

# 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 2, 2001

No. 34

## *What Kind of Standard Do You Have?*

J. F. Dancer, Jr.

Years ago I worked in Washington, DC and had the occasion to visit a place called the "Bureau of Weights and Measures." It was the group of people that are responsible for seeing that when we go to the gasoline pump we really get a gallon of gas and when we go to the meat market we really get 16 ounces when we purchase a pound of hamburger. It is these folks who check scales, pumps, etc. You see, our government has a "standard" for everything and those who are merchants are supposed to live up to that standard.

Do you have a standard by which you live? Surely you do. We have a standard for determining how much is in a pound, how much is in a bushel, how much is in a yard, etc. Even how many cents make up a dollar. These things are important to our daily lives and we live by them and expect others to do the same.

Even the religion that pleases God has a standard. It is the Bible. God gave it by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20-21). These inspired people wrote the things God revealed to them (see Ephesians 3:1-5) and we can read them to know what is in the mind of God. We can also learn by what we will one day be judged. Jesus spoke of those who would reject his teaching (John 12:48) and then

said that even though they rejected his words these same words would still judge them in the last day.

I might decide that I want to get 5 quarts of gas and call it a gallon when I go to the station – would that change the standard? Suppose the person who is operating the station sets his pump to just put 3 quarts in what it calls a gallon – would that change the standard? No, of course not. In the first case I want more than is allowed and in the second they want to give less than is required. We both might get by with our actions for a time but that would still not change the standard by which Americans are supposed to live.

This is what Peter had in mind when he said if people speak they should speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11). It is also what Paul had in mind when he warned the saints at Corinth to not think of men above that which is written (1 Corinthians 4:6). The Lord expects us to study the scriptures and then to follow them closely.

But the standard some folks use is simply what they were taught as a youth. If it was good enough for their forefathers they feel it is good enough for them. Others allow their friends to set the standard. They want to fit in with the

people with whom they have to do.

It is interesting that Paul told Timothy to continue doing the things he had been taught as a youth, but then added to that, the things he learned from the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:14-15). It is also interesting that when Paul wrote to the saints at Rome he said, they were not to let the world around them determine their standard (Romans 12:1-2). So, it all comes back to the idea that in order to be pleasing to God we have to follow His standard.

Business people know that in order to stay in business they must accept the standards set by the Bureau of Weights and Measures. So in religion, if we are to stay in business (and please God) we have to follow the standard He has given.

Many churches exist that do not follow the standard that God set. They will realize this one day to their regret (see Matthew 7:21-23). Many people call themselves “Christians” but are not following the standard God gave. They expect the Lord to accept the standard they set for themselves. This is much like the Jews in Paul’s day of whom he wrote in Romans 10:1-3. They were religious and they followed a standard but they were condemned by God because they failed to follow the standard God gave. Let us be sure that we are following the proper standard.

~via *Standing Firm*, Beaver Dam, Kentucky

## Gospel Meeting

September 30 - Oct. 3

V.C.(Vic) McCormick, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207

Anderson, Alabama

## A Growing Faith

Mike Waters

In writing to the church at Thessalonica, Paul commended the brethren for their faith. Specifically, he stated: “We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged.” The growing faith of these Christians was such that the apostle felt obligated to thank God for them.

Faith is not a static spiritual attribute; rather, it is dynamic. It must be “greatly enlarged.” Only through continuously increasing the depth of our faith in God is constant spiritual growth possible. But how is such ongoing improvement in this area accomplished?

First, we must pray for greater faith. The apostles once requested that Jesus “increase” their faith (Luke 17:5). How often do we petition God in this fashion? Certainly, we can be confident that praying for greater faith is a request that God will not deny.

Second, we must spend much time contemplating the power of God in creation. “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). As we meditate upon the great works of God throughout the universe our faith in His power and greatness will only increase.

Finally, God’s word itself serves as a basis for growing faith. Paul aptly stated: “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). Time spent in study of the Scriptures will not only increase our knowledge of how to please God, but it will also serve to strengthen our faith in Him.

~via *The Reminder*, Cullman, Alabama.

*Come and Study God’s Word With Us.*

# How Much, How Often?

Robert F. Turner

There is nothing more completely opposed to the true spirit of Christianity than the attitude of the questions, "How much, how many, how often must I serve the Lord?" It is appalling that some world ask such.

Years back a man handed me a paper which listed his income, rent, food bill, utilities, etc.; and said, "Now you have the facts. Tell me how much must I give to the Lord?" I asked if he thought he should visit the sick, help the needy; and when he said he did, I asked, "How often?"

He seemed a bit puzzled, so I suggested 50 times per week -- and he thought he would be doing awfully well to get in that many calls. But I persisted: "On Saturday afternoon when you have just made your fiftieth call and are on your way home, you meet a brother who is destitute, obviously worthy; and you have the means to assist him. Do you say, 'I'm sorry. I cannot help you now. I have made my 50 calls for this week -- but I'll see you first thing Monday.'" How does one measure service that is patterned after God's love for us?

If a fellow just must have figures or percentages, he should be given them from the Scriptures: like 100% -- "all that she had, even all her living" (Mark 12:44). Or, "Whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). When finding this kind of commitment required, are you amazed? And do you join Jesus' early disciples in asking, "Who then can be saved?" (Matthew 19:25).

A genuine Christian does not dole out an hour or two, a few dollars, or a pound of mercy for God. He first gives himself (2 Corinthians 8:5). Jesus required, "If any would come after me, let him deny himself...and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). And from then on his service is limited only by ability and opportunity. That's the meaning of "as prospered" (1

Corinthians 16:2), that is, in keeping with what God has given you. God gave life to Stephen, and when the service of God called for it, Stephen gave it back to God (Acts 7:59).

When Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37), He left no place for any 10% of thy money, and one hour per week of thy time. As for the activities of life, I believe Jesus will go fishing with you (Luke 5:4f); but don't forget, you are doing it on His time. And when opportunity and ability occur for doing good, for serving, and giving, what will you do with them?

~via *Wildercroft Announcements*, Riverdale, Maryland

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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 now home from the hospital...*Cindy Pressnell* was not feeling well and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Eddie Hammond's father, Burl Hammond*, was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday night with chest pains and was released after a series of tests...*Rodney McCrary's mother, Nadine McCrary*, suffered a stroke this past Wednesday and is in the ECM hospital in Florence...*Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson*, had hernia surgery at ECM this past week...*Glenda Phillips father, Howard Green*, had hip replacement surgery at Vanderbilt in Nashville on Monday and is now in rehab in Lawrenceburg...*Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton*, is at home sick battling cancer...Remember *Millinea Word* as she continues her treatments/medication...*Helen Trousdale's neice, Martha Henson*, who is battling cancer...*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.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Sandra Glass** in the passing of her cousin, *Tina Strickland*, this past week. The funeral was Friday in Athens.

**PLACED MEMBERSHIP:** *Mike and Tisha Rogers* have expressed their desire to be members of the church here at Anderson. We are glad to have them here and we want to extend a warm welcome to Mike ,Tisha and their two sons Zachary and Jacob. Their address and phone number is as follows:

3905 County Road 52  
 Rogersville, Alabama 35652  
 247-1533

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Communi-cation group one will meet tonight after the evening service. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening.

**NEW DIRECTORY:** I am working on the New Directory and if your information has changed and I have not received the changes from you, please give that to me. We like to get would also like to get all of the e-mail addresses of the members here at Anderson. It is hoped to have the new directory finished in a couple of weeks.

**THE RECORD:** *Averages for August 2001*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 91  
 Morning Worship ..... 102  
 Evening Worship ..... 77

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes ..... 71

**Remember Our Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.  
 Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

# 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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 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

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

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