

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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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Volume III

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No. 17

Noah Found Grace

Tony Hudson

People disagree about what saves us. Is it God's grace? Is it our faith? Is it faithful obedience to God's instructions? To all of these questions, I would simply answer yes. And I believe the example of Noah is a good one for us to learn from.

In Genesis 6:3 we read of a time when God said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." I understand this to mean that God decided that He would destroy mankind in 120 years. God explains why in Genesis 6:5, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." God was sorry He had made man, and "it grieved him at his heart" (Genesis 6:6).

However, as God planned to destroy mankind (Genesis 6:7), He extended His favor to one man. That man was Noah. Genesis 6:8 reads, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." This was indeed a blessing for Noah, but what did it mean? I think the writer of Hebrews sheds light upon that question. Hebrews 11:7 tells us that it was not only God's grace but also Noah's faith that saved him as we read, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

Now we see that God extended His grace to Noah by warning him "of things not seen as yet." God told Noah that He planned to flood the world and destroy all mankind. This was the warning of things "not seen as yet." The flood had not yet occurred. It was 120 years away, although there is no indication that God told Noah how long it would be, God knew when He would bring the flood, but Noah only knew it was coming - not when it was coming.

God told Noah that "the end of all flesh is come" (Genesis 6:13), and He told Noah what to do to be saved. Genesis 6:14 says, "Make

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
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

thee an ark of gopher wood.” God told Noah what kind of wood it should be; what size it should be; how many doors and windows it should have; and how many stories it should have. God told Noah he was to bring animals onto the ark with specific instructions as to how many of each kind and of each gender. And Genesis 7:5 says, “Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.”

Now think back to Hebrews 11:7. This idea that Noah did all that God commanded is expressed in the scripture as it tells us that Noah “moved with fear” and “prepared an ark.” So God’s grace was shown in that He warned Noah about the flood that was coming. Noah’s faith is shown in that he believed God, and Noah’s faith was fulfilled in the works he did as he build “an ark to the saving of his house.”

So we see the grace of God combined with the faith of man which led man to obey the commandments of God that were intended to save him in the example of Noah.

Is that not what God has done for us today? God has determined a day when the world will be destroyed. Peter tells us this in 2 Peter 3:7, “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” Peter says too that God is waiting because He is “longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). So God has extended His grace to us in a warning just as He warned Noah.

And God has told us what to do to be saved. He sent his Son to die on the cross accepting the punishment that we deserve for our sins (1 Peter 2:22). Having sent His Son, God calls on us to believe in Him. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

His Son Jesus said we must repent and be baptized in Mark 16:15-16 telling His apostles, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” We see confession of one’s belief is called for as it was when Philip taught the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. When they came to water the eunuch sought to be baptized, and Phillip said, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.”

And those who accepted this teaching on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:37 asked what they should do. They were told to also repent as we read in Acts 2:38, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” They turned from their sins asking for forgiveness. They were baptized, and their sins were forgiven. Then in Acts 2:41-42 we learn that those who received the teachings “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine.” It seems reasonable to do as Noah did - all that God has commanded. We should believe the warning of things that we have not yet seen. Believing we should put our faith in God’s Son who died for us. We should repent of our sins; confess our belief in Jesus; be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins; and live steadfastly in the doctrine set forth by the apostles in the New Testament.

God saved Noah and his family, because they believed and obeyed Him. The waters of the flood lifted the ark up and washed sin off the face of the earth. God will save us too if we believe and obey Him. We can be buried in the waters of baptism, and God will wash away our sins. This is what Peter was talking about in 1 Peter 3:20-21 when he wrote of Noah and the ark “wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure thereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

-via *The Lighted Path*, Elgin, Alabama.

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Life’s Experiences

Michael W. McLemore

No man is ever born with judgment so correct and judicious that life’s circumstance can not teach him something new. Frequently it seems as soon as one is assured of himself, life’s experience apprises him of those things with which he thought himself best acquainted, he knew nothing. Byron described experience as “that chill touchstone whose sad proof reduces all things from their false hue.”

Not to take the cynic's seat, but our intention is to motivate men to a life-long search for truth. Our pursuit is a spiritual one, guided by Truth. God has not left us to discover Him through life's experience. But, neither are we raised from baptism's watery grave endowed with All Truth. Rather, God has given us his divine guide for the soul - The Word. As babes in the Lord we must pursue knowledge and grow. The Hebrew writer cried out for men to "leave elementary teaching...and press on to maturity." The noted Apostle to the Gentiles urged Timothy, a young evangelist, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God" and this through study. Peter said simply, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord."

Young Christians are often convinced of the certainty of matters, only to be a thousand times mistaken. Our daily search and application of God's Word is the answer to the quandary. This confidence we have, if God has called for it, is necessary and a life of trial will only insure its proof.

The daily search for God's answer is man's greatest protection both from delusion and defection. May God through His Word remain our constant guide, and may we resist the temptation to stagnancy relying solely on life experience, thereby remaining mere babes never pursuing perfection.

-via *Weatherly Weekly*, Huntsville, Alabama



Truthful Excuses

Robert F. Turner

An excuse need not be a lie. It is "a cause, factor, or circumstance that frees from blame or releases from obligations." Many excuses are both truthful and legitimate; some are outright lies; while others may be very truthful, yet reveal a most unbecoming character in the maker.

When someone "explains" his absence from worship with, "We had visitors," this need not be a lie. It may be the truth - which tells us that this person regards social activities as being more important than worship.

"No one is perfect!" How very true. So, there can be no standards, no "right" or "wrong." There can be

no ideals to which we can press, nor should we urge such elevated goals upon others. Can't we see that the imperfection of man is the very reason for recognizing our failures as such, and helping one-another to "get up and try again?"

"Many people do it," to which we still must agree. Does that make it the will of God? "Many people" think that man made God in man's own image, and accept a "situation ethics" standard; but it can not be demonstrated that such a philosophy has ever elevated mankind, or promoted a stable society. This is a poor substitute for faith in God and individual character.

"There are hypocrites in the church" - and the world has none? Do you think that using a hypocrite as your "excuse" makes you a better man? And how is it that one is able to see the Truth with reference to hypocrisy in others, and be blinded to the same in themselves? (Matthew 7:1-5).

"But I mean well!" This also may be the truth. It commends, to some extent; but it remains a commendation only as our "honest heart" leads us to further consider God's Truth, and make corrections accordingly.

A radio "commercial" of some years back has one man excusing himself from worship with, "Things are so unsettled these days. There is so little time. Why, the whole world may be blown apart at any moment." And the reply was, "That's right!"

-via *Northwood Messenger*, Northport, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

At Home:

Nancy Abernathy	Gilbert Hardy
Hazel Toone	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Bertha Johnson
Martha Rice	Jeff Waddell
Jesse Carter	Matt Poff
Ray Miller	Phillip Harwell
Don Bowling	Robbie Shoulders
Jim Currier	Una King Currier
Randy Graviett	

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65 Gladys Sandlin, rm. 101
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Mary Smith, rm. 85

Limestone Manor:

Albert Norton, rm. 96

Shut-In:

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:

- Andrew Deen; Japan
- Whitney Deen; Japan
- Matthew Cox; Iraq

DISHES: There are a number of dishes on the shelf in the west wing foyer. If you have taken food recently, please check the shelf for your dishes.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Marion and Irene Mitchell* in the passing of their daughter, *Tabatha Nelson*, this past Thursday evening. Their will be a Graveside service Monday morning at 11:00 a.m. at Hasting Cemetery.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Ardmore church* in Ardmore is completing a meeting today with its 7:00 p.m. service this evening. *Steve Klein* is the speaker in this meeting.

PREACHING AWAY: *Warren Glass* is preaching for the *Pine Lane church* in Bessemer today at their services.

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 four to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening.

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

THE RECORD: For the Week of April 17th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 128
Morning Worship 163
Evening Worship..... 103
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 97

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Wayne Vaughn
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Tyler Cox
Assisting Kenneth Smith
Serving Nathaniel Adams..... Mark Rogers
..... Jonathan Keenon .. Keenon Carrier
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 24th:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, April 27th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 20:1-6)
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Sunday, May 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Will Chumbley Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Delmer Carter..... Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Wayne Vaughn
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Marty Adams
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 1st:

Usher Jonathan Keenon
Work Sound System Danny Johnson