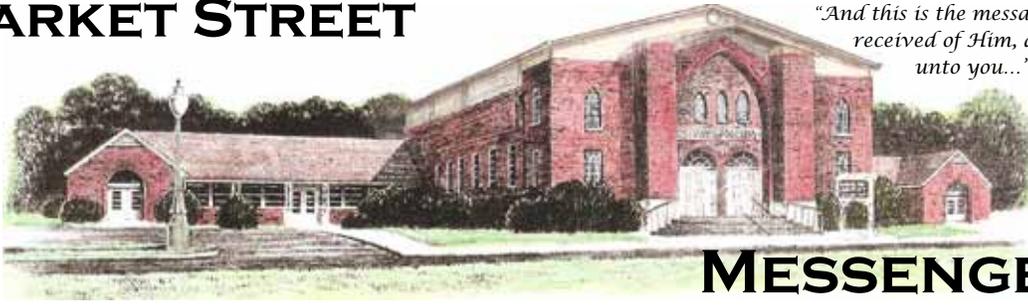


MARKET STREET

"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 X

September 16, 2018

No. 37

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

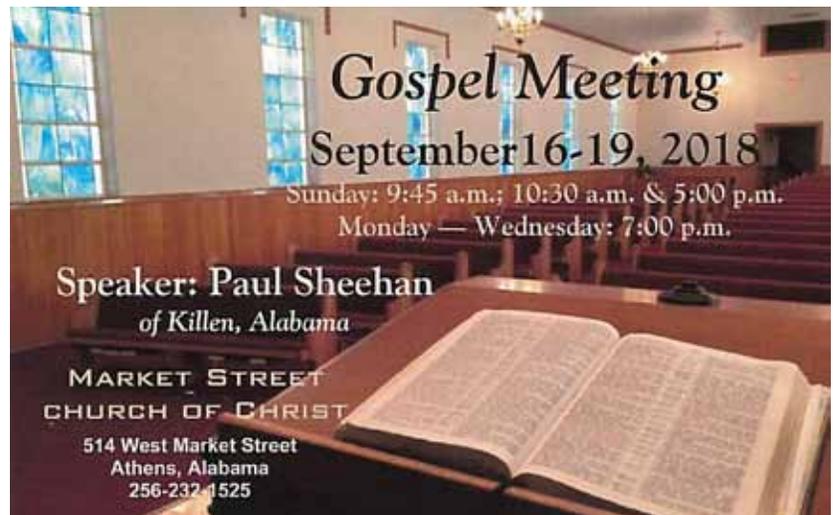
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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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

David A. Cox, Editor



The Fog Will Go Away

Paul Sheehan

You wake up one morning. You look out the window and you can see only a few feet ahead of you. Fog is covering the area. We know that there are houses and trees across the street, but we can't see them. As the fog begins to disappear, we now begin to see more and more of what has been hidden.

When we first pick up a Bible and begin to read, it can make you feel like you're in the fog. You do not recognize any of the people or cities and it is hard to concentrate on the point that God is trying to make.

In time, as you keep reading, study more about the context, and think about what you have read, you begin to grow in knowledge. Things begin to get a little less confusing and your mind gets a lot clearer. You begin to see who people are and why God said this or that and why things happened. Ephesians 3:4 tells us, "Whereby when you read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ."

Remember, it takes a while for the sun to come out and the fog to clear away. It will take a while for you to begin to have a clear understanding of God's will, but if you stick with it, you'll see the light of God's word shine and things will begin to become much clearer.

Is Salvation Conditional?

David A. Cox

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Paul, in writing to the Romans, refers to eternal life as “the gift of God.” Many conclude from this verse that salvation is unconditional. The thought is “why would it be called a ‘gift’ if there are conditions connected to it?” It is true that Paul does use the word “gift,” but notice he does not say that eternal life is an unconditional gift. Consider a couple of examples in scripture about the gift of salvation.

The Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon, Jesus spoke of those who would enter the kingdom of heaven. He said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). It is clear that Jesus says in order to enter the kingdom of heaven something must be done; the Father’s will. This means the gift has some conditions that must be met to enter the kingdom of heaven or receive eternal life.

Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. In Ephesians 2:8, Paul mentions again the gift of salvation that we receive by the grace of God. The gift is not due to works of merit or one that is owed us, but it is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:9). In verse 10, Paul continues, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” It is apparent that Paul is saying the gift of salvation is coupled with “good works” that God has appointed for us to do.

From the previous passages, it is clear that there are conditions that God has ordained for men. What are these conditions that God has given for man to do?

1. **Believe.** In John 6:40 Jesus said, “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son of man and believes in Him may have everlasting life.” Jesus also said, “if you believe not that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). John said, concerning the things that are written in the gospel record, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples...but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” It is evident that to receive the gift of God one has to believe.

2. **Belief Will Lead One to Action.** Believing something and not acting on it will not help you. James said, “The devils believe and tremble” (James 2:19), but surely we know they did not receive the gift of salvation. Faith will bring one to change and respond to the offer of salvation. The devils did not do that. An example of this faith and action is observed in Acts 2. The Jews, gathered at Jerusalem, heard the gospel preached to them by Peter. Peter proclaimed, “...let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God has made this Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ.” At this point, the Jews that heard believed the preaching of Peter, but cried out asking what they should do. Peter responded by saying, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Peter told them in order to receive forgiveness of sins, and the gift of salvation, conditions must be met. The conditions, based on their belief and confession of faith, were to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. On that day, three thousand responded in obedience and were baptized for the remission of their sins.

Salvation is an exceedingly great gift that God has given to man. When one hears, believes, repents, confesses and is baptized he has complied with the conditions that God desires man to do. Let each of us respond to receive the gift of salvation and then live each day faithfully serving Him.



“It Is Finished”

Bill Robinson

Have you ever thought about how important those words of Jesus are to our lives? They are among the last words ever spoken on earth by Jesus before his burial and resurrection. Without them we could not have been saved! The text reads in John 19:30-31, “When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished,’ and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” I wonder what the apostles who heard these words thought. They were already conflicted and confused by his crucifixion. Then, they heard him say “it is finished.” What did that mean?

It was not only in his death but throughout the personal ministry of Jesus that the apostles struggled to connect the dots when Jesus spoke of His being delivered up in Jerusalem to be put to death (see Luke 18:31-34). In the hours before Jesus' death, they no doubt knew something was looming on the horizon but were unsure of what it was. The apostles had heard Jesus praying to His Father saying, "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work you gave me to do" (John 17:26, esp. v. 4). They thought they knew what that "work" was, but the acceleration toward the cross caught them up in fear and doubt. Had they been wrong?

So, what do these words mean to us? Everything. They are the most important words in Scripture; they meant that salvation's work was done. It was now in the Father's hands. In fact, Jesus said those very words on the cross as well: "Into your hands, Father, I commit my spirit!" The rest of salvation's plan depended on God raising Jesus from the dead. What Jesus is reminding us, along with the eyewitnesses that heard him, is that he followed through! He finished what he started! He accomplished the task his Father gave him: To be accepted of God as the sacrificial lamb for the sins of the world, past, present and future.

"It is finished" means Jesus followed through to the end. The number one rule in swinging a golf club or shooting a basketball is follow through – you have to finish your swing or shot. To stop short is to fail! When we died with Christ in baptism we were raised to a new life; our relationship to Christ was not finished. It had just begun.

Not even the apostle Paul thought his relationship with Christ ended with his baptism, for he wrote, "Not that I have already obtained that or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12:14).

If Jesus' commitment to the Father's task was like your commitment to him, could he have said, "It is finished"? Could he say he had "accomplished the work God gave him to do"? Are you following through on your commitment to Christ? Are you putting Him first in everything?

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

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.



News & Notes

THE SICK:

Donna Wright	Jewell Dean Kennemer
Helen Blankenship	Harvey & Pat Nixon
James Johnson	Loretta Warner
Mildred Lambert	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Ann Bush
Cornelia Pepper	Linda Jones
Damien Powers	Winfred Corsbie

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Patsy Thomas	Ella Melvin
Marvin Putman	Priscilla Tucker
Lucille Craig	Al Pollard
Cindy Glass	Una King Currier
Susan Cox	Wayne Gooch
Charles Burns	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Wayne Wooldridge
Linda Ordonez	Phillip Harwell
Cindy Walker	Gene Carpenter

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Kathleen Wales; Huntsville Hospital – ICU
Jennifer Sellers; UAB Hospital – Birmingham
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

JoAnn Gilbert, rm 117	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 63	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Doris Reed, rm. 105
Leonard Clines, rm. 94	

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
Virginia Meyer, Traditions
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Donna Wright began her treatments for her cancer and will continue to take treatments over the next two weeks. She will be having to limit contact with people in the next few weeks until her immunity is built up again ...

Kenneth Smith had knee surgery in Decatur on Tuesday and is at home going to therapy ... **Mildred Lambert** fell this past week and was not seriously injured, but it trying to get over the soreness ... **Jewell Dean Ken-**

nemer continues to make slow progress in recovery from the fracture in her back and continues to have pain ...

JoAnn Gilbert continues to be confined to bed and is continuing the antibiotic. She continues to wait while finishing the antibiotic and getting approval to have the knee surgery ... **James Johnson** has hospice coming in to check on him now. Keep James in your prayers...

Ernest Roberts, a preacher in Grenada, is back home after being in the states to check on his vision problems. He told me to express his appreciation for the cards that have been sent to him.

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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Cornelia Pepper** in the passing of her brother-in-law, **Marshall Pepper**. He passed away on Wednesday and his funeral was on Thursday afternoon at Limestone Chapel. May the Lord bless Cornelia and all the family.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Holts:** Larry & Sheila are in Canada on vacation... **The Burns:** Tommy & Susan are in California on vacation... **Jim Whitt** has been in Seattle with his work this week... **Mike Ogles** has continued to be in Auburn with his work.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Sept. 2nd

Sunday:	Bible Classes	134
	Morning Worship	178
	Evening Worship	123
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	101

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching.....	Paul Sheehan
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting.....	Marcus Morris
Serving	Kenneth Adams..... Harold Davis
	David Terry Matthew Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Arvid McGuire

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	Paul Sheehan
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams

Other Assignments for the week of September 16th:

Ushers.....	Steve Bradley/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, September 19th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	No Reading Meeting
Prayer.....	Christian Usery
Invitation.....	Paul Sheehan
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Sunday, September 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Ashton Gatlin
Prayer.....	Russell Melvin
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting.....	Albert Haraway
Serving	Landon Adams..... Steve Usery
	Harold Davis Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Christian Usery

Other Assignments for the week of September 23rd:

Ushers.....	Dwaine Allfrey/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams