

# 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](http://Anderson-church.org)

**Men Priviledged To Serve:**  
Sunday, May 15th:

#### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Bible Reading (Hebrews 13:15-25)  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Monroe Pressnell

#### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Phil Pressnell  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Scottie Goode  
Assisting ..... Aric Butler  
Serving ..... Ethan Pressnell  
..... Mark McCrary  
..... Mike Rogers  
..... Wesley Phillips  
Closing Prayer  
..... Brad Hammond

#### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader  
..... Biran Word  
Bible Reading ..... (James 1:1-18)  
..... Curtis Mosley  
Prayer  
..... Larry White  
Lord's Supper  
..... Scottie Goode  
..... Aric Butler  
Closing Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey

Volume XII

May 15, 2005

No. 20

## *Blind Experts In The Law*

**Allen Dvorak**

The scribes and Pharisees were critical of Jesus' disciples because the disciples did not wash their hands in the way prescribed by the tradition of the elders (Matthew 15:1-2). Instead of responding immediately to the charge made, Jesus took the fight to their front doorstep by noting that they were using tradition to circumvent the commandment of God to honor father and mother.

The Pharisees had adopted a tradition that allowed a man to devote all or part of his assets to the service of God. The consequence of this "loophole" was that a man could retain such assets for his own use, but refuse to use them in the aid of his parents since they were "corban," a gift to God (Matthew 15:3-6).

Following His rebuke of the Pharisees, Jesus made a startling comment to His disciples, "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch" (vs. 14). "Blind" Pharisees?? Although the hypocrisy of the Pharisees was visible to some, for many Jews the Pharisees and scribes possessed a thorough knowledge of the Mosaic Law and probably were considered living examples of righteousness.

How could Jesus describe a group of people so familiar with the Law of Moses as "blind"? It IS possible to have a lot of Bible knowledge and yet not really understand the "core principles" of the will of God. The Pharisees were experts in the details of Scripture and the rabbinical interpretations of the law, but they did not really understand what service to God demands. Their problem was not just ignorance; their attention to detail and ritual, while denying the power of godliness, created a favorable environment for hypocrisy,

as previously noted.

Their blindness was illustrated by their inability to see the effect of their “corban” tradition – they were actually transgressing the commandment of God (Matthew 15:3, 6). There were other occasions when the blindness of the Pharisees was even more egregious. For instance, Jesus healed a man blind from birth on the Sabbath day (John 9), but the Pharisees, upon hearing of and confirming the miracle, could only criticize Jesus as a sinner because He “broke” the Sabbath, to their way of thinking! They never “saw” the implication of the miracle for their interpretation of Sabbath-keeping.

We ourselves can become “blind” for a variety of reasons. Sinful ambition (being self-willed) and greed, among other character flaws, often blind people to the true nature of their actions. If we shut our eyes enough times to sin in our own lives or the lives of others, we eventually become virtually “unable” to “see” the error. We must also beware of the Pharisaical blindness, the inability to distinguish between our own traditions and the actual Law of God. What a terrible waste – to dedicate ourselves to the study of God’s word -- only to become blind experts in details and regulations without any real understanding of the spirit of the Law!

-via *News & Notes*, Madison, Alabama.

## ***Wait On The Lord***

**Bill Robinson, Jr.**

The phrase in the Old Testament for dealing with the complexities and challenges of life is to “wait on the Lord.” The Psalmist spoke to his own soul in the face of life’s injustices saying, “My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him” (Psalm 62:1,5). We cannot grow tired or weary of doing right nor can we grow impatient with the world and decide to run ahead of God to accomplish something for Him—we must learn to wait on the Lord.

The impatience of Israel is seen as they turned their heart from depending on God; to worshipping the golden calf (Exodus 32); to complaining about food and water (Exodus 15:22-25; 16:1-17); or to consuming the quail without proper preparation (Numbers 11). Recalling such events, the Psalmist declared, “They soon forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tested God in the desert. And he gave them their request...” (Psalm 106:13). Yes, God gave them the cravings of their impatient heart but it ended in sickness, premature death and greater disappointment.

Life is difficult at times for all of us. At times it would be easier to “give up” or “give in” to the pressures of life. However, in the end the immediate relief we sought would not work for our good. Waiting on God is being able to see the end from the beginning (Hebrews 11:23-27).

Even in the New Testament we are encouraged not to grow weary but to wait on God. Yet, such instructions comes to us with greater assurance for our salvation. Namely, Christ, who bore our sorrows and griefs, is in heaven making intercession for us, as we draw near to God’s throne in prayer. “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make



### **Vacation Bible School**

**July 11-15 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Anderson church of Christ**

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabama

intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). Remember Jesus encourages us to pray and not grow weary. It is through earnest prayer that we learn to wait on God and consider the end of all (Luke 18:1-7).

To wait on God takes faith and courage. We must remember in His time, God will right the wrongs and punish the evil (Ecclesiastes 3:11). As we live by faith, we have this blessed assurance that “those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31).

~via *The Seeker*, Marshall, Virginia.



## *A Thousand Times...No!*

**David Diestelkamp**

Ever noticed that you can say “no” a thousand times, but all those no’s are canceled by one “yes”? “No, you can’t have a cookie, can’t have a cookie, can’t have a cookie! Okay, yes!” The cookie will be eaten! To concede and fail you don’t have to say yes as many times as you must say no to remain steadfast and succeed.

A thousand no’s to fornication are deleted by one yes that robs one of his virtue and virginity. A thousand no’s to adultery are swept away by a yes that destroys family, home and soul. A thousand no’s to drugs are erased by a yes that opens the door to all kinds of destruction and excess. A thousand no’s to stealing are forgotten by a yes on our record when we stand before the law. A thousand no’s to pornography are overwhelmed by a yes that writes indelible images in the mind. It applies across the board to all sin.

While it is certainly true that forgiveness in Christ is available for any sinful yes decision we make, this must not be seen as license to make

that errant decision even once. We are called to completely die to sin (Romans 6) – it is to have no part in us, or us in it.

Parents often tire of the “May I have a cookie?” question and finally concede with a yes. Kids know this. Satan knows this. We tire of saying no and looking different from others. We tire of our “no” answer causing abstinence from activities that appear pleasurable and fun. We tire of always being the one to say no. In time, sin nags us to the point where we finally want to say, “Okay, yes just this time.” How much more can God expect us to resist-how many more times must we say no?

The Hebrew writer reminds us, “You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin” (Hebrews 12:4). We’re not just talking about saying no to the point of alienation and missing out on some of life’s pleasures. Resisting “to bloodshed, striving against sin” means saying no to sin until it kills us! That means a thousand times no to the sin that tempts us from within and from without. And when we have said no a thousand times it is then time to say it a thousand and one times, and more!

~via *The Cahaba Heights Bulletin*; Birmingham, Alabama.

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Virginia Lovell* had some tests done past week ...*Myrtie Williams* is to have a procedure to open the blood flow in her leg on Thursday...*Valerie Stewart’s grandmother, Ollie Bell Rochelle*, continues at Life Care Center in Columbia...*Tisha Thomas’ mother, Shelia Johnson*, is continuing her chemo treatments ... *Wanda Tucker’s father, Billy Letson*, is at home ...*Monroe Pressnell’s aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is at home ... *Leota Springer’s husband, Bob Springer*, continues to take kidney dialysis ...*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

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** *The Sandlin Road church* in Elkmont is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Lowell Sallee of Bowling Green, Kentucky* will be the speaker... The Pleasant *Valley church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Everett Conn* speaking... The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee is beginning a meeting and it will continue through Friday with *L. A. Stauffer* preaching... The *Needmore church* in Haleyville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Leon Mauldin* speaking.

**LOCK HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA:** The Lord willing, I will be leaving the middle of this week for a meeting with the church in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. I look forward to the meeting and working with the brethren there. I will miss being here and have a interest in your prayers for this effort.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the night for Communication Group three to meet. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Butlers: Aric and Andrea* out town this weekend... *The Clemmons: Michael and Sissy* are now back home after being in Gatlinburg several days this past week.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of May 8th*

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes ..... 90  
 Morning Worship ..... 119  
 Evening Worship ..... 72

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes ..... 80

**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**

Michael Clemmons ..... (256) 247-0836  
 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391  
 Monroe Pressnell ..... (256) 232-0780

**Deacons**

Jimmy Glass ..... (256) 247-0571  
 Mark McIntyre ..... (256) 233-1953  
 Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
 Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
 Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988  
 Brian Word ..... (256) 229-5823

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