

# 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

September 23, 2001

No. 37



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## ***Gospel Meeting***

**September 30 – October 3**

(Sunday – Wednesday)

### **Schedule of Services**

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

***Monday – Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.***

**V. C. (Vic) McCormick, Speaker**  
Brooksville, Florida

***Anderson church of Christ***

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

# Prayers Needed For All Men

W. Frank Walton

*“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Paul enjoins regular intercession for all humanity, even those who aren't Christians. In this time of national tragedy, one good thing we can do to show our faith in God and love for other people is to pray for their welfare.

**1. Prayerfulness.** The early Christians lived lives soaked in prayers to heaven (Acts 2:42; 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Corinthians 1:2). Prayer is the voice of faith, the breath of the soul. Petitions to heaven show we believe God is real and alive, that He can hear and answer our cries. Prayers offered in faith can “move the Hand that moves the world,” for it “avails much” (James 5:16).

We also see that early Christians came together in crisis for “prayer meetings,” to jointly petition God's help and strength (Acts 4:24, 12:12). Perhaps we should restore the apostolic practice of “prayer meetings.”

**2. All Men.** God's love and concern is as wide as all humanity (Jn 3:16). He causes the sun to rise on the good and evil, and sends the rain on the just and unjust (Matt 5:45). Abraham prayed for pagan king Abimelech's healing (Gen 20:7). The prophet Samuel said it was a sin to not pray for others' welfare (1 Sam 12:23). Paul prayed for his Jewish brethren, despite their savage persecution, for their salvation (Rom 10:1). Jesus even commands us to compassionately pray for and bless (not curse) our enemies, who mistreat us (Lk 6:28).

**3. Government Officials.** Paul teaches

Christians, by our constant prayers, can aid our government in ruling righteously and peacefully. Our civil officials serve God's purpose in maintaining law and order (Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17). We may pray that the government finds and punishes evildoers and murderers for the welfare of a safe society, “for it does not bear the sword in vain” (Romans 13:4). The Jews from Babylonian captivity were asked to pray for their Persian rulers (Ezra 6:10).

**4. A Spiritual Goal.** God is concerned about our physical suffering, but His highest aim for all men is their spiritual salvation. We may hate men's sin, even as God certainly does, but we should love their soul, like God most earnestly does.

Perhaps in this national crisis, the suffering and sad will see their morality and human weakness. Hopefully, men will see their need for their Creator and seek Him in obedient faith and repentance, to the salvation of their soul (Acts 17:27). God in patience delays the end of the world, so all who are lost in sin might have the opportunity to repent before it is everlastingly too late (2 Peter 3:9). Let us pray that God's providence will open opportunities for “the weary and heavy-laden” to come to Christ (Matthew 1:28-30; cf. 2 Thessalonian 3:1, Colossians 4:3).

Our sovereign God can bring good out of the worst of evils (Romans 8:28). We serve a great and awesome God, who guarantees that good will vanquish evil in the end. Prayer taps this divine power today for providential help in a wicked world.

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 1 No. 48

## Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

# *The Lessons of Life*

David A. Cox

Without doubt all have been saddened by the devastation that we witnessed recently in the tragedy to our nation. As we have seen the events that occurred and have seen the aftermath that has resulted our hearts have surely been broken by the things we have seen and the stories we have heard. These events have brought to mind some valuable lessons of life that we should remember.

## **The Brevity of Life**

The things that occurred on September 11th were things that no one planned for. It was a beautiful day here, and in New York and in Washington, D.C. Everyone began their morning just as any other day. Plans had been made for the day and there was no reason the plans could not be fulfilled, but tragically, many on that day left their homes and families to never see them again. This is a grim reminder that as James said, "For what is your life? It is even as a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). In America we have been blessed with great security and freedom, but this has caused us to forget the fragility and brevity of life. Let us remember how precious life is and use the golden moments of life that we have to do good and to radiate the influence of Christ to those around us.

## **The Value of Things**

In this life we place such high value in the material things of life. We pride ourselves in the things we have. But the fact is that they are just things. The World Trade Center was a grand and glorious building which took years and years to complete, but now it is just a pile of rubble. It is sad indeed to think of that, but if we place all of our confidence in things, they can be taken from us. Who would have thought that the World Trade Center would look like it does today just a few weeks ago? The value of life or the meaning of life is not in things. This

has been evident to me in the days following the tragedy when interviews and press conferences were held, but very little discussion concerning the material losses. As Jesus said, "For a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Let us learn that working to build up material wealth will not save us from destruction. Let us place our hearts and attention on the true, higher spiritual things so that regardless of the devastation we face we can say with Paul, "for this light affliction, which is but for a moment, and worketh for us a far more and exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal (material, DAC); but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 4:17-5:1)

As we have viewed these recent events, let us resolve to learn these basic lessons and live life with the true meaning that life should have. The true meaning of life is summed up by the Solomon who said, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

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## **News & Notes**

**THE SICK:** *Cindy Pressnell* had surgery on her knee on Friday in Huntsville and is at home recovering ...*Scottie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, is in the HealthSouth Rehabilitation in Huntsville ...*Signa Skipworth's step-grandson, Nicholas Woods*, came home from the Children's hospital in Birmingham this past week ..*Janice Glass* has been sick this past week and unable to be services... *Tisha Tho-*


*mas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, has been not doing well recently and but continues in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home.....*Rodney McCrary's mother, Nadine McCrary*, continues in the Florence Comprehensive Care for Rehabilitation ...*Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton*, continues at home with his battle with cancer ..Remember *Millinea Word* as she continues her treatments/medication ... *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, Laurene Whitehead*, is in the Athens Convelesant Center..*Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is at home ... *Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty*, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**NEW DIRECTORY:** The new church directories are on the table in the vestibule. Be sure to pick your copy up today. If you see any information that needs to be changed, please let me know.

**ANDERSON REPORTER:** Be sure to pick up your copy of *The Anderson Reporter* on the table in the vestibule.

**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

**OUR MEETING:** Our meeting will begin next Sunday morning with brother Vic McCormick preaching. I am looking forward to the meeting. Be sure to pick up some fliers to take and pass along to those you invite. Remember to pray for the meeting and for brother McCormick.



**Remember:**  
Read and Study Your  
Bibles Daily

## Gospel POWER

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

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### 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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