

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

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No. 42

Hannah: A Portrait of God's Lovingkindness

Jim Deason

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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MarketStreet-church.com

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

"Lovingkindness" is a very special Old Testament word. This one word encompassed all the blessings which God extended to His covenant people; blessings which flowed forth from His character. These blessings included but were not limited to God's grace, mercy, compassion, patience, faithfulness, loyalty, and love. A recipient of God's lovingkindness was blessed beyond the ability of words to express.

Moses promised Israel, "Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers. He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb... You shall be blessed above all peoples; there will be no male or female barren among you... (Deuteronomy 7:12-14, emphasis mine - jhd). As long as Israel kept His commandments, God's blessings were abundant to overflowing.

There is no better illustration of God's lovingkindness than a woman from the hill country of Ephraim named Hannah. The Bible records, "Now there was a certain man... and his name was Elkanah ... 2 He had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children." (1 Samuel 1:1-2).

There is something bleak and foreboding about being barren. You might even euphemistically try to avoid using the word by saying, "we have no children" or, "the Lord has closed her womb." In the end they mean the same thing but they don't sound the same.

Hannah wanted a child with all that was within her. One can imagine that every time she heard the neighborhood girls laughing and playing; every time she heard a cry as one of the boys scrapped his elbow, her motherly instincts kicked into overdrive. But it was always someone else's child, not her own, and that hurt.

Had the Lord withheld His blessings because of her sin? Some probably thought so. They might have even quoted to her Deuteronomy 7:12-14 to prove their case and call for her repentance.

To make matters worse, Elkanah had taken a second wife. Peninnah was giving her beloved what she couldn't – children. Amazingly, Hannah handled the situation with grace and dignity. You can't say the same, however, about Peninnah. Because of Elkanah's favoritism toward Hannah, Peninnah made Hannah's life miserable.

Hannah was a good woman; a faithful woman. A woman for whom retaliation toward her rival did not seem to be an option. Her worship to God was as regular as the calendar (1 Samuel 1:7). Her prayer was persistent (1 Samuel 1:12) and fervent as she "poured out" her soul to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:15) and in her humility she described herself as a lowly "maidservant" (1 Samuel 1:11). Hannah was a woman of faith who believed not just in prayer but in God who answers prayer and fulfills promises. From His throne in heaven God heard and answered her petition. "It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel..." (1 Samuel 1:20).

Herein is the lovingkindness of God. Vindication before a rival. An answered prayer. The gift of son. The fulfillment of a promise. A life blessed by God's grace and mercy. Consider these three things about God's lovingkindness:

First, God's lovingkindness is conditional. In giving the Ten Commandments God promised his lovingkindness "to those who love Me and keep My commandments" (Exo.dus20:6). David promised, "All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies" (Psalm 25:10). God's special blessings came to Hannah because of her faithfulness.

Second, God's lovingkindness is unfailing. In the NASB the Hebrew word translated lovingkindness (*chesed*) is twice translated unchanging love. "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love" (Micah 7:18 emphasis mine; cf. Micah 7:20). God is not capricious but dependable and loyal to His covenant people. Hannah plead to God that He "remember" her (1 Samuel 1:11) and He did. More accurately, God had never forgotten her.

Third, God's lovingkindness is to be reciprocated. God expects those who have received His lovingkindness to, in return, freely give. Solomon said, "He who pursues righteousness and loyalty (lovingkindness - *chesed* - *jhd*) finds life, righteousness and honor" (Proverbs 21:21). God expects our character to reflect His (1 Peter 1:16;

Leviticus 11:44; 19:2). Hannah dedicated Samuel to the service of God. Modern women would do well to follow her example.

Hannah is a life-lesson for you and me in how to receive the very best blessings that heaven has to offer. Be faithful and loyal. Do not put your trust in the future but in Him who holds the future in His hands. And, follow carefully the instructions that God gave the twelve as He sent them on the limited commission, "freely you received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

~via *South Cullman Church*; Cullman, Alabama.



The Soul of Obedience

Robert F. Turner

Remember the old story about the man who was going on a journey, and asked his son to lay out the farm according to his instructions? Corn was to be planted in this field, beans in that, the garden here, a shed built there. The boy put the corn where his father wanted it, and the beans where the father said. But he changed places for the shed and garden. When his father returned and objected to his son's disobedience, the boy argued he had done half of what his father ordered; but the father said, "No, you did nothing in obedience. It is obvious that you only put the corn and beans where you did, because you thought they should go there."

We might well ask ourselves the question, "WHY do we live as we do?" "Is it out of respect for God and His laws, or are we simply following a pattern of mores that we approve, and which represents no higher authority than our own traditions?" The motive for obedience is an aspect of law that has been somewhat ignored.

In Paul's arguments on law versus faith (Romans and Galatians) he certainly does not rule out law. He says faith establishes law (Romans 3:31); and he says the law is "holy, just and good" (Romans 7:12). Its weakness was by virtue of its subjects, men (Romans 8:3); but even then, it served to bring them unto Christ — aware of their need for mercy and forgiveness (Galatians 3:24).

One cannot accept the existence of God and ignore

the expression of His will; and acknowledging the relation of creature to Creator imposes an obligation to submit to His hand (Romans 1:20-21; 9:20-21). There is a close correlation between keeping the commands of God and abiding in God, and He in us (John 14:23; 1 John 2:3-6).

Christ is the “author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9); and saving faith is an obedient faith (James 2:24) “which worketh by love” (Galatians 5:6). The principle here is not that of law meritoriously obeyed (which would demand perfection) but because obedience from the heart demonstrates our attitude toward Him who made and gave the law. How else could the breaking of one law make a man “guilty of all”? James explains, “He that said, Do not commit adultery said also, Do not kill” (James 2:10-12; 4:10-11). To select from all God said those parts we approve and are willing to obey, assumes a position above that of God. It is to imagine ourselves judges OF the law, hence OF God, instead of realizing we are subject to and are judged **by** the law, hence **by** God. Without the proper attitude toward God, no obedience (?) is acceptable to Him.

Some have suggested these Bible approved motives for obedience: fear of punishment, appreciation of our position as clay to Potter, and varying degrees of love for God. Paul says, “the love of Christ (our recognition of His love for us) constrains us” (2 Corinthians 5:14). However you list them, they start with faith “that God is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). Perhaps we are failing to elicit more obedience to God because we do not work hard enough at preparing the soil, or stirring proper motives.

~via *Auburn Beacon*; Auburn, Alabama.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

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

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Judy Vaughn	Kim Rogers
Mary Will Johnston	Cornelia Pepper
Patsy Thomas	Irene Inman
Doris Lovell	Reba Byram
Cindy Glass	Gilbert Hardy
Janet Jones	Everette “Bud” Dollar
Wayne Bolton	Wayne Gooch
Betty Christopher	Linda Jones
Ann Bush	Al Bush
Shaun Carruth	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Ella Melvin
Gayle Ball	Janice Cagle
Jeanette Weir	Diane Kilpatrick
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Jenny Pickens	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	

In The Hospital:

Paul Adcock; Crestwood Hosp., rm. 442
Anita Wheeler; HealthSouth Rehab, rm. 228
Eli Williams; Children’s Hosp. Memphis, Tenn.
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville
Ashley Sims; Cobb County Hospital - Atlanta, Georgia
Charlie Christopher; Athens-Limestone – rm. 320

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	William Thomas, rm. 110-B
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Mattye 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 Gilbert Hardy, rm. 117

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 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

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coblenz:* Tommy & Marcella are out of town travelling in the northeast visiting with some family. *Helen Blankenship* is out of town this week in Florida visiting with family. *The Userys:* Strevve, Allison, Elizabeth and Matthew are in LaGrange, Georgia today visiting with *Christian*.

DOORTODOOR: Next Saturday morning, October 22nd, we are planning to go out door knocking to meet and invite people to our services at Market Street. We will plan to leave from the building at about 9:00 a.m.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *South Cullman church* in Cullman is beginning a gospel meeting on today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Roger Shouse of Indianapolis, Indiana* will be the speaker in this meeting. The *Danville Road church* in Decatur is beginning a gospel meeting on today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speakers in this meeting will be:

Sunday – *Tim Sutton*; Monday – *Jeff May*; Tuesday – *Sam Binkley* & Wednesday – *Gary Patton*. The *First Street church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is to begin a gospel meeting on Friday and it will continue through Sunday. *John McPherson of Wilsonville, Alabama* will be the speaker in this meeting.

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 Oct. 9th

Sunday:	Bible Classes	141
	Morning Worship	174
	Evening Worship	123
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	116

Bible Study



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting.....	Tommy Coblenz
Serving	Tommy Burns..... Landon Adams
.....	Jason Conn..... Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Arvid McGuire

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 16th:

Ushers.....	Marcus Morris/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, October 19th:

Song Leader	Marty Adams
Bible Reading.....	Galatians 5:13-26
.....	Danny Johnson
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Sunday, October 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Russell Melvin
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting.....	Marty Adams
Serving	Terry Andrews..... Marion Mitchell
.....	Charles Vaughn..... A. J. Price
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 23rd:

Ushers.....	Keenon Currier/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams