

MARKET STREET



"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand.....(256) 233-7343
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

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Saved By The Grace of God

David A. Cox

The fact that man is saved by the grace of God is where there is almost unanimous agreement among those that regard the Bible as the word of God. In fact, it would be very difficult to find a person who would contend that people are not saved by the grace of God. However, there are vast differences among professed believers regarding how people are saved by grace.

What Is Grace?

Grace is often defined as unmerited favor. It is a benefit bestowed upon one who does not deserve it. Those who need it can do nothing to merit it. If grace was given as a payment of debt or something one had earned it would not be grace.

We Are Saved By Grace

The scriptures clearly teach that man is saved by grace. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Many will claim that we are saved "wholly of grace"; that it is God that saves us and that really there is nothing for us to do. But we must notice that is not what the passage says. Notice the passage says we are "saved by grace through faith." What part does faith have to do with our being saved by grace? Let us notice some examples where the Bible shows us what grace through faith means.

The Case of Noah. In Genesis 6, we read about the wickedness of man during the life of Noah. It was so wicked that God determined that He was going to destroy the earth. But in verse 8 we read, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Here God's grace was extended to Noah to save him from the destruction of the earth. Was it automatic? No. Was there nothing Noah was expected to do? No. The following verses in Genesis 6 tells of explicit instructions God gave Noah to do. The Hebrew writer says, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen yet, moved with fear prepared an ark to the saving of his house"

(Hebrews 11:7). Did Noah's obeying God's command negate God's grace? No! Without the grace of God Noah would have perished in the flood as did those Noah preached to while building the ark.

The Children of Israel. In Numbers 21:4-9, we have the children of Israel after they have been led out of Egyptian bondage. They are murmuring and complaining. God sends fiery serpents that bit the people and they began to die. God then tells Moses that he is to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole. The people were then to look upon that serpent of brass and they would be cured. Was God's grace extended to the children of Israel who were sure to die as a result of being bitten by the fiery serpents? Yes, most certainly. God did not owe them anything, but His grace extended to them a way to be saved. Did they have to do something? Yes. What if they had not looked on the serpent of brass on the pole, would they have lived? No. Was the power in the serpent of brass on the pole to cure them or was it the power of God? The power to cure them was in God. Indeed, we see again that God's grace was extended, but something was required to access that grace.

Application. We have looked at two examples where God's grace was extended, but something was required to access the grace. They were saved by grace through faith. Many more examples can be found in God's Word of God's grace being accessed through faith. Now what about our being saved from sins today? Should we assume that since we are saved by grace that there is nothing we can do or should do? Absolutely not. If we are saved by grace through faith today we will do what God has told us to do in His Word. We will: Believe (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24); Repent (Acts 2:38); Confess (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10); Be Baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38); Live faithful to Him (Revelation 2:10).

Doing the things God commands is not earning or meriting our salvation anymore than Moses and the children of Israel earned their salvation. But in our obedience, we access the grace of God through faith, by which we are saved. To God be the glory.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

Realizing Our Great Salvation

Randy Harshbarger

What would you say to an apathetic Christian? Is there any spiritual advice you might offer that would shake someone out of their spiritual dullness? What is the greatest threat to the purity and faithfulness of God's people today? New Testament Christians struggled through trials and persecutions (Hebrews 11). They contended with faith problems (Hebrews 3). Some lost their spiritual focus and turned away from Christ (Hebrews 6:4-6). The social gospel, cults, "felt needs," a this-world reward mentality, etc., pose threats to believers and unbelievers alike. Still, it seems even more tragic when those who "were once enlightened" fall away. Does the devil work harder to gain and keep those who have been exposed to the truth? What can we say to encourage continued fidelity to the Lord?

The Hebrew Christians were told: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them" (Hebrews 2:1). We must make sure we are not carried beyond the point of no return. The great, superior, salvation Christ provides demands our utmost care and concentration. Just as boats are sometimes adrift at sea, floating aimlessly, with neither chart or compass, Christians who do not listen to Christ will drift away. The Hebrew writer strengthens his argument by saying: "For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:2-3). Here the argument is from the lesser to the greater. First, the Old Law was mediated by angels (cf. Acts 7:53). Second, if God meant what He said through His law given to the Jews (and He did), and if that law could not be resisted without punishment (which it could not be), then how much more is our responsibility to pay attention to the will of God in these last days which is expressed through Jesus Christ, the one who is superior to the angels. With the Old Law came the imposition of pain and penalty; the Jews were exhorted to obey God. If that is true (and it is), then how much more are we to listen to the message spoken by the Lord. This message was "confirmed" through the ministration of the Holy Spirit: "God also bearing witness with them,

both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will" (Hebrews 2:4).

The message of Jesus Christ is redemptive in nature. Lost in sin, men and women must look to the perfect, adequate sacrifice in order to be saved. But the message of Christ also is uncompromising in its demands. Jesus, as the way, the truth, and the life, is clear about our need to come only to Him. That was the fundamental mistake made by the Hebrew Christians. They jeopardized their spiritual standing before Christ by reverting back to Judaism. Christ is not simply one voice among many. He is the final, ultimate voice to all men for all time.

How will this help me shore up my faith and commitment to Christ? First, Christ gives me confidence. His salvation is great. Second, this great salvation demands my complete commitment to the seriousness of service to Jesus. Serving the Lord is not an "all you can eat Sunday morning breakfast buffet." It is an all or nothing proposition. Those who merely play around at serving Christ evidence a lack of faith, and will finally perish in the wilderness of sin and rebellion. Jesus had given us every opportunity to know and understand that His salvation is great. When are we going to start acting like we believe Him?

~via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*; Nacogdoches, Texas.

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The Bible Stands

T. Doy Moyer

Sir Isaac Newton once said, "No sciences are better attested than the religion of the Bible." He was right. Science (particularly natural science) is ever-changing. What is cherished today as a theory may be spurned tomorrow as bad science.

However, the Bible has withstood all of the changing theories of science. While ideas and theories have come and gone, the Bible continues as strong as ever. To believers, this is no surprise. Peter, by inspiration,

wrote that the word of God is incorruptible, and "lives and abides forever," because "all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:23-25).

People may mock the Bible, but they cannot explain how it has out-last ed every human theory. Shouldn't an honest person at the very least want to consider it? Take hold of it, for in it is the way to our own immortality.

~via *Topics For Thought*; Haleyville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Scott Adams; Cancer Center of America – Chicago

At Home:

Janet Berryhill

David Gardner

Robert Beasley

Mary Ruth Gardner

Mot Beasley

Lola Colwell

Bobbie Adcock

Emma Clark

Jim Currier

Una King Currier

Molly Weeks

Jeff Mitchell

Jeff Waddell

Mark Hargrove

Jesse Carter

Randy Graviett

Bernice Martin

Buel Galdney

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Pauline Lovell, rm. 78

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118

Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Mary Smith, rm. 85

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Limestone Lodge:

Ruth Owens, rm. 12W

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Reba Adams, at home
Polly Davis, Riverside Home South, Decatur, rm. 74

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

Joel Smith; Iraq
Andrew Deen; Japan
Whitney Deen; Japan

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

NURSERIES AVAILABLE: There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other in the east wing.

WORK GROUP MEETING: Tonight will be time for work group two to meet. If you are in group two, plan to meet with your group after services this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Cleeks:* Don and Linda are on vacation out west... ***The Keenons:*** Jonathan and Lawinda are in the Smokey Mountains this weekend... ***The Coxes:*** Tyler & I are in Barbados where I will begin a meeting this week at the *Barbarrees Hill church* in Bridgetown.

OUR MEETING: There are some meeting invitation cards on the table the foyers of the building to give to those we are inviting to the meeting. Pick some of these up. Also, I would like to canvass the areas around town. Let me know if you would like to be involved in this.

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDY: The fourth and final study in the series of High School/College Age studies will be will Saturday evening, August 21st, at 6:30 p.m. We will be looking at our *Relationship To Our Job*. Stuart Wilson will be directing this study. There are some fliers at each exit to distribute to those we invite to the future studies. If you know of some people in these ages groups, please invite them to join us.

THE RECORD: Attendance— Week of August 1st
Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 125
Morning Worship 168
Evening Worship..... 129

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 100

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Rusty Brand
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Stuart Wilson
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Hunter Cox..... Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Nathaniel Adams... Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Albert Bowers

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 8th:

Usher Keenon Currier
Work Sound System Stuart Wilson

Wednesday, August 11th:

Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 1:1-11)
..... Rusty Brand
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Sunday, August 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Stuart Wilson
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Hunter Cox..... Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Nathaniel Adams... Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching Rusty Brand
Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 15th:

Usher Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System Marty Adams