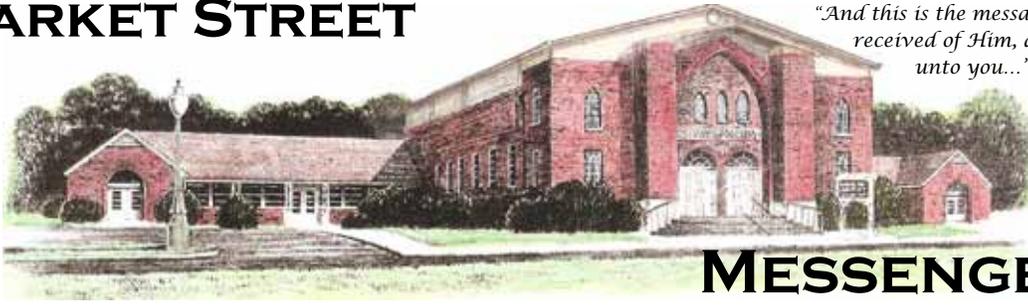


MARKET STREET

"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)



MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
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Volume X

March 4, 2018

No. 9

The Grace of Giving

A. J. Rollings

"Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also." (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Perhaps we are confronted with no more subtle danger than the disposition to be too easily satisfied with our service to God. Like the Corinthians, we may make some progress, even abound, in certain graces yet falter in others. The rich young ruler who came to Jesus seems to have ordered his life becomingly in a number of respects. The one thing he lacked, however, was enough to send him away in sorrow. The words of James in regard to offending in one point ought to make our ears tingle as we hear them. Nor can the unfruitful branch escape in the shadow of the fruitful one. Every branch that beareth no fruit will be taken away, for so it is written.

And again it is written that our Father is glorified as we bear much fruit. We are exhorted as individuals to abound in the word of the Lord. What about you? What need do we fear if God's providing hand is upon us? He loves the cheerful giver, and that He is able to make all grace abound unto us, that we having all sufficiency in all things, may ourselves abound to every good work is written in the next verse (2 Corinthians 9:7,8). Brethren, it isn't fair, it isn't right, and it isn't safe for us to be satisfied with giving less than we are able into the treasury of the church. We are told be "abound" in this grace.

Possibilities which defy calculation confront the church. Ours is the work of sending the light of the glorious gospel into all the world. Our responsibility is limited only by our ability. And let us thank God that if we have first a willing mind, our offering is accepted according to that we have, and not according to that we have not. These words of comfort and encouragement are written just five verses below that exhortation "See that ye abound in this grace also."

Editor's Note:

The above article was written by brother A. J. Rollings, an evangelist at Market Street. The article appeared in *Market Street Messenger* about 50 years ago.

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

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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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

Baptism Is A Figure

Jim R. Everett

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). To which our denominational friends say, “Aha, baptism is only a figure of our salvation – it is an outward sign of an inward grace.” But that conclusion is a distortion of the wording in Peter’s statement.

Based upon the general admission that Peter is talking about water baptism, and he is, let us accept some necessary conclusions. First, baptism is obviously a figure (type). But of what is it a type? The text gives the answer -- v. 21 speaks of baptism as a “like figure” connects back to v. 20. Peter had just said, “... God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” The comparison is between Noah’s salvation by the flood’s waters and our salvation by water baptism.

Notice that when God sent the flood upon the earth, its design was to destroy all evil men, to rid the earth of all corruption. The flood accomplished that and when the water subsided, Noah walked out of the ark and into a clean new world. In the same way, when one is baptized in water, he comes forth from that baptism into a clean new life. It is from baptism that we are raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4b).

Again, based upon the admission that v. 21 is discussing water baptism, it must also be admitted that water baptism is the subject of the sentence. Hence, the simple sentence reads, “Baptism doth also now save us.” The qualifying phrases and clauses merely explain what water baptism is and is not, but do not contradict or annul the simple sentence.

Other scriptures tell us of God love and grace; Christ’s sacrifice for sin and God’s commands to believe and repent (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16; Romans 5:1-10; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). Therefore, Peter is not affirming that baptism, by itself, saves us. But such observations do not set aside the simplest, most straightforward interpretation of the language in 1 Peter 3:21 – baptism in water saves us. Peter does not say that the good conscience saves nor does he say that baptism is a symbol of our salvation. He says, “baptism saves us.”

~via *Toward A Better Understanding*; Cedar Park, Texas.

Do Something!

Drew Edwards

The last several days in this country have been politically charged, to say the least. In the wake of another tragic school shooting, many are mourning, others are racing to place blame, and yet some are using the incident to put forward a political agenda.

That agenda, which ultimately is to remove the ability of the general public to acquire and possess firearms, is disguised in the phrase, “Do something!” This has been the mantra of those who are challenging our elected officials to amend the gun laws in this country while the iron is hot and while families are still mourning. One unfortunate side to this debate is that emotional teenagers are leading the debate and blaming guns (as well as those who support 2nd Amendment rights in this country) for all of the violence and harm in school shootings. Here is a question I have had lately - if we took guns completely out of the equation, would there still be killings and violent attacks at schools? I believe you know the answer to that. We may have eliminated a method used to attack people, but we will not have addressed the real issues behind the violence.

Here is my challenge to you to “Do Something!” when addressing a real obstacle in your life. How do we solve problems?

1) **Recognize what the true problem is.** While many are focusing solely on guns, they have conveniently forgotten about Hollywood, which has pumped violent movies into the mainstream for decades and unabatedly glorified violence. We have forgotten about the video game producers who target teenagers with life-like technology depicting blowing people away and violently hurting others to advance in the game. We also conveniently forget about parents, whose role it is to teach and protect their children from violent influences, but instead leave it up to society to determine their children’s morals and standards. What about the world of trash floating on the internet and around social media? We also forget to include school systems who teach our children they are descendants of monkeys and ban God from all conversation. So while inanimate guns, the NRA, and conservative government leaders are being held responsible for the attack, let’s recognize the vast influences our children are subjected to and stop blaming guns for our immense failures! Step up and be accountable for what

you have done wrong (like David in 2 Samuel 12:13)!

2) Find effective ways to deal with the problem.

While to some, taking guns out of society (which is impossible) would solve violence, that theory comes crashing down when you look at Chicago. It has some of the strictest gun laws in the country while also having one of the top murder rates in the country. It is my sincere wish that both sides of the gun argument could come together and work to identify the issues so that we could deal with the problem of violence. Again, you may take away someone's gun, but you cannot take away his desire to commit violence unless you deal with the problems causing his violent nature! Can you imagine a world where the police are called to someone's house 39 times and they are still allowed in school? I cannot, but it exists in Broward County, Florida and many other places across this country. Can we not recognize warning signs in ourselves or people around us who may be sad, angry, frustrated, dejected, or lonely? After recognizing and acknowledging we have a problem, we need to seek out the Lord and also be around positive people who can help us. We need to get out of destructive and negative environments. We should realize our mistakes and put them behind us (like Paul in Philippians 3:13-14).

3) Do something...that helps! We may figure out what the problem is, what caused it, and how we might fix it, but if we don't take action, then we or others are still in bad shape. In James 2:14-15, we are presented with a situation where someone knows a person is in need of food and clothes but doesn't give them what they need to survive - so what good is that knowledge if we don't do something that will help? What if we give that person a car? It may help get them around until the car runs out of gas or it breaks down. Then that person has a car that won't work...and is still hungry and without clothes! Be part of the solution in a constructive way and do something that helps fix the problem despite the inconvenience it may bring to us (like Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:25-30).

Sometimes the solution to a problem is right in front of our noses and we're simply not looking for it. Sometimes that solution presents a tough choice we're not willing to make. However, it starts by recognizing what the true problem is, finding effective ways to deal with that problem, and actually doing something that helps. Whether it's with our own issues or the problems of others, we don't have to go at it alone (Hebrews 13:5).

~via *Phil Campbell church of Christ*, Phil Campbell, Alabama.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Marvin Putman	Phillip Vaughn
Lenna Ruth Bates	Jo Dunnavant
James Johnson	JoAnn Gilbert
Cornelia Pepper	Marion Mitchell
Bobbie Adcock	Chuck Stiles
Doris Lovell	Ann Bush
Cindy Glass	Wayne Gooch
Linda Jones	

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	Phillip Harwell
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Flossie Smith, rm. 102
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Mable Crafts, rm. 39
Ruby Hall, rm. 123	

Limestone Health Facility:

Larry Owens, rm. 114

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at City Center, 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
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Barbara Alfrey has been experiencing more difficulty with her blood pressure this week ... **Bonnie Sutton** had a growth removed on Monday and should hear

results of the test the first of this week... *Sherry Davis* has been recovering from her rescent surgery on her knee... *Lenna Ruth Bates* is improving in her battle with the flu... *Phillip Vaughn* is doing better with his bout with the flu.

GOSPELMEETINGS: The *Carriger church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday night. *Gerry Sandusky of Madison, Indiana* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Jackson Drive church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday *Don Miller* will be the speaker... The *Highway 157 church* in Cullman is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Mark McCrary of Louisville, Kentucky* will be the speaker.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are away in college:

- Brettlyn Currier*, at Auburn University
- Keenon Currier*, at the University of Alabama
- Griffin Holt*, at the University of Alabama
- Drew Ogles*, at Auburn University
- Christian Usery*, at LaGrange College
- Elizabeth Usery*, at Mississippi State University.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singings on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at Athens Health & Rehabilitation.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Bradleys: Steve & Marilyn* are in Houston, Texas.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance Average for February.*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	128
	Morning Worship	171
	Evening Worship	124
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	89



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Preaching.....	Buc Chmbley
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Holt
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Nathaniel Adams.....David Terry
Clayton Hamm ...Matthew Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Ashton Gatlin
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Holt
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGoeklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 4th:

Ushers.....	Russ Wulfekuhl/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, March 7th:

Song Leader	A. J. Price
Bible Reading	2 Timothy 3:1-17
 Danny Johnson
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Invitation	Larry Holt
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Sunday, March 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting	Marty Adams
Serving	Griffin Holt.....Marvin Putman
Heath DollarMatthew Usery
Closing Prayer	Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 11th:

Ushers.....	Dwaine Allfrey/A. J. Price
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews