

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

May 18, 2014

No. 20

The Trying of Abraham's Faith

David A. Cox

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757
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

Men are known in history for the outstanding traits of character and the accomplishments that they have attained during their lifetime. In Hebrews 11: 17 we read, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac." Abraham is a man that is known for his faith. He is not known for his faith because of perfection, but the greatness of Abraham's faith is seen in the fact that he trusted in the promises of God faithfully for years while waiting for them.

God tested Abraham's faith on different occasions. First, God told Abraham to leave his home, Ur of the Chaldees, and go to a land that God would show him (Genesis 12:1). His faith in the promise of God and trusting that God would take care of him, caused Abraham to leave his family and live alone among the Canaanites.

Another test of faith is seen in the promise that God, through Abraham's descendants, would make a great nation. But it was twenty-five years from the time that the promise was made until there was a son born to Abraham and Sarah. This son was Issac and the one that God told Abraham to "take thine son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest" (Genesis 22:2). This is the incident that the Hebrew writer recalls as when Abraham "was tried." Much can be learned from this is a trial of faith that Abraham experienced.

Faith In God Came Before Natural Reaction

Can you imagine what emotion must have been stirred within Abraham as he heard this command from God? The sacrificing of human flesh upon the altar would be repugnant to anyone, but the sacrificing of one's own son upon the altar would be much more so. However, in Genesis 22, we see Abraham following through with the command of God as he takes a knife to slay his son. Here we see Abraham's faith in God triumphing over his natural reaction.

The natural reaction would be to say, "Surely God doesn't want me to do that" or "Surely, I can do something else and God will be pleased."

Naturally, this command from God seemed contrary to the promises God made to Abraham. But the faith of Abraham was such that he did not ask any questions and he did not make any arguments to delay or avoid obeying the command the Lord had given to him. We must understand, as Abraham did, that it matters not what we might naturally think about the commands of God. If God has commanded us to do something, then He will be pleased with us only when we obey.

Faith Was Prepared For This Trial

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, we are promised that God will not bring trials upon man which he is unable to bear. Obviously, this trial in the life of Abraham was one he was able to bear. The experiences in the life of Abraham had caused his faith to be strong and he was able to stand the test. The fulfilled promise of a son being born to Abraham and Sarah after many years, is one thing that surely convinced Abraham that God is able and keeps His promises.

Faith Is Demonstrated By His Works

In Romans 4, Paul mentions the faith of Abraham as not being weak, but strong. His faith caused him not to stagger at the promise of God, but he was fully persuaded. Here Paul is emphasizing faith as the condition of Abraham's justification, but we must understand that the faith was proved by the works of obedience to God. The idea of Abraham being justified by works is set forth by James in James 2. Some believe that Paul and James held contrary views concerning justification. But we must understand that Paul and James were guided by the same Holy Spirit as they penned their epistles so there is no way that their views could be contrary to the other. Paul and James are not contrary to one another but are complementary. Concerning this trial of Abraham James says, "was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:21-24). Before faith is perfected, it must be tried or tested and that requires some kind of action. The action done must be the action that has been ordained of God. It was the action (the works) of obedience to the command of God and the faith in God that caused Abraham to prove or complete his faith. Earlier James

said that "faith without works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). Abraham's faith was not a dead faith, but a strong faith (Romans 4:20).

May each one of us have the kind of faith that Abraham had in his lifelong pilgrimage awaiting the promise. May we heed the teachings of the word of God, obeying them without delay and without applying our personal thoughts. Simply do what God teaches in His word. As we do this, we will be like Abraham. By accepting God's word as true, giving up our own desires and doing what God tells us to, we will gain a city whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10).

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God's Word Stands Forever

T. Doy Moyer

The Bible is unique. No other book has been attacked like it, scrutinized like it or criticized like it. Neither has there ever been another book that has stood its ground like the Bible. The critics have passed on through the centuries, but the Bible stands as strong today as ever. It is an amazing book.

Why is there so much hatred against the Bible? Perhaps we can see part of the reason in a statement Jesus made: "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Jesus was referring to Himself as the light coming into the world. The Bible represents the words of Christ. If people hated Him, they also hate His words. Why? Because His word exposes evil and shines light upon the sinful activities of mankind. People who love their sin will despise the Bible.

The Bible still stands. Regardless of all the hatred manifested toward it through the ages, it is still here to be reckoned with. This fact alone ought to make us think about the importance of the Bible.

If a book were to be given to us by God, then we should expect that it endures. This is exactly what God promised about His word:

“A voice says, ‘Call out.’ Then he answered, ‘What shall I call out?’ All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:6-8).

Peter repeated this over 700 years later (1 Peter 1:24-25). And today, nearly two thousand years after Peter wrote, the word of God still stands. It has not diminished in its power and authority at all. This at least makes the Bible worthy of our investigation.

The word of God has the power to change lives - no, not just like other “self-help” books. Other books might tell you how to treat others better, or feel better about yourself or how to lose weight. But the Bible gives us the way to forgiveness of sins and eternal life. The Bible not only tells us how to improve life on earth, it tells us how to go to heaven. It gives us what no other book gives.

When we obey God’s word, we are “born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23). Being born again of the imperishable word, we are “born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:3-4). Because we are born of the word which is imperishable, we receive a reward which is also imperishable. This all comes from the God who will always remain.

Investigate the Bible. It is not a book that we can brush aside with a sweep of the hand. We must come to terms with it. It is the inspired word of God, and it will be with us on the Day of judgment (John 12:48). Don’t trust your soul to anything less than God’s holy word.

-via *Concerning The Kingdom*; Forest Park, Ohio.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
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News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Crutcher Harbin	Robert & Mot Beasley
Gwen Bullock	Dorothy Casteel
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	Gene Carpenter

In The Hospital:

Cecil Cox; ECM Hospital - Florence; rm. 558

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 Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63	

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36	Jack Cannon, rm. 95
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E	

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

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

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Sardis Spring church* in is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Thursday night. The speaker in this meeting will be *Jonathan Reeder*.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Carters: Delmer and Margaret* are in Michigan this week visiting with family... *The Burns: Tommy and Susan* are on vacation this weekend.

SYMPATHY: We extend our deepest sympathy to *Alvis McLemore and all the family* in the passing of Alvis' brother, *Dempsey McLemore*. He passed away last Sunday morning. His funeral was on Tuesday afternoon. He was laid to rest in the Limestone Memorial Gardens.

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 May 11th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	139
	Morning Worship	207
	Evening Worship.....	125
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	103



Vacation Bible School

June 16-20, 2014 — 10:00 a.m.

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Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Paul Hasting..... Marvin Putman
.....	Russ Wulfekuhl Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Keith Hinkle
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 18th:

Usher	Mot Dollar
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, May 21st:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Mark 14:32-42
.....	Nathaniel Adams
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Invitation	Dan Reed
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Sunday, May 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Ross Melvin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Kenneth Smith
Assisting	Marty Adams
Serving	Landon Adams Delmer Carter
.....	Heath Dollar James Johnson
Closing Prayer	Ronnie Locke

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Keith Hinkle
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 25th:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Terry Andrews