

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

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No. 35

Is There A Second Chance?

Robert Harkrider

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, where few, that is, eight souls were saved by water, the like figure whereunto even baptism doeth also now save us..." (1 Peter 3:18-21a, KJV).

The question has been asked, "Who were the spirits in prison" Christ preached to, and were they given a second chance?"

The New American Standard Version renders the nineteenth verse as "In whom also he went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,..." Notice that the word "now" is italicized, indicating it was supplied by the translators to convey the complete thought. The people to whom Christ preached are now spirits in prison. At the time of the preaching they were alive in the flesh, but because of their disobedience they perished in the flood, and now, at the time Peter is writing, they are in a disembodied state and are under restraint as wicked beings. "In prison" is used several times to denote the state or condition of those spirits which because of disobedience await condemnation at the last day. See 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6, Revelation 20:7.

Those who perished in the flood were given opportunity to be saved. In the spirit Christ preached unto them, i.e., God's word was preached. Noah is called a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), and as he was moved by the Holy Spirit in his preaching he served as the Lord's agent in making known the warning of impending destruction. God was longsuffering then even as he is now, "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). However, "by the same word" that brought destruction upon those who ignored the preaching of righteousness "the heavens and the earth, which are now ... are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7).

The Bible nowhere hints of anyone being given a second chance for

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) 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

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

may not spend enough time doing just this. In picturing those that surround the throne of God John writes, "... They do not rest day or night, saying: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come...' 'You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created'" (Revelation 4:8-11). When we worship God we need to realize that He is not some distant being, but rather is in our midst. After reflecting upon the greatness of God, David wrote, "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him." If the greatness of God does not have a awesome impact on us I do not know what will!

Whole Hearted-Participation

John T. Lewis is quoted as having often said, "The ones who say they didn't get much out of the worship service must not have brought their bucket." Sometimes when it seems we do not get as much out of a service or feel it lacked the impact of other services, it may be because we did not bring as much to the service. Usually, the times we get the most out of the services are the times when we pray with more focus, listen more attentively, and sing out to the best of our ability and with all our might. Our worship is a sacrifice and when we do not give our best we are offering up a "sick" sacrifice. Malachi wrote, "When you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and the sick, is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" (Malachi. 1:8). We also must keep in mind that part of our coming together is also to edify one another. Colossians 3:16 says, "...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." If we are not giving our best in worship how can we be effectively doing this?

These are just a few of the things that can have an influence on the impact of the worship service. While these are focused on individuals; however, since the church is made up of individuals, these things can also affect the assembly as a whole. If every person was doing their best in each of these areas, the group as a whole would experience a worship that would leave it thinking, "What a mighty God we serve!"

~via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*; Montgomery, Alabama

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Died With Christ

Chuck Bartlett

In John 4:24, Jesus Christ states that "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth." What does it mean to worship God in spirit? Some people believe that to worship in spirit is to worship with spiritedness, that is, with excitement, great animation, and emotional sway. Still others believe that worshipping in spirit requires miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit such as inspired utterances. However, from Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, we learn that the Greek word translated "worship" in this passage is [proskunountas], from the verb [proskuneo], literally meaning to prostrate oneself in great reverence. In other words, the worship that Jesus mentions in John 4:24 describes an attitude - a bowing of oneself before the Almighty God in utmost reverence and humility.

With this definition for worship in mind, what does it mean to bow one's heart before God in spirit? Paul's comments in 1 Corinthians 5:3 and Colossians 2:5 help us to understand this phrase. In these passages, Paul comments that though he is not with his beloved brethren physically, he is with them in spirit - the exact same language, the very same Greek words used by Jesus in John 4:24. Paul means that though he is not physically in the presence of the Christians to whom his letter is addressed, he is with them in mind and in heart. This is what it means to worship God in spirit: though we, His children, cannot see God, though we are not actually with Him in Heaven, when we bow in worship it should be in heart and mind as though we are right before God's throne.

In Matthew 15:7-9, Jesus condemns the hypocritical Pharisees for honoring God with their lips while their hearts dwelt on worldly things, not with God. These Pharisees failed to worship in spirit - they were pretending to serve God and honor Him with praise, but in spirit they were focused on worldliness; their hearts were far from Him. This account serves as a warning to all Christians. We can go through all the motions of worship, even making sure to perform every act in accordance with God's word, but if our hearts are not bowed low before the feet of God, our worship is in vain. If we sing praises to God in truth, but our minds

are constantly wandering to the tasks we need to accomplish during the day, our worship is not acceptable to God. If we sit through a sermon preached directly from God's word, yet our minds are focused on all the other things we'd rather be doing, we are not worshipping in spirit. John 4:23 teaches that God desires our worship: He is seeking true worshippers. But in order for our worship to be acceptable to Him, we must be with Him in spirit. Our worship must not be merely physical obedience with disengaged hearts and minds, but we must penitently bow before God in spirit as if we were right there at His throne.

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.



How The World Works

Jason Moore

"My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your Word. I have declared my ways, and You answered me; teach me Your statutes. Make me understand the way of Your precepts; so shall I meditate on Your wondrous works. My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word. Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth; your judgments I have laid before me. I cling to Your testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame! I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart" (Psalm 119:25-32).

Psalm 119 offers wonderful insights into what the word of God does for honest readers. God's word enlivens hope. "Revive me according to your word," the writer said. He clung to the dust; his only hope was the grave. The word of God rescues even the sinner from despair.

God's word forces introspection. "I have declared my ways, and You answered me," said the psalmist. The Scripture forces a man to look at himself honestly. It is a mirror for the inner man.

God's word inspires awe. "So shall O meditate on your wondrous works," wrote the poet. You can't read of the mighty deeds of God without being struck by His greatness and man's smallness.

God's word fuels forbearance. It gives new motivation to the man whose "soul melts from heaviness," who is "weary in well-doing."

God's word produces repentance. "Remove from me the way of lying," represents a change of heart produced by a word that is "living and active."

God's word bestows discipline. "Your judgments I have laid before me," said the writer. The Bible causes a man to accept the discipline of the Lord – even to invite it – because it helps him.

God's word brings vindication. In spite of conflict with popular opinion, the believer says, "I cling to Your testimonies." He trusts in the Lord to vindicate His people, to "not put them to shame."

God's word provokes perfection. "I will run the course of Your commandments," said the poet. He was not about to retire from service. The word inspires us to press on to growth and perfection.

~via *Jordan Park Reminder*; Huntsville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Helen Blankenship	Tommy Coblentz
JoAnn Gilbert	Joe Leopard
Reba Byram	Cindy Glass
Patsy Thomas	Irene Inman
Doris Lovell	Gilbert Hardy
Wayne Bolton	Ann Bush
Shaun Carruth	Charlie Christopher
Linda Jones	Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Ella Melvin	Gayle Ball
Jeanette Weir	Janice Cagle
Paul Hasting	Cindy Walker
Eli Williams	Gene Carpenter
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Daniel Ogles
Anita Willis	Jenny Pickens
Diane Kilpatrick	

In The Hospital:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab. - Huntsville

Betty League; Grandview Hospital - Birmingham; ICU

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. 39	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 92	

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55	Charlie Christopher, rm 95
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E	Donna Wright, rm. 105

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Hazel Brooks, Nursing Home In Pulaski, Tennessee
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Wynell Casteel, at home
Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookdale Farms, Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
Essie Hardison, at home
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

BARBADOS: *David Cox and Buc Chumbley* left early Thursday morning for Barbados to do work with the Hindsbury Road and Central churches there.

PREACHING TODAY: Today *Ben May*, who preaches for the *First Street church* in *Lawrenceburg, Tennessee*, is with us and will be preaching at all the services. We are glad he and his wife, *Jennifer*, are able to be here.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of August 14th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	146
	Morning Worship	177
	Evening Worship	127
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	122

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris	
Song Leader	Hunter Cox	
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews	
Preaching.....	Ben May	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding.....	Jerry McGlocklin	
Assisting.....	Jordan Lovell	
Serving	James Johnson	Matthew Vaughn
	David Terry	Jason Conn
Closing Prayer	Steve Usery	

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	Ben May
Lord's Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 21st:

Ushers.....	Marvin Putman/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, August 24th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading	Galatians 2:11-21
	Kenneth Smith
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Invitation	Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Sunday, August 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams	
Song Leader	Tommy Burns	
Prayer.....	Dwayne Allfrey	
Preaching.....	Everette Conn	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon	
Assisting.....	Mike Ogles	
Serving	Bonnie Sutton	Bart Brown
	Cody Kennedy.....	Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	Joy Warner	

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer.....	Russell Melvin
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 28th:

Ushers.....	Hunter Cox/Seth Todd
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams