

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 VI

April 27, 2014

No. 17

We Give No Offense In Anything

Frank Richey

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3312
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
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Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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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

Paul's life epitomized the declaration, "we give no offense in anything" (2 Corinthians 6:3). A study of the life of Paul is a study in self-denial and sacrifice. He sacrificed a great deal to become a Christian (Philippians 3:4-7). He gave up even more to preach the gospel (Acts 26:19-21; 2 Timothy 1:8-12). In all this he followed the example of Christ, who gave most of all (Philippians 2:5-8).

Paul expressed his willingness to sacrifice his rights in many ways. He said that he would be willing to forego the eating of meats if such eating would cause his brother to stumble (1 Corinthians 8:13). He subjected himself as a servant to others (2 Corinthians 4:5). He then taught us not to do anything that would offend or cause our brother to stumble (Romans 14:21).

What would motivate Paul to live his life in such a way? Why be so willing to forego your rights? Let's look at Paul's life of self-denial and the motivation behind it.

First things first. Paul could willingly forego his rights because he had his priorities properly ordered. Paul was ready to sacrifice only those things that were of lesser importance. If he had been materialistic, worldly, and selfish, he would not have been willing to sacrifice for anyone or anything else.

The rich young ruler went away without the security of salvation because he wasn't willing to sacrifice. Paul exemplified a different attitude – an attitude of sacrifice. We will never be able to live up to Paul's and Christ's example until we learn to live without whatever we may be called upon to sacrifice. Self-denial and sacrifice becomes possible and even easy once we develop the proper estimation of ourselves, our rights and our belongings. Serving God and preaching the gospel were foremost to Paul. Having his priorities ordered, Paul knew what was of utmost importance. It wasn't himself and his rights. It was the gospel. Paul was not willing that anything should impede the progress of the gospel. He knew that it was the gospel that saved man and not his personality or style (cf.

Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5), but he also knew that he could, by his conduct, discredit the gospel and his preaching of it. Too many have been offended and turned away, not by the truth of the gospel, but by the attitude or conduct of the one preaching it. Would to God that every gospel preacher would mimic Paul and do nothing to discredit the gospel or give offense.

There are times when the truth, even compassionately presented, will offend someone. But this does not mean that it must offend. It seems that some preachers don't think they have done their job unless someone is offended by their preaching. Never water down or change the truth to keep from offending someone. Yet neither preach it in an attempt to offend. Be kind, be compassionate, be gentle and mild (Galatians 6:1). If the gospel is rejected, then you will know that it wasn't you that kept them from salvation, but themselves.

We must be careful that our presentation of the gospel is not offensive. We must give equal diligence to insure that our lives are not offensive. Paul made it his aim to not allow anything to offend so as to hinder the spread of the gospel or the spiritual growth of his brethren. How sad to think that one thoughtless action might cancel all the many positive efforts put forth in the cause of Christ. How tragic when a man preaches the gospel in a place for many years, lead souls to Christ, strengthens the brethren, yet when asked to leave raise such a fuss that all his good work is destroyed. Other such thoughtless actions have done much damage to the cause of Christ.

Paul loved his brethren more than himself. The "I'm number one, I've got my rights" mentality has no place in the church. There is also no place for the "I don't have to, What's in it for me" attitude. Paul was willing to forego anything and give up everything for his brethren's sake. He viewed himself as their servant (1 Corinthians 9:19) He did not seek his own best interest, but theirs (1 Corinthians 10:24; Philippians 2:4). Paul's attitude must be ours: "Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble" (1 Corinthians 8:13).

-via *What Does The Bible Say?*, Florence, Alabama

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Grace and Righteousness

Forrest D. Moyer

It Seems To Me that some members of Christ's body have a grave misconception of the role of grace in our right-standing with God. Because of this many feel insecure in their relationship with God. They tend to rely on their own righteousness, and, realizing their frailties, imperfections, and short-comings, lose heart or become fearful that they might miss Heaven. The fact of our imperfection is precisely why God's grace is provided and why it is so valuable in our lives.

Why Law Cannot Produce Righteousness:

In a law system such as we see in the Mosaical age, absolute obedience is required in order to produce righteousness. "For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.' Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for 'The righteous man shall live by faith.' However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, 'He who practices them shall live by them'" (Galatians 3:10-12).

Those who feel that right-standing comes only by law-keeping (any law) must face up to the consequences of their choice. That choice demands total and perfect law-keeping. "So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, but which a man may live if he does them" (Leviticus 18:8). If you miss one little point, you are a law-breaker (See James 2:10). Now, if you are a law-breaker, you are a sinner and are not "righteous" and cannot stand before God, but are under a curse (v. 10 above). "Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them" (Deuteronomy 27:26).

What Can Forgive Sin?

Law cannot forgive sin. You will have to rely on something other than law to have right-standing. The fact is that no one perfectly keeps the law (except Jesus). For that reason, "no one is justified by the law before God." It is this realization of our falling short that often makes us miserable in our religion because we feel that we must render perfect obedience to be right, but we don't!

If we cannot obtain right-standing by law-keeping, then by what means does it come? Enter the grace of God. You see, God loved us even when we were sinners (Romans 5:6-9). That love provided a way through

Jesus Christ who came and who died in our place and for our sins. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us" (Galatians 3:13).

But how do we gain access into this grace and thus obtain righteousness? The answer is plain. It is by faith. Our text above says, "The righteous will live by faith." Or to put it another way, "The man who is right with God by faith will live." Paul stated it this way "therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand" (Romans 5:1-2).

The way of faith takes God at His word. It trust Jesus and His sacrifice to take away our sins. When my faith leads me to genuine repentance and to a burial with Him in baptism, it is His blood that forgives and gives me a right-standing that I have not earned and do not deserve.

Actually, what I have is an imputed righteousness (Romans 4:5-8). It is not of debt but of grace that I am declared righteous. And, I might add, it is this grace which continually provides the blood of Christ by which I can daily stand in righteousness before God and have fellowship with Him (1 John 1:7). Paul speaks of the "righteousness of the law" (Romans 8:4). That is, the righteousness which was demanded by the law and could only come by perfect law-keeping. Paul says that this right-standing that perfect law-keeping could have produced can be fulfilled in us. How? Remember, it doesn't come by perfect obedience. Then how? By grace on God's part and by our faith accessing that grace.

When my faith leads me to repent and be baptized and to "walk according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:4), then I have full faith that God's grace accepts "such a worm as I" (Psalm 22:6). Truly, I can praise Him for imputing me a righteousness which I have not earned and be as Abraham of old, who "believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:3).

One other thought: God's grace is not a license to sin. I cannot reason that since I am saved by grace that it doesn't matter whether I try to follow His will or not. His will was given for the purpose of our striving to follow it in our lives. Our faith takes Him at His word and seeks to walk in His way so long as we live. Understanding His grace helps to have full assurance as we walk humbly with our God.

-via *The Friendly Visitor*; Athens, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Fay Ferguson	Robert & Mot Beasley
Noah Ghadimi	Crutcher Harbin
Gwen Bullock	Essie Hardison
Matt Poff	Elizabeth Howard
Charlotte Keenum	Charles Burns
Joey Hinkle	Joan Stanford
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Carol Locke	Ava Brooke Campbell
Abby Gilbert	David Holt
Jerry Taylor	Una King Carrier
Phillip Harwell	

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 75	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97	Matty Murray, rm. 2
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Frankz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63	

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36	Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B
Jack Cannon, rm. 95	Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Wynell Casteel, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Capshaw church* is beginning a gospel meeting this week and it will continue through Wednesday night. The speaker in this meeting will be *Eric Reynolds of Fayetteville, Tennessee...* The *New Georgia church* near Rogersville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Gary Patton...* The

Hanceville church in Hanceville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Paul Earnhart of Louisville, Kentucky* preaching.

OUR MEETING: It was truly a blessing to have *Dee and Norma Bowman* with us this past week as we gathered together to study lessons preached by brother Bowman. Dee preached the gospel of Christ in a very simple and plain manner and all who came were built up and strengthened spiritually. The attendance was outstanding each service. We average 199 for the meeting. Thanks to everyone for your work and preparation for the meeting. For all those that you invited, for the prayers prayed for the meeting and for the way you greeted and made those who were visting to feel so welcome. Thanks to *Tyler Cox, Todd Williams, Joel Hamm, Hunter Cox, Tommy Burns and Stefan Fudge* for the great work you did in preparing for and leading the singing. We are thankful for the week we had and wish the very best for Dee and Norma.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Morris': Marcus and Bonnie* are in Jacksonville, Florida on vacation this week... *Dan Lovell* is in Florida on vacation.

CONFESSION: On Tuesday evening, *Freddie Mae Elmore* asked for prayer for unfaithfulness in her life. We appreciate her desire to please God. May we all encourage sister Elmore as she has and will encourage us in this race of life. May the Lord bless sister Elmore.

YOUNG ADULT CLASS: Beginning next Sunday May 4th, there will be a young adult class beginning. *Jordan Lovell* will be teaching the class. All of the young adults need to see Jordan about this class this week, if at all possible.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Dwaine Allfrey and all the family* in the passing of Dwaine's borther, *William Dyrall Allfrey*. His burial was on Wednesday at the Athens City Cemetery.

WORK GROUPS: **Work Group Two** will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of April 20th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 163
 Morning Worship 230
 Evening Worship..... 180

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 169

Vacation Bible School
 June16-19, 2014 — 10:00 a.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 27th:

Morning Worship

AnnouncementsJoel Hamm
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Bonnie Sutton
 Assisting Larry Mitchell
 Serving Mot Dollar Kenneth Adams
 Paul Hasting.....Bart Brown
 Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Evening Worship

AnnouncementsJoel Hamm
 Song LeaderTodd Williams
 PrayerRoss Melvin
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
 Closing PrayerJerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 27th:

Usher Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, April 30th:

Song LeaderStefan Fudge
 Bible Reading.....Mark 14:1-11
 Mot Dollar
 Prayer Keith Hinkle
 Invitation Jordan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, May 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
 Song LeaderHunter Cox
 Prayer Dan Reed
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
 Assisting Larry Mitchell
 Serving Ronnie Locke David Terry
 Tyler Cox Steve Usery
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
 Song LeaderStefan Fudge
 Prayer Marcus Morris
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Norman Brown

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 4th:

Usher Delmer Carter
 Work Sound System Marty Adams