contentment. Certainly, there had been temporary

pleasure in the adulterous sex, but the pleasure quickly gave way to intense suffering and anguish of mind (see Hebrews 11:25).

This is why David cried in Psalm 51:3, "*For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is always before me.*" As long as he was impenitent, his conscience cried out against him. He could not put this wrong in the back of his mind and forget it. It went along with him no matter where he was. Like an albatross around his neck, the sin grew heavier by the hour. David had lost the joy of knowing he was saved (vs. 8,12). His bones were "*broken*" (lit. crushed) and could not rejoice as they had in the former days. Upon receiving God's mercy, David promised to warn other transgressors and to convert other sinners (v. 13). He would loudly sing praise to God because of what God's mercy had done for him (v. 14-15). In desperation and anguish, David turned to his righteous God for the removal of this guilt.

*"Have mercy upon me, O God according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my iniquity"* (Psalm 51:1-2). A sinner really has no other place to turn besides the tender and plentiful mercy of God! To turn elsewhere is to be eternally lost. David never

euphemized his sin, nor did he attempt to blame others for it. As horrendous as David's sins had been, God's mercy and grace were greater in power and strength. His mercy was not only lenient, but tenderly offered. God is not stingy with mercy. Neither is He cold-hearted in extending His grace. God is harsh with judgment, but tender with forgiveness. David was not broken in spirit, and his contrite heart was not despised by God (Psalm 51:17).

Could there be someone reading these words who needs to repent and turn to God? There really is no other recourse if sin is to be remedied. The wonderful truth of the Gospel is that God pardons sin! He cannot condone it, nor will He ignore it. However, He will not hide His face from the sinner who really wants to do right.

~via *The West End Way*, Richmond, Virginia.



## *No One Cared For My Soul*

David Padfield

The 142nd Psalm contains “a prayer of David when he was in the cave.” David, while hiding from King Saul, thought he had been deserted by all his friends. In one of the saddest verses in the Bible, David said, “Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul” (Psalm 142:4).

Is it possible that you have a friend or neighbor who, like David, feels that no one cares for their soul? In all likelihood, within the last two years one of your friends or neighbors died unprepared to meet God. What did you do to prevent this tragedy? Did they know that you cared for their soul?

Do your children know you care for their soul? If you do, they will know it from your instruction in the Word of God. Before the Israelites entered the promised land Moses told the people, “these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:6,7).

Do your friends know you care for their soul? One of Paul's greatest desires was for the salvation of his nation (Romans 10:1-3). The obligation he felt to preach made him cry out, “woe is me if I do not preach the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16).

When was the last time you invited your friends to a Bible study? It seems as though we can find time to discuss everything in the world except the salvation of a soul which is worth more than the world itself (Matthew 16:26).

Do your brethren know you care for their soul? “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous” (1 Peter 3:8). Love for the brethren is expressed by action. Do you help or hinder the public assembly? Are you an encouragement to others or a constant complainer? You can not encourage and complain at the same time.

At the judgment your concern, or lack thereof, will be made known. Imagine the heartache of one of your neighbors saying, in the words of one of our songs, “You never mentioned Him to me, You helped me not the

light to see; You met me day by day and knew I was astray, Yet you never mentioned Him to me.”

God warned a prophet by saying: “When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul” (Ezekiel 3:18-21).

~via *Reflections On Truth*, Zion, Illinois



## *The Paradise of God*

Michael W. McLemore

Paul used the word “paradeisos” as a description of our eternal heavenly home (2 Corinthians 12:4). It is an interesting term with a long history.

Our English “paradise” is actually a Persian word that has been given an English sound. It was used by the historian Xenophen to describe the parks of Persian kings and nobles. One such park was built by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar married a girl from

the mountains of Media. Babylon was built on a plain. Soon after their marriage his young wife became homesick for her mountains. Nebuchadnezzar, determined that he would soothe her melancholy, built his bride a mountain right there in Babylon. He erected what would later be known as one of the “seven wonders of the ancient world” as a tribute to his love for a young woman. This pyramid-like structure rose in terraces high above the flat low lands of Mesopotamia. On this mountain, Nebuchadnezzar made water falls, planted trees, shrubs, grasses and hundreds of varieties of flowers. We know that place as the Hanging Gardens of Semiramis, at Babylon. Paul borrowed that term to describe heaven as a garden.

What more beautiful figure could here be employed than that of men’s reconciliation with God to that place from which he was first estranged by sin. Are we longing for that day when we can walk with our Father in the cool of the day in the paradise of God?

~via *The West End Way*, Richmond, Virginia.

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## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Scottie Goode’s father, Hubert Goode*, continues in the Huntsville Hospital, room 841...*Scottie Goode’s mother, Claudette Goode*, is in the Hillside hospital in Pulaski...*Willie Ridgeway* is now at home from the hospital...*Jerry Dickey* was not feeling well and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Eddie Hammond’s father, Burl Hammond*, came home from the hospital on Monday following his surgery...*Jerry Dickey’s mother, Pat Dickey*, came home from the hospital on Wednesday... *Wanda Tucker’s father, Billy Letson*, is to have hip hernia surgery at ECM in Florence on Tuesday ... *Glenda Phillips father, Howard Green*, is to

have hip replacement surgery at Vanderbilt in Nashville on Monday ..**Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton**, is at home sick battling cancer ...Remember **Millinea Word** as she continues her treatments/medication... **Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson**, who is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia ..**Helen Trousdale's neice, Martha Henson**, who is battling cancer ... **Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland**, is not doing well at all and is not able to continue her treatments... **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out...**Aldeen Noles** is in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ..**Shelia Moore's mother-in-law, Lorraine Whitehead**, is in the Athens Convelesant Center..**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.

**NEW BABY:** We want to congratulate **Eddie and Amber Hammond** on the birth of their baby girl this past Wednesday afternoon. Her name is **Olivia Lakin**. She weighed 8 lbs. and 8 ozs. and was 21 inches long. Lakin and her parents are doing well. They are now at home. We also want to congratulate **Ray and Wanda Tucker** on their new granddaughter, and **Onzell Tucker** on her new great-granddaughter.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We want to congratulate **Curtis and Jamie Mosley** on their marriage last weekend. We are happy for them and wish for them a long and happy life together as husband and wife. May the Lord richly bless this new family.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Communication group four will meet tonight after the evening service. If you are in group four remember to meet with your group this evening.

**OUT OF TOWN: The Phillips:** **Glenda and Andrea** are in Blue Mountian, Mississppi this weekend moving Andrea back for the school year.

# 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.

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Anderson-church.org

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