

# 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 VIII

May 22, 2016

No. 21

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### 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.

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#### Elders

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

#### Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147  
Tommy Coblenz .....(256) 232-3312  
Joel Hamm.....(256) 278-1977  
Larry Mitchell .....(256) 230-0185  
Russ Wulfekuhl .....(256) 683-9396

#### Evangelist

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*

## *Tell Me The Truth: Are We Saved By Grace or Not?*

**Wes McAdams**

I recently had a rather unfortunate debate on Facebook that revolved around a conversation I had with my son. I posted that I had told my son, people don't go to heaven because they are obedient; they go to heaven because God is gracious and sent Jesus to die on the cross. Of course I wasn't undermining the importance and necessity of obedience, but I was making the point that God saves us, "not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace" (2 Timothy 1:9). But it seems many are rather uncomfortable with that concept. So I want to address the question, "Are we saved by grace or not?"

### **What Does "By Grace" Mean?**

There is so much confusion over the issue of grace. We all know there are those who abuse the word, acting as if grace is a license to sin or a freedom from obedience (Jude 1:4; Romans 6:1-7). Those kinds of people clearly don't understand God or His grace.

But on the other hand, there are Christians who seem to only talk about what grace is not. They seldom – if ever – talk about what grace is. They get very nervous when they hear, "Saved by grace." They are quick to say, "Yeah, kind of, but not really!" They rush to dilute teachings on grace, for fear it might be "taken too far."

Just so you know, when you hear the words "by grace" it just means something good is given that wasn't earned or merited. So when you receive something good, it was either given by grace or by merit. Or as the apostle Paul puts in Romans 4:4, it is either a "wage" or a "gift." It is that simple and there is no middle ground.

The air we breathe, for instance, is given to us from God. Is it given by grace or by merit? What could we possibly do to earn the air we breathe? It is laughable to think we could. Death and punishment are the **only** wages we've earned from God (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Everything else is a gracious gift. When we fill our lungs with air we should say, "Thank You, God for graciously giving me air to breath!"

It is absolutely impossible to take grace too far! Pervert it, Yes! But take it too far, absolutely not! In fact, God desires to show us, “the immeasurable riches of his grace” (Ephesians 2:7).

### **Salvation By Grace?**

This issue is most significant when it comes to salvation. Eternal life is either earned or it is given as a gift of grace. Scripture makes it clear it is the latter. In fact, those in the first-century who claimed to have earned eternal life by their obedience to the Law disqualified themselves from possessing it (Galatians 5:4).

If we’ve received salvation from God then it is either by grace or by merit. It is either deserved or underserved. To say something like, “Salvation is by grace but not grace alone,” is to say it is somehow merited and unmerited at the same time. This not only makes no sense, but is entirely unbiblical. Listen to the word of God:

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:4-10).

All a person is saying when he says we are saved “by grace” is our salvation is completely undeserved and unmerited. We deserve punishment, but because of what Jesus did at the cross we are able to receive eternal life. Salvation is “by grace.” That’s what God’s word says; don’t add to that or take away from it.

### **How Do I Receive the Gift?**

The appropriate question then is, “How do I receive this gift?” The biblical answer is, “through faith.” Much like the word “grace,” the word “faith” is also very misunderstood.

Faith might best be understood as a “total surrender” to God. When we hear and believe that God is able and willing to save us from the horrible fate we deserve, we totally surrender ourselves to Him, trusting Him to save us from what we deserve.

Repenting and being immersed in water for the

forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38) is how we “call on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16) and appeal to Him for “a clean conscience” (1 Peter 3:21). It is in this act of faith that we clothe ourselves with Christ (Galatians 3:37). It is at this point - and this point alone - that our sins are washed away (Acts 22:16). We come up from the water rejoicing (Acts 8:39) because it is by grace that we have been saved! **None** of it by merit, **all** of it by grace!

### **What About Obedience?**

Does this mean we don’t have to obey? Of course not! That is an absolutely absurd suggestion!

It just means your obedience does not merit your salvation (that’s what “by grace” means). We obey because we are trusting in God to save us, both at our baptism and in our continually walking with Him in faith. Obedience is a matter of entrusting our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19).

Disobedience, on the other hand, is how you reject the gift (see Hebrews 3:12-19). The gracious gift of salvation is either accepted by humble obedient faith or - at any point - rejected by stubborn and sinful pride: “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of the two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace” (Hebrews 10:26-29)?

Saying we are saved by grace does **not** negate the necessity of obedience. It does not mean there is nothing we must do to be saved or to remain in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. It just means that even after all of our obedience, we will always be “unworthy servants” (Luke 17:10) who are saved by God’s amazing grace and **not** by our own merit.

-via *Capshaw Beacon*; Capshaw, Alabama.

## **Remember Our Study Periods**

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

## *Sin Is “Against God”*

**Robert F. Turner**

If you steal my rifle, you will do me a grave injustice. Realizing this, you may decide to return the rifle and ask my forgiveness. You may throw in a new scope to make me happy, but you have not paid your just dues.

Perhaps you think I mean your debt to society. Well, we have obligations to our fellowmen, and the courts may exact a fine, or place you in jail for stealing the rifle. But you could completely satisfy me, wipe clean the records of the court, and still fail the obligations of justice. In fact, we have not yet given consideration to the primary matter.

In the initial act of stealing the rifle you not only did me an injustice, you not only sinned against our society – far more important, you failed your intended purpose and rejected the authority of your Maker. You have sinned against God! This is the fundamental factor in sin, yet it is the part very often ignored – both in recognizing sin, and in “making things right.” God existed prior to society, and deserves the prior consideration. All sin is against God!

David got right to the point when he prayed, “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight” (Psalm.51:4). On this basis God was just in condemning and David looked to God for forgiveness. We need many Davids today.

Christ has the prodigal son confess, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight” (Luke 15:21). The order is significant. Twice this statement is made in the parable, and always, “against heaven” first. How differently we might look upon our sins if this order would prevail.

Paul says “godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Corinthians 7:10). It is not enough that we “regret” our sins. Such regrets may stem from getting caught. Our sorrow must be in recognition of our failure before God, and our turning in keeping with His will. It is this concept of sin that makes us aware of its depth, and of our complete dependence upon God for forgiveness. Next time you sin don’t “look out” – look up”.

-via *Plain Talk*, Burnet, Texas.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

Drew Ogles	JoAnn Gilbert
Jane Meredith	Patsy Thomas
Dale Adcock	Pat Nixon
Mitzi Carruth	Irene Inman
Reba Byram	Doris Lovell
Gilbert Hardy	Wayne Gooch
Ann Bush	Shaun Carruth
Linda Jones	Cindy Walker

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

Jeanette Weir	Ella Melvin
Mot Dollar	Gayle Ball
Janice Cagle	Eli Williams
Gene Carpenter	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Annalynn Tegg	Al Pollard
Ray Kennedy	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Daniel Ogles
Staley Jackson	Anita Willis

### *In The Hospital:*

*Bob Nolan*, UAB Hospital – Birmingham

### *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:*

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	William Thomas, rm. 70
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Helen Trousdale, rm. 30
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 38
Terry Camp, rm. 82	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 98	

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55	Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E
Anita Henson, rm. 113	Gladys Sandlin, rm. 69

### *Limestone Manor:*

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

### *Shut-In or Away From Home:*

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Merrill Gardens, Madison  
Hazel Brooks, at home  
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville  
Wynell Casteel, at home  
Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookdale Farms  
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter’s home in Hartselle  
Essie Hardison, at home  
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Bradleys:* Steve and Marilyn have

been in Texas...*Nikki Ogles* has been in Auburn this week...*Harvey Nixon* is out of town with his work...*The Mitchells: Larry and Peggy* are out town this week on vacation...*The Browns: Norman and Stephanie* are out of town this weekend.

**BAPTISM:** This Wednesday night, we had great cause to rejoice as *Clayton Hamm* confessed his faith in Christ and was buried with Christ in baptism. We are thankful for the good heart that Clayton has exhibited and for a good example, he has shown. May the Lord bless Clayton with many years to serve the Lord faithfully. May we all encourage Clayton as he has encouraged us.

**CONFESSION:** Last Sunday night, *Lona Jackson* came forward asking for prayers and strength as a child of God. Lona stated that she wanted a new start in her spiritual life. We have all been encouraged with by Lona and may we all encourage her as we walk together here so that we may live eternally with our God and Savior.

**TEACHER'S MEETING:** This afternoon at 4:00 there will be a teacher's meeting in the West auditorium. We will be going over the upcoming Vacation Bible School classes, etc.

**GRADUATES:** It is the time of year again when many of the young people are graduating from high school. We wish the best to all the graduates of the Class of 2016. This year *Tyler Davenport* graduated on Thursday night from Athens High School. We wish the best for Tyler upon his graduation and as he embarks upon new endeavors in life.

**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.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of May 15th

<b>Sunday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	144
	Morning Worship .....	191
	Evening Worship.....	127
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	127



June 13 – 16, 2016  
(Monday through Thursday)  
10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST  
514 WEST MARKET STREET  
ATHENS, ALABAMA

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### Sunday, May 22nd:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements .....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader .....	Stefan Fudge
Prayer .....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting .....	Russell Melvin
Serving .....	Seth Todd..... Marvin Putman
	Charles Vaughn..... Bart Brown
Closing Prayer .....	Dwayne Allfrey

#### Evening Worship

Announcements .....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader .....	Tommy Burns
Prayer .....	Kenneth Adams
Preaching .....	Song Service
Lord's Supper .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer .....	Mike Ogles

#### Other Assignments for Sunday, May 22nd:

Ushers .....	Marty Adams/Steve Usery
Work Sound System .....	Nathaniel Adams

### Wednesday, May 25th:

Song Leader .....	Jordan Lovell
Bible Reading.....	(2 Corinthians 9:1-9)
	Harvey Nixon
Prayer .....	Marcus Morris
Invitation .....	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer .....	Tony Thomas

### Sunday, May 29th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader .....	Tyler Cox
Prayer .....	Norman Brown
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Kenneth Smith
Assisting .....	Mike Ogles
Serving .....	Matthew Vaughn..... Steve Usery
	Jason Conn..... Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer .....	Keenon Currier

#### Evening Worship

Announcements .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer .....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching .....	Paul Sheehan
Lord's Supper .....	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer .....	A.J. Price

#### Other Assignments for Sunday, May 29th:

Ushers .....	Landon Adams/Tommy Coblenz
Work Sound System .....	Marty Adams