

# 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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No. 13

### *Work Out Your Own Salvation*

**David A. Cox**

*"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).*

This verse is often quoted trying to prove that it does not matter what one does toward salvation as long as one is sincere. However, this is not at all what Paul is talking about in this verse. This passage is not teaching that man does just whatever he wants or perform works of merit to earn salvation. Paul is impressing the lesson that each one has a personal responsibility toward God. Paul addressed the Christians at Philippi, exhorting them to live the life of sacrifice (Romans 12:1) and to do the "good works" God had ordained to be done (Ephesians 2:10). Paul says that the Christians at Philippi had "obeyed" in the past. What did Paul mean by "obeyed"?

In Acts 2, there is a similar statement made when Peter preached the gospel to those gathered at Jerusalem. Those that heard Peter cried out, saying, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ... And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this perverse generation" (Acts 2:38, 40). Peter told those at Jerusalem to "save yourselves," but how were they to do that? Peter did not mean by saving themselves that they could do whatever good they wanted and be saved. He had just told them about the gracious gift from God. Rather, when Peter said to "Save yourselves," he was teaching them that they were personally responsible for obeying the commands of God to "Repent and be baptized." In Philippians 2, these Christians had "obeyed" the gospel and had become children of God (Galatians 3:26-27).

Clearly, Paul telling the Philippians to "Work out your own salvation" is not referring to their complying with God's conditions to become children of God. They had done that already. Instead, he is encouraging them to continue to live in accordance with God's word. Paul continued

#### 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 Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312  
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

#### 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

#### Evangelist

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#### Visit Us On The Web

[MarketStreet-church.com](http://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*

to remind them of the kind of life they should live “in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life” (Philippians 2:15-16).

Paul was admonishing them to run the race, work to the end, and not be guilty of neglecting their salvation. Paul had seen others neglect their salvation and make shipwreck of their faith (1 Timothy 1:19-20). He did not want to see this happen at Philippi. Paul told them to work as he also reminded the Corinthians to “be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Far too many fail to work out their salvation; by turning aside and back to the elements of this world. Let us remember the admonition “to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” and to constantly live a life that “shine as lights in the world.”



## *A Spirit of Generosity*

**Tim Jennings**

“The more you give the less you have.” Right? The gospel questions the validity of this simple equation. It contends that it is more “blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35) and those who give will “reap bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 6:38). Giving has a boomerang effect that brings back more than it sends.

We all know the joy of such giving! We’ve experienced the warm glow of a good deed done well. But when we search our hearts, we might discover we live many days in the cold isolation of guarding our own concerns. We groan with hunger because giving is more like a seasonal snack than a daily feast.

To ignite the fires of generosity we must begin to see giving as more than just an act. It is the compulsion of the heart! We don’t become generous by simply giving more, but by caring more. Generosity does not originate in the hand, but in the heart!

A truly generous heart can only be sculpted by the great Giver, Himself. He sacrificially gave us His best,

when we deserved the least. He continues to give us what we need, even when we are indifferent and unthankful. Giving is God’s nature and all who are touched by His character, give (Matthew 5:45; John 3:16).

This is the story of the early believers. They were recipients of God’s grace, and they became gracious. They compassionately gave their lives and possessions for the care and salvation of others. J.B. Philips described it like this, “a wonderful spirit of generosity pervaded the whole fellowship” (Acts 4:33). May it be!

This spirit of generosity is essential to weave together the unity of God’s people. After all, our fellowship with God was initiated by His “indefinable gift” of Jesus (2 Corinthians 9:15). Our fellowship with each other is deepened as we express the same generosity toward each other.

A fractured church doesn’t need a heavier hand, but a more compassionate heart. Just look at your own salvation. God gave you Himself before you ever responded. In the same way, the best way to heal a strained relationship is to give. Yes, even before the other person changes. In the New Testament whenever a church struggled with unity Paul instructed them to serve one another (Romans 12-14; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14), because a spirit of generosity knits lives together (See Romans 15).

Charles Dickens’ character Martian Chuzzlewit was a miserly old man. He was isolated from his family so he could guard his considerable wealth. He lived with constant suspicion that someone would take what is his. So, he turned inward and insensitive. However, he begins to see the ruthless results of this greed in his own family and ultimately says,

“The curse of this family is the love of self. It always has been. I see it now on some of your faces. There is a kind of selfishness which is always on the watch for selfishness in others and keeping others at a distance by suspicions and distrusts and wonders why they do not approach and do not confide. God forgive me I did not see it in myself.” (Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit.” Charles Dickens. Abridged version of the quote by David Lodge)

A generosity of spirit drives away our idolatry of self and stuff and into a compassionate unity with others. May God help us see it!

This generosity of spirit is also a necessary tool in

sharing the gospel. How often are opportunities for salvation preceded by acts of kindness!?

Yes, the miracles of Jesus authenticated His words and proved His power to forgive sins (John 3:2; Mark 2:1-12). However, they also expressed God's goodness. He longs for our wholeness and joy. It is the goodness of His works that draws us to Him (Acts 10:38, "He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil").

Similarly, our actions are to model the grace contained in the message of the gospel. This is not humanly defined charity unhitched from God's revelation. After all, the very purpose of the law is to give wings to love (Matthew 22:36-40). "Truth" and "Grace" cannot be separated from one another without destroying both.

Yet, when it comes to sharing the gospel, we often have more to say to people than for them to see! Yet, God designed the gospel to be shared from one person to another, so that others might not just know the message, but see the difference it makes in us (2 Timothy 2:1-ff).

The cherry on top is this spirit of generosity leads to the most joyful, fulfilling life. How counter-intuitive this seems! "If I keep the best bits for myself, I'll be happy," we think. Yet, God made us to experience the highest joys from sacrificial giving.

For example, on one occasion the economically struggling churches of Macedonia scraped together a remarkably liberal gift for their needy brethren in Judea, and it resulted in "the abundance of their joy!" (2 Corinthians 8:2).

Our Lord gave His life on the cross because of the "joy that was set before Him" (Hebrews 12:2). There was gladness in the gift, as costly as it was, because Jesus could see the salvation of our souls to the glory of God. Paul told the Philippians he was "glad" and "rejoicing" to give his life for their faith (Philippians 2:17-18). Similarly, the joy we feel in our families and friendships is intensified by the sacrifices we make for them.

The gladness in life is in the giving, not the keeping.

"Jesus gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." (Titus 2:14)

~via *Focus Magazine*; July 17, 2019

**Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.**

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	Lona Jackson
Betty Lovell	Peggy Mitchell
Shirley Miller	Tony Thomas
Peggy Smith	Betty Pepper
Bobbie Adcock	JoAnn Gilbert
Jimmy Johnson	Doris Lovell
Dan Lovell	Justice Gentry
Karen Ferguson	Marsha Young

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

Harold Ash	Leigh Ann McGlocklin
Peggy Pepper	Loretta Warner
Vicki Stringer	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Judy Vaughn
Lloyd Adams	Jeanette Weir
Janice Cagle	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Carrie Warner
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Phillip Harwell
Wade Williams	Una King Currier

### *In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:*

*Bobby Ogles*; Huntsville Hospital – Huntsville

### *Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:*

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 22A
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Patsy Appleton, rm. 113

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 98
Frances Bowers, rm. 67	Alice Roberson, rm. 49
Ann Bush, rm.	

### *Shut-In or Away From Home:*

Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor  
Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge  
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
Barbara Carter, Traditions  
Irene Inman, at home  
Stan Stanford, at home  
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge  
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

### *Updates:*

*Barbara Ash* spent a few days in the Madison Hospital this past week with blood pressure issues. She was released on Friday ... *Betty Lovell* has been diagnosed with

shingles and suffered a fall this week at her house. She is bruised and sore...**Scottie Reed** had cataract surgery this past week ... **Ann McLemore** is scheduled to have knee surgery on Tuesday of this week...**Kim Rogers** had a biopsy done at Crestwood Hospital on Wednesday ... **Joan Glass** is at home after being hit by a car at Lowe's on Monday. She spent a night in the hospital. She will be returning to the doctor for a follow-up visit...**Leigh Ann McGlocklin** is continuing her radiation treatments and is nearing the end of them...**Harold Ash** has continued his radiation treatments. The treatments will continue for 4 more weeks.

**BIBLE CLASSES:** There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the west wing. The sheet is for the next two quarters for Bible Classes. I appreciate the dedication and work of all of those involved in the teaching program at Market Street. If you have not taught a class in a while, take this opportunity to do this.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The **Cartwright church** is scheduled to have a gospel meeting beginning on Friday night and it will continue through Sunday. **Greg Chandler** will be the speaker in this meeting.

**SONG SERVICE:** Tonight will be the time for our regular monthly scheduled song service. I hope that everyone will be back this evening at 5:00 to worship God in song.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **The Hinkles: Keith and Angie** were out of town last weekend...**Larry Holt** was out of town this past week...**The Coblentz's: Tommy and Marcella** are out of town this weekend... **The Stiles: Chuck and Benita** are in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for week of March 21<sup>st</sup>:

Sunday:	Bible Classes .....	121
	Morning Worship.....	152
	Evening Worship.....	108
Wednesday:	Bible Classes .....	73



**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader .....	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting .....	Hunter Cox
Serving .....	Danny Johnson..... Heath Dollar
.....	Charles Vaughn .....
Closing Prayer .....	Terry Andrews

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader .....	Bob Broadus
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper .....	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer .....	Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for the week of March 28<sup>th</sup>:

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

**Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:**

Song Leader .....	Stephen Lynn
Bible Reading .....	Tommy Coblentz
.....	(2 Peter 3:1-10)
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Invitation .....	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer .....	Larry Holt

**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader .....	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Marty R. Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting .....	Larry Mitchell
Serving .....	Sam Gregory .....
.....	Roger Hammonds
.....	Keenon Currier.....
Closing Prayer .....	Landon Adams
.....	Danny Holt

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	David Barnett
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper .....	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer .....	Bob Broadus

Other Assignments for the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers.....	Russ Wulfekuhl/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt