

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
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Do You Have Enough Faith?

Dan Richardson

"having been buried with him in baptism, wherein ye were also raised with him through faith in the working God, who raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

Often, in discussions on baptism, the subject of faith seems far removed. Many, in varying religions, have concluded that baptism is unnecessary for man's salvation from sin, that it is far removed from the saving blood of Jesus, from saving faith, and that he who trusts in baptism for salvation is relying "works" instead of "faith."

However, consider carefully the above verse. Paul was an inspired apostle of Christ, who teaches that true baptism is an act of faith "in the working of God" that raised Jesus from the dead. In baptism the sinner responds by faith to be both "buried" and "raised" spiritually with Christ, becoming "united with him in the likeness of his death" and "...also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Romans 6:5). Scripture affirms that it is at the point of baptism, this uniting spiritually in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, that one enters "in Christ" (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27). "In Christ" describes the spiritual relationship that they who are saved from their sins have with Jesus. To be "in Christ" portrays the spiritual life wherein "every spiritual blessing" of God's grace for man is found (forgiveness, fellowship, peace, joy, contentment, love, hope, security, strength, etc., Ephesians 1:3). These blessings do not precede baptism but come after it.

Man's opposition to baptism for salvation isn't because the Bible is ambiguous in its teaching on the subject. Scripture is just as clear and understandable on the necessity of baptism as it is on the fact of Jesus' resurrection from the dead! Jesus commanded His disciples to preach to everyone the gospel of faith and baptism for salvation (Mark 16:15-16). Scripture clearly teaches baptism is "unto (for) the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), that it washes away sins (Acts 22:16), and that it saves sinners (1 Peter 3:21). And frankly, it doesn't matter how many degrees a person has from universities and/or seminaries, if he doesn't accept the clarity of

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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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

Bible truth on this subject. Honestly, to miss the truth on baptism, one needs “help” provided by the arrogance in man’s unbelief. Worldly wisdom will always count the truth of God as “foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:18-25), and it will, no doubt, continue to censure the necessity of water baptism for salvation, declaring it as trusting in water instead of God for salvation, or condemning it was “salvation by works” instead of by God’s grace. Such attacks, however, does not change what God’s word teaches.

From Colossians 2:12, we learn that baptism is a matter of saving faith. Whatever one’s view of baptism, it reflects the nature of his faith, or lack of it. It becomes down to whether or not we have enough faith to take God at His Word, to believe God is able/powerful to do what He says He will do, and that God is righteous in His character to make good on His promises to us. What it really comes down to is this: do you have enough faith in God to be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins?

“And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that he is the rewarder of them that seek after Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is “a firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing” (W.E. Vine). It basically means to trust, and in the New Testament, to trust in God and Jesus Christ. Like Peter, who trusted in the Lord to get out of the boat and walk on water because Jesus told him to (Matthew 14:28-29). And, like Abraham, who in his old age and the barrenness of his wife Sarah, trusted in God’s promise that they would have a son (Romans 4:17-21). Faith is not merely a mental consent that God exists, but trusting in what God says. We must believe “God is”, but we must “come” and “seek” Him obediently. This is the faith God has always required of man.

—via *Search*; Vanduser, Missouri

Bible Study



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

A Christian Prays! Do You?

Robert F. Turner

A Christian prays — and prays — and prays. But many church members scarcely know the meaning of the word once they leave the church building and the stilted “audience conscious” phrases that pass for prayer there. “Pray without ceasing;” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) makes no apparent impression.

It is a tragedy that God is considered so inaccessible. To many He is far away, locked in an inner office; with an alert guard of clergymen, forms and format to protect Him from the “ordinary” caller. The idea is wholly foreign to the truth.

“Enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” (Matthew 6:6). Thus Jesus describes the close intimate relation that exists between the petitioner and his Creator. This does not negate public prayer (the contrast is with hypocritical show-offs); in fact this touches the vitals of all acceptable prayer. When intimate communion with God is missing, public prayer becomes a farce.

Prayer is a Christian’s privilege; made real and earnest — meaningful — because a Christian (and only a Christian) truly appreciates such characteristics of God as the following.

God Is Near! He is “not far from every one of us; for in Him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:27-28) A Christian lives close to God. His Maker is ever-present, all-about; ready to be contacted upon a moment’s notice. This nearness comforts the Christian -- “in the valley of the shadow..thou art with me.”

God Cares! The Christian casts all his cares upon God, “for He careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7). Our Father is concerned – His interest is genuine. He who takes note of the sparrow’s fall, watched over all His children.

God Hears! His eyes “are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers” (1 Peter 3:12) “All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:13b) And hearing, He understands our frailties — “the feeling of our infirmities” (Hebrews 4:15-16) so we may come boldly to the throne of grace for mercy.

And God Gives! “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7-f) **Ask! Seek! Knock!** These are imperatives, in the Greek present tense. They say, “Ask” and keep on asking; “seek” and continue to seek; “knock” again and again. The thought is akin to Matthew 6:33 — “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

A Christian believes that God is near, that God cares, that God hears, and that God gives. He is conscious of his dependence upon God, and leans upon Him without hesitation. So he prays; when he awakes — as he goes to work — when he partakes of God’s rich blessings — when he feels the weight of sorrow and cares — as he lays him down to sleep. A Christian prays; and what about you?

-via *The Eastside Enlightner*; Athens, Alabama



Choosing the Wilderness?

Dennis Carrow

The children of Israel had been delivered from Egyptian bondage. They walked out of Egypt with the promises of the land flowing with milk and honey. What joy and anticipation they must have felt as they began their journey. Then came the Red Sea, it was impassable! Did they trust God for deliverance? No, They were prepared to return to unbearable rule of Egyptian bondage. They began to turn against the power of God that had delivered them. God did deliver them from oppression, but they had to walk according to His will. This they did, and they sang the joyful song of deliverance and began their journey again.

We know the rest of the story. It did not end well for those who had been delivered from oppression because they refused to face the opponent that occupied the land they had been given. The land was everything God had promised, but there was an opponent there that had to be removed. The abundant land of promise would be entered according to God’s terms. The Israelites lacked the faith necessary to obey God. In fact, because of difficulty, their journey to the promise land ended

in a return to the wilderness. They wandered there for the rest of their lives and never inherited that which the Lord had prepared to give them.

When we parallel the children of Israel’s deliverance, and lack of faith with our lives, what do we see? We have been delivered from the bondage of sin. Now we must face the opponent that most say cannot be overcome. It is living the abundant life promised to us by Jesus (John 10:10). We often see the opposition with the vision worldliness provides. We refuse to trust God, we do not keep our promise, our commitment, we simply move in another direction. While this may “feel” like it is the way to go — it is into the wilderness. Shall we enter, accepting the struggle, or wander — stuck in the wilderness?

It is time to renew our strength, refocus our journey, and overcome our greatest opponent – our own self desires. “Let us go up at once and take possession...” The choice is ours – Let’s go!

-via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Fay Ferguson	Joe Hinkle
Lona Killen	Jeanette Weir
Ruth Legg	Crutcher Harbin
Robert & Mot Beasley	Gwen Bullock
Gene Carpenter	Dianna Felker Ritter
Charlotte Kellum	Jerry Taylor
Dorothy Casteel	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	David Holt
Joey Hinkle	Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell	Una King Carrier
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Carol Locke	Alex Reed
Abby Gilbert	Ruth Lawson

In The Hospital:

Gilbert Hardy; Maury Regional Hosp.; Columbia, Tenn.
Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.

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 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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Albert Bowers** and *all the family*, in the passing of Albert's sister, **Bertha Pitman**. She passed away on Wednesday. Her funeral was on Saturday morning at the McConnell Funeral Home.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Hamms:** Joel, Sharma, Clayton & Ragan are on vacation at the Gulf this week... **The Williams:** Todd, Julie, Matthew and Philip have been on vacation this week in North Carolina... **Brettlyn and Keenon Currier** are in Birmingham with their grandmother this week.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are thrilled to announce that **Cody Kennedy** and **MaKayla Melvin** have expressed their desire to be members of the Market Street church. They have been attending with us for some time and we are glad for their decision. They will be in *Work Group 3*. Let us extend a warm welcome to them.

CONFESSION: **Mike Terry** came forward last Sunday morning confessing sin and not living the example that a Christian should live. He asked for prayers for forgiveness and strength. We appreciate the good heart and the desire that Mike has to please God. May we all encourage Mike as he has and will encourage us.

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 June 22nd

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	146
	Morning Worship	187
	Evening Worship.....	135
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	121

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Larry Mitchell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Kenneth Smith
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Ronnie Locke
	Kenneth Adams.....
	Stefan Fudge
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	Dan Reed
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Todd Williams

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 29th:

Usher	Paul Hasting
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, July 2nd:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Mark 15:21-32
	Mot Dollar
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Invitation	Steve Usery
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, July 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Delmer Carter
	James Johnson
	Marvin Putman
	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Ross Melvin
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 6th:

Usher	Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System	Landon Adams