

# Gospel Power



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

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

**Anderson  
church of Christ**  
5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, Alabama

**Visit Us On The Web**  
Anderson-church.org

**Men Priviledged To Serve:**  
Sunday, May 1st:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Bible Reading (Hebrews 11:23-29)  
..... Brad Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Claus Martel

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Mark McIntyre  
Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Jimmy Glass  
Assisting ..... Andrew Gatlin  
Serving ..... Ethan Pressnell  
..... Mike Rogers  
..... Jim Phillips  
..... Mark McCrary  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brian Word

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading (Hebrews 11:30-40)  
..... Rodney McCrary  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
..... Jimmy Glass  
..... Andrew Gatlin  
Closing Prayer  
..... Aric Butler

Volume XII

May 1, 2005

No. 18

## *"Refuse Him Not That Speaketh"*

**David A. Cox**

The Hebrew writer shows in his letter that Jesus is God's spokesman (Hebrews 1:1-2) and that Christ is a living high priest (Hebrews 4:15-16; 7:25). He also states that "every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward" (Hebrews 2:2). Throughout the letter, the writer stresses the necessity of obedience as Christ obeyed (Hebrews 5:8-9) and as the obedience of all those enumerated in Hebrews 11. The reason for these reminders are that if God demanded obedience under the law of Moses (which was inferior to the law of Christ), then how much greater is God expectation for our obedience to the law of Christ. As the writer comes to the end of the letter in speaking of Christ as the mediator of the new covenant of better things says, "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escape not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven" (Hebrews 12:25). As we consider all these things, we must ask, "Why do people refuse Christ?"

### **Believe In False Teaching**

Some people have been taught things that the scriptures do not teach. Paul spoke of the Jews in his day when he wrote to the church at Rome, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:1-3). It is sad but many are doing what they have been taught, but it is not in accordance with God's will. Therefore, let us determine to study God's word, and know the

truth that will save us.

### **Trust In Their Own Goodness**

Many times people seem to trust their own goodness. Statements such as “He is as good of a person as I know.” Because of this sometimes people will begin to trust in themselves. Let us be reminded that Cornelius in Acts 10 was a very good man, but Peter went to his house to tell him what he needed to do to be saved (Acts 10:33; 11:14). Paul also wrote to the church at Corinth telling them “we dare make ourselves of the number, compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12). We must remember that our lives and obedience in righteousness must be what God is pleased with and not man.

### **Trust In Their Own Way**

Some simply do not want to surrender their lives to the Lord’s way. They believe that they know the way to please God and fail to put their trust in the Lord’s way. Jeremiah said, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). We must remember to look to God and the way of Christ. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Some refuse Jesus as the way and fail to look to Him and His word.

### **Think They Will Obey Later**

It is sad, but the fact is that many know and understand the way that will lead them to eternal life, but they think that they will obey later. The fact of the matter is that we do not know how long we may have. It may be that our lives will be required of us sooner than later. Paul wrote of those that obeyed not the gospel as being “punished with everlasting destruction” (2 Thessalonians 1:9). The rich man focussed on life and died, and was not obedient to God (Luke 16:19-31). The rich farmer that was busy with all life gave him, but forgot about God and his need to

please Him (Luke 12:16-21). I imagine that there are many people such as these that may think, “I will obey God, but just not right now.” Let us determined to please God now and not wait for the “convenient season” as Felix thought he would do (Acts 24:25). Understand that life is short and uncertain, therefore let us determine to hear and obey today.

If we refuse to hear and obey Christ, He will refuse us in the judgement (John 12:48). Let us study God’s word diligently and be obedient in all things, so that we will be pleasing and accepted of Him.



## ***No Short-cuts***

**Tony Mauck**

While in high school, I learned in mathematics that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. That’s simple enough, but life isn’t so simple. Rarely can one get from point A to point B by a straight line. I live approximately five minutes from the Southside building. If I could travel in a straight line, I could make it in less time. Life is more involved with curves and turns rather than a straight line. The Christian walk is on a highway, but the highway, at times, is winding, running through rugged and hilly terrain. The highway leads to heaven. The goal is worth the journey, but sometimes the way is steep.

We all tend to seek short-cuts, an avenue or path to our destination which is quicker or easier. I can get to the building by several routes, but it took me nearly six months to figure out the shortest route from my apartment to the building (avoiding 20 m.p.h. school zones and occasion-

ally fitting in a trip to McDonald's for breakfast). Our fast-paced society desires convenience (the prevalence of drive-thru windows and remote control everything suggests this to be the case). Time is precious, so we want to make the best use of it. That's all well and good (Ephesians 5:16), but sometimes short-cuts are dangerous. Short-cuts in religion are extremely perilous to the soul.

Satan is in the business of offering short-cuts. He short-changes us by providing alluring temporal pleasures in place of eternal pleasure. He offered Jesus a short-cut to obtaining a kingdom (Matthew 4:8-10). The way of Christianity is a cross (Matthew 16:24), and the first one to suggest achievement without one was Satan himself (Matthew 16:21-23).

No short-cuts exist in arriving at spiritual maturity. It requires faith, patience and labor. One does not learn and know the Scriptures by osmosis. One must love, diligently study and meditate upon the truth. He must pray for wisdom to employ it. Prayer, also, requires learning. An individual's communication and intimacy with the Father improves with practice and deepens with growth in faith. Just as the physical body does not mature in one day, the Christian does not arrive at spiritual maturity overnight nor without effort. Satan will do his best to throw us some curves, and he will whisper in our ear, "You're doing great; just relax and take it easy; you can pray and study and work for the Lord later ...when it is more convenient."

The Christian travels the Highway of Holiness (Isaiah 35:8). It's no ordinary or boring Highway, and it's not traveled by just anybody. Fools do not wander on it and the unclean will not travel it either, but the redeemed will walk there (Isaiah 35:9). The way is sometimes difficult, but remember that we are climbers; at our best when the way is steep. By God's grace and our longing and perseverance, heaven will eventually be our eternal home. Do not accept Satan's offer of a short-cut. His is the way of misery, sorrow and woe. Ours is the way of everlasting joy

and gladness (Isaiah 35:10).

-via *The Stonegate Standard*, Port Arthur, Texas.



The Anderson  
church of Christ  
website at:

[www.Anderson-church.org](http://www.Anderson-church.org)

**On the Site You Will Find:**

1. Information about the church at Anderson
2. The *Gospel Power* in .pdf format uploaded each Sunday.
3. Sermons preached at Anderson in Real Audio.

*Please Visit Our Site Regularly.*

## News and Notes

**THE SICK:** *Virginia Lovell* has been down with her back and has been unable to be at services ... *Luke McIntyre* was sick and unable to be at services on Wednesday night... *Claus Martel* was sick last weekend, but was able to back at Bible study Wednesday night... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letsonm* had some test done this past week and is at home... *Cindy Mosley & Sonya Blackbrun's mother, F.A. Haney*, is now at home after spending a few days last week in the Huntsville hospital... *Valerie Stewart's grandmother, Ollie Bell Rochelle*, continues in Life Care Center in Columbia, Tennessee ... *Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson*, is continuing her chemo treatments... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and not able to be out ... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home and doing well ... *Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer*, begun taking his kidney dialysis at home this

week ...*Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is awaiting a kidney transplant ... *Curtis Cooper* is continuing his chemo treatments ... *Mattie Blanche Word* is at home... *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, continues at home... *Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight is the time for Communication group one to meet. If you are in group one remember to meet with your group this evening.

**NEW QUARTER BEGINS TODAY:** A new quarter is beginning in our Bible classes this morning. I know that it will be a good quarter and appreciate all of our teachers and the preparations they have made to teach this quarter. I also want to express my appreciation for all those who have taught this past quarter and the good work they have all done. If you are not attending our Bible study periods, why not begin now? There are classes for all ages.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Frank Himmel* of Louisville, Kentucky will be the speaker.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Phillips: Jim, Brooke and Samuel* are away on vacation this weekend ...*Sheila Moore* is away this week with her work...*Lou Ann Phillips* is back home after being in Gulf Shores with her work.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of April 24th*  
**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 96  
 Morning Worship ..... 115  
 Evening Worship ..... 91

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 83

*Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.*

**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.

**Elders**

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 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391  
 Monroe Pressnell ..... (256) 232-0780

**Deacons**

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