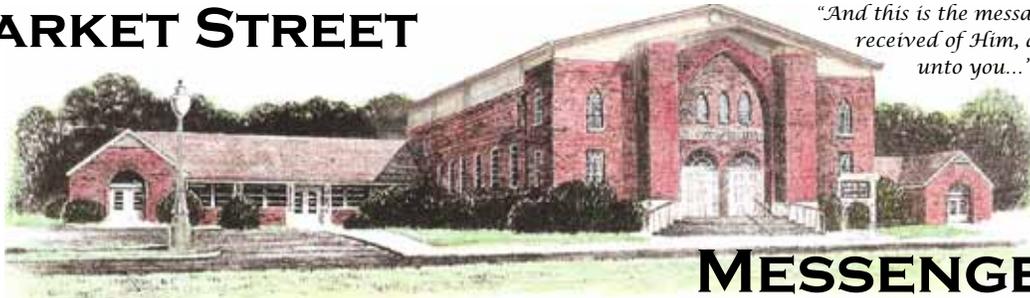


MARKET STREET

"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
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Volume X

February 4, 2018

No. 5

Baptism & Salvation: What's The Connection?

David A. Cox

Many people have a misunderstanding of baptism, and its connection with salvation. They believe that to connect salvation with baptism means that man is in some way earning his salvation and is completing the work of Christ. It does not matter what one might say about baptism and its connection or its lack of connection with salvation. It is only the connection the Bible makes between baptism and salvation that matters.

Baptism and Its Purpose

The first question that must be considered is: "What is the stated purpose of baptism?" In Acts 2, Peter preaching to the crowd gathered at Jerusalem was asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Peter immediately replies, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Here is a case where men recognized their need for forgiveness and salvation from their sins. Peter did not tell them that "there is nothing to worry about because Jesus has already saved you." Instead, Peter told them that repentance and baptism were necessary to receive forgiveness and salvation from their sins. Again, in the conversion of Saul, we read of Saul on the road to Damascus to persecute Christians. After being struck blind, Paul is told to go into the city, and a man by the name of Ananias would tell him what to do to be saved (Acts 9:3-6). Paul later tells of his conversion and what Ananias told him to do. "Arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Baptism was the point at which we are forgiven or "washed away." It seems quite clear that the Bible's stated purpose for baptism is the forgiveness or the "washing away" of man's sins.

Man's Need For Salvation

The question then arises, "Why must man be saved?" Man is in need of salvation because of sin. The prophet Isaiah said, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And

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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

Buc Chumbley (256) 777-1065
David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2). When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, sin separated man from God. Before they sinned, there was a relationship that God desired for man to have with Him. But after sin came into the world, this relationship did not exist as it once did. Sin entered the world, and all men of accountable age are guilty of sin they commit (Romans 3:10,23). God’s desire for all to have a relationship with Him caused Him to give “His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). In Christ’s death on the cross, he bore our sins for us (1 Peter 2:24) and became the perfect sacrifice required for man’s sins (1 Peter 2:22-24; 1 John 2:2). It was this marvelous grace of the Lord that provided a means for man to restore the relationship with God that had been severed by sin. Looking into the Bible, we see a connection drawn between the sacrifice of Christ and baptism. Paul, writing to the Christians at Rome said, “do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4). Baptism is described here as the action it is, a burial, and by which we become Christians or in Christ. The fact is that all must be baptized to come into contact with the death of Christ, where His blood was shed and by which there is the cleansing from our sins (Revelation 1:5; 1 John 1:7).

Baptism’s Connection With Salvation

What about the question, “Does the Bible make a connection with baptism and salvation?” It seems clear that the Bible does make a connection between baptism and salvation. Notice the connections made.

1. First, the reason we do not have salvation is due to our sins (Isaiah 59:12-2). To have forgiveness or the removal of our sins, we must be at baptized (Acts 2:38; 22:16).
2. Peter connects baptism and salvation when speaking of Noah and his obedience to God’s commands. Peter said, “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21).
3. Jesus made clear the connection between baptism

and salvation when He gave the command, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).

The Bible is clear that there is a definite connection between baptism and salvation. Baptism and the link to salvation are evident; there is never any evidence or even a hint that baptism is an “outward sign of an inward grace.” May we rest assured of what the Bible teaches, and follow its teachings faithfully for salvation as Noah did. Have you been baptized to be saved? If not, do so for the saving of your soul.



Faith and Baptism

David Posey

When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, many listened and believed. Convicted of their sins, they asked a logical question: “What shall we do to be saved?” This question was an exercise of the faith they had after hearing the word preached (Romans 10:17). They believed and wanted to submit to whatever God command them to do. Peter told them to repent and be baptized for remission of sins. “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them” (see Acts 2:37-41). These people were saved by faith.

Some theologians argue with this analysis. Since they view baptism as a work of law they contend that teaching the necessity of baptism is something akin to teaching salvation by works of law. They see but two alternatives: one is either justified by perfect performance of law or one is saved without reference to anything he does. Since the first is ruled out by passages like Galatians 2:16, they declare the second the only possible alternative: salvation comes by grace through faith only. Though this assertion fails to address the fact that even basic faith is doing something (Jesus calls it the “work of God” in John 6:29), they are resolute in their assertion of the dilemma and proceed to discard baptism as an unnecessary addition to God’s plan.

Is there such a dilemma? “Our problem is that Augustine, Luther and other Western theologians have convinced us that there’s an irreconcilable conflict between salvation based on grace and salvation conditioned on works or obedience. They have used a fallacious form of argumentation known as the ‘false dilemma,’ by asserting that there are only two possibilities regarding salvation: it’s either (1) a gift from God or (2) it’s something we earn by works.” (David Bercot, *Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up?* Scroll Publishing Co., Waco, Texas, p. 62).

Bercot’s right. The false dilemma has caused many to struggle with the place of baptism in a system of salvation that is clearly based on faith (Romans 1:17; 3:21–26). Yet there is no contradiction between justification by faith (trusting submission to the will of God) and the requirement to be baptized. Baptism is no more foreign to the concept of faith than Abel’s offering a sacrifice (Hebrews 11:4) or Noah’s building of the ark (Hebrews 11:7) or Abraham’s “going out” (Hebrews 11:8). Who would question the act if the texts said, “by faith, Noah, being divinely warned, was baptized for remission of his sins”? And no reasonable person would argue that Noah still exercised a saving faith if, being divinely warned, he refused to be baptized? Even if called “faith,” it would have been no more effective than the faith that devils practice (James 2:19).

Baptism is so clearly a part of the plan of God to save man that Peter says “baptism now saves us” (1 Peter 3:21), Paul ascribes the clothing of ourselves with Christ to it (Galatians 3:26–27) and Paul makes our union with Christ dependent upon it (Romans 6:1–7). How can anyone assert that it is not essential?

Ironically, some opponents of the necessity of baptism have proved its significance by the form of arguments they lodge against it. For example, A. T. Robertson, in his *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, makes this comment on Romans 6:3: “The translation ‘into’ makes Paul say that the believers union with Christ was effected by baptism.” His bias doesn’t allow him to accept the translation, but the translators of nearly every version have chosen “into” to translate the Greek term.

For another example, the Campus Crusade for Christ seeks to undermine the effect of Acts 2:37–38 with these comments in a paper entitled “Bible Study on Water Baptism”: “It is true that Peter tells them to be baptized. However, his sermon in Acts 2 is probably not a part of the original sermon.” In case that doesn’t work, they try this: “it seems possible that if the people

hadn’t asked ‘what shall we do?’ (not ‘what must we do’ as in Acts 16:30) that Peter may never have mentioned baptism at all!” And that’s meant to convince college students! I hope they can see through that.

Clearly, baptism is an essential act of faith. Those who say otherwise have an agenda that is not from the Lord.

~via *South Bumby Church*; Orlando, Florida.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Gayle Ball	Arvid McGuire
Mildred Lambert	Nikki Ogles
Bobbie Adcock	Marion Mitchell
Doris Lovell	Chuck Stiles
Ann Bush	Cindy Glass
Linda Jones	Wayne Gooch
Adrian Maynard	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Jeanette Weir
Irene Inman	Janice Cagle
Patsy Thomas	Priscilla Tucker
Ella Melvin	Bobby McLemore
Matt Poff	Susan Cox
Elizabeth Howard	Everette “Bud” Dollar
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Brittany Bates Carter
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Phillip Harwell	Will Weir

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Helen Trousdale, rm. 43	Nelva Reed, rm. 61
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Flossie Smith, rm. 102	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Mable Crafts, rm. 39
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
Irene Inman, at home
Elvin Stoffregen, at daughter's in Rutherford, Tennessee
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Wanda Nave had foot surgery on Tuesday and is recovering ... **Elvin Stoffregen** is not doing well at all. They have call hospice in to help keep him comfortable ... **Mildred Lambert** continues to recover from her fall... ... **Tracy Hodges, Paul & Dale Adcock's daughter**, is taking treatments for her cancer.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Bradleys: Steve & Marilyn** are in Houston, Texas.... **Jim Whitt** has been in Seattle, Washington this week with his work... **Ida Nell Griffin** is in Cleveland, Ohio this week visiting her son.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are glad to announce that **Peggy Pepper** has let it be known that she desires to make her home here at Market Street. Peggy has attended with us for a while and we are glad to have her among us. May we extend a warm Market Street welcome to her.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Jan. 28th

Sunday:	Bible Classes	132
	Morning Worship	165
	Evening Worship	113
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	96

Seventh Annual Singing

February 23, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Jeff Warnke



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Harvey Nixon
Serving	Danny Holt Roger Hammonds
.....	Matthew Vaughn.... Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Ashton Gatlin
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Christian Usery

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 4th:

Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, February 7th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading	2 Timothy 1:1-7
.....	Matthew Usery
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Invitation.....	A. J. Price
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Sunday, February 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	A. J. Price
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Mike Ogles
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl David Terry
.....	Keenon Currier..... Christian Usery
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, February th:

Ushers.....	Steve Usery/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams