

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

Volume II

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No. 51

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

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

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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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

David A. Cox, Editor

Powerful, Marvelous Grace!

Mark W. White

The most sublime message in all of the world is the theme of the Scriptures. That message conveys the wonderful truth that **God will save sinners!** Not because He is forced to do so, but because He wants to do so! The great God of Heaven sees sinful men and desires that they come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Simply stated, that is what the Bible calls **grace** - powerful, marvelous grace! Powerful, because God's grace is "*exceedingly abundant*" (1 Timothy 1:14). No one has to be concerned that God's grace is limited in quantity. There is enough grace to extend to every man or woman now living, dead, or yet to be born. God's grace is marvelous, because it is beyond comprehension why God would be so concerned for disobedient, sinful rebels. "God so loved the world" is the only reason given for the sending of His Son and the extension of His grace toward man. We marvel at such mercy! A mercy and grace adequate to forgive the sins of the whole world! It is a thought too high and holy to be fully appreciated this side of eternity.

God's powerful, marvelous grace has been the subject of much discussion over the centuries. Some have mistakenly concluded that God's grace, in the end, will save everyone regardless of how they have lived, because of the depth of God's love. The love of God, however, does not preclude Him from punishing evildoers. Hell will be filled with people whom God loves! His grace is powerful and marvelous, but God has placed certain limits on His grace.

For instance, God's **grace will not save anyone who refuses grace.** The sad fact is, there are unbelievers. The unbelieving will be lost eternally (Revelation 21:8). Grace can be rendered ineffective by man's refusal to believe God can and will save him. Grace can be frustrated when man does not have faith in the Savior, Jesus. Jesus said, "*For if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*" (John 8:24). It is erroneous to conclude that God will save by grace a man who refuses to be forgiven. Unbelievers cannot be saved because they have not placed

themselves in the sphere of God's grace through obedient faith. Ephesians 2:8 says that we are saved by grace **through** faith. One teacher I know said that he tested a man's belief in salvation by grace by how that man quotes Ephesians 2:8. If a man goes further than saying, "For by grace are ye are saved...", the preacher concludes that they do not believe in salvation by grace! But Paul didn't stop there, either. He said "grace...through faith." Shall we therefore conclude that Paul did not believe in salvation by grace? Of course not.

Furthermore, **God's grace will not save the disobedient.** It seems almost silly to make such a point, doesn't it? Surely everyone understands that God's grace is limited to the obedient. Yet, some people hold on to the false hope that such is not the case. It is possible to be "fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4). Certainly, one who has fallen from grace is no longer a recipient of the benefits of grace. Even those who were once saved by grace can be lost through disobedience. God's grace does not ignore disobedience and rebellion. God's grace forgives when we repent of sin. This is why the popular "once saved always saved" theory is so blatantly wrong! God's grace does not give permission to sinners to continue in their sinful ways! Roman 6:1,2 calls upon recipients of the grace of God to forego sin. We must turn sin loose, and stop our pursuit of wickedness if we wish to bask in the grace of God! Paul argues with the Romans that more sin does not equal more grace. Grace does not give incentive to the disobedient to be more rebellious, rather it encourages sinners to turn away from sin. Saving grace "teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age." (Titus 2:11,12).

Personally, I resent the efforts of some present-day brethren who say that historically, preachers and teachers among churches of Christ have never really preached nor understood the grace of God! These critics demonstrate both their arrogance and ignorance in making such charges. Somehow, these brethren have suddenly "discovered" grace for the rest of us poor, unenlightened souls! Yet, their "discovery" is not Biblical grace at all. Their brand of "grace" allows them to take liberties where God has not granted license. They use "grace" as a cover for sin and disobedience. Their "discovery" of grace is really a self-authorized liberty to ignore God's plan of salvation and the scriptural patterns God outlines for His church. We would all do well to be wary of any teacher who is so arrogant as to think he has discovered for the rest of us such a profound Biblical truth!

Grace. No, this is not the name of an old, unmarried Aunt or of some young school girl with skinny legs. It is the basis of our eternal salvation in Jesus Christ.

-via *College View Columns* Florence, Alabama

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Which Assembly?

Tim Smelser

The psalmist of old wrote, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go unto the house of Jehovah'" (Psalm 122:1). In Psalm 9:1-6, David invites, "O come let us sing unto Jehovah; Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; O come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before Jehovah our Maker."

Aside from assembling together to worship God, we are also encouraged to study His Word and to meditate thereon. "Oh how I love Thy Law! It is my meditation all the day!" (Psalm 119:97).

In Acts 4 we find Christians assembled together for times of prayer and study. These saints lifted up their voices to God with one accord (vs. 24) and they prayed together (vs. 31). Peter came to the house of Mary in Acts 12:12 and he found many gathered together who were praying.

What I find interesting about these examples is that these Christians were not assembled together on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper. Many times Christians today feel they are "required" to attend the worship of service on Sunday morning because partaking of the Lord's Supper is commanded (Luke 22:14-23; Acts 20:7).

However, their interest does not go beyond the assembling to break bread. The Sunday morning Bible classes, the Sunday evening worship services and the Wednesday night Bible classes are not important in their minds because they are not "required."

Consider the attitude of the brethren at Berea when Luke wrote that they "searched the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11-12). Not only was David glad to go to the

house of the Lord, he invited others to go with him. Paul told Timothy, “Till I come, give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13). Surely our “other” assemblies give us the opportunity to fulfill this instruction.

We share a common bond with all the people referred to above. That common bond should be our love for God and for His Word. We need to follow their examples and take advantage of every opportunity to assemble together and study from God’s Holy Word. Time has been set aside (apart from the Sunday morning worship period) for us to assemble with fellow Christians to study, sing and pray: all done to the glory of God!

Let’s get involved and take part in these times of study so we can “present ourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not to be ashamed, handling aright the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

~via *The Parchment*, Indainapolis, Indiana



Living To Die

Mike Thomas

Isaac Asimov tells the story of a rough ocean crossing during which a Mr. Jones became terrible seasick. At an especially rough time, a ship steward patted Jones on the shoulder and said, “I know, sir, that it seems awful. But remember, no man ever died of seasickness.” Mr. Jones lifted his green countenance to the steward’s concerned face and replied, “Man, don’t say that! It’s only the wonderful hope of dying that keeps me alive” (Bible Illustrator).

What a humorous yet revealing statement: “It’s only the wonderful hope of dying that keeps me alive.” Paul had a similar take on death when he wrote, “For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life” (2 Corinthians 5:4). My understanding of this verse is that Paul was anxiously awaiting his departure from this life. Not because he had a death wish to leave prematurely (“to be unclothed” of mortality). It’s just that he wanted

more to go to heaven to be with God (“that mortality may be swallowed up by life”). Eternal life meant more to him than his life on earth.

It is healthy for God’s people to think of the time when they will depart from this life. There is practical wisdom in numbering our days on earth by accepting our mortality. In this sense, it is “Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart” (Ecclesiastes 7:2). Yet the child of God should not fear death since he serves a God who has defeated it. Nevertheless, we all struggle with wanting to stay here a little longer and to put off the time of our departure. We should work to counter this conflict with a healthy anticipation of death. The thought of seeing God for who He is because “we shall be like Him” (1 John 3:2), “who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body” (Philippians 3:21), should persuade us to welcome the end our life on earth. Not that we want to be unclothed of mortality (and our earthly relationships), but further clothed with an eternal body from God.

Our troubles as Christians begin when we forget that we are “pilgrims and sojourners” in this world and begin taking up residency instead. We forget that our “citizenship is in heaven” and that our real home is not in a life of sin and compromise. Paul did not make this mistake. He waited for the “city whose maker and builder is God” by meditating on the spiritual body that God would give him. “For we know that is our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1). He anticipated this crown of life “which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8).

With so much waiting for us beyond the grave, why would we not want to live to die?

~via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Gladys Sandlin; HealthSouth Huntsville – rm. 320

Janet Berryhill; Millennium Rehab. – rm. 133

At Home:

Gayle Ball	Gilbert Hardy
Faye Ferguson	Rachel Grubbs
Yvonne Pressnell	Joe Leopard
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Annie Mae Bragg	Hazel Toone
Phil Pressnell	Bertha Johnson
Rene Hood	Eva Felker
Keena Adams	Jeff Mitchell
Ray Bailey	Jesse Carter
Bernice Martin	Randy Graviett
Jeff Waddell	Mary Bates
Una King Currier	Jim Currier
Phillip Harwell	Emma Clark

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	Mary Smith, rm. 85
Jane Meredith, rm. 114	Bernice Thomas, rm. 52

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
 Reba Adams, at home
 Lola Colwell, at home
 Polly Davis, River City Care, 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
 Matthew Cox; Iraq

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

WORK GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for work group three to meet. If you are in group three remember to meet with your group this evening after our evening service.

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

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams	
Song Leader	Joel Hamm	
Prayer	Kenneth Smith	
Preaching	Warren Glass	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding	Marion Mitchell	
Assisting	Jonathan Keenon	
Serving	Paul Hasting	Harold Davis
.....	Landon Adams.....	Chris Sides
Closing Prayer	Lifford Smith	

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching	Marty Adams
Lord's Supper	Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 19th:

Usher	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System	Danny Johnson

Wednesday, December 22th:

Song Leader	Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 10:1-11)
.....	Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer	Joel Hamm
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, December 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Ronnie Locke
Assisting	Wayne Vaughn
Serving	Nathaniel Adams... Marvin Putman
.....	Keenon Currier..... Marion Pepper
Closing Prayer	Rusty Brand

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Larry Mitchell
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer	Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 26th:

Usher	Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System	Stuart Wilson