

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
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No. 14

A Saving or Pleasing Faith

David A. Cox

"But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Without a doubt, all would agree that to be saved, one must have faith. It is clear from what the Hebrew writer says that just any faith or mental assent is not acceptable. There is more involved in a pleasing of saving faith. Let us notice four characteristics of saving faith.

A Saving Faith Believes. First, the Hebrew writer says, "...he that comes to God must believe that He is..." When one looks at the intricate design of this creation, indeed, one must be impressed with the fact that there must be a designer. The psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). Paul wrote to the Romans and said, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). The Hebrew writer says, "By faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:3). Plainly these passages declare that the things of creation or nature affirm that God exists. Therefore, a saving faith or pleasing faith must believe in the existence of God.

A Saving Faith Trusts. Secondly, this passage implies a trust in faith. Notice the text says that one who believes God is a "rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). The one who believes in God will take or trust in the promises He has made. The wise man said, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). Trust may be the most challenging part of faith because our trust has been violated many times by those in whom we place our trust. But our faith must have this trust based on God's:

1. Genuine interest in our well-being (Deuteronomy 6:24; John 15:13).

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

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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*is published in the interest of New Testament
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

2. Faithfulness to the promises that He makes (Joshua 21:45; 2 Peter 3:9-10).
3. Faithful aid, constant help, and ability to deliver (1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 4:20-21; Hebrews 7:25).

Trust is not blind or without reason, and our faith must involve a complete trust in God.

A Saving Faith Will Seek. Saving faith will cause one to “diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). Notice this is not just a seeking, but a diligent seeking of the Lord. It means that we will strive to please the Lord in all things doing His will. We must spend time reading, studying, and meditating upon the word of God. It will strengthen our faith and increase our knowledge of God and His will for us.

A Saving Faith Obeys. In reading Hebrews 11, we must be impressed as the great men of faith are mentioned and how they obeyed the will of God. Beginning with Abel in verse 4, his faith was pleasing because he obeyed God. Noah’s faith in verse 7 pleased God because he obeyed. Abraham’s faith in verse 8 was “pleasing” because he obeyed, and the list goes on.

We see from Hebrews 11 that a saving and pleasing faith believes in God, trusts God, seeks God, and obeys God. Do you have this kind of faith?



What Accompanies Power?

Carl McMurray

In Luke 9 Jesus called the twelve together and sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God. So that their words might be confirmed as “God’s words,” He gave them power to heal and power over the demons. This was not the “Great Commission” to go into all the world, but a limited mission in time and scope.

It is similar to the charge we have today as Christians – not to drop all, leave our lives, and become traveling evangelists, but to sacrifice “some” time and “some” effort in our own land, i.e., where we live. We also have been given power over the effects of Satan and the disease

of sin. God’s word, the scripture, is this power and our authority. For this reason we might look at what accompanied this gift they were given. It might be something that likewise accompanies us in our charge.

First, we notice that when they were given power they were also to proclaim a message concerning the kingdom. They were not allowed to simply “live a life of example” that would “show” people that the kingdom was near. They were required to speak, to explain, to invite and proclaim.

Second, they were required to have faith, v. 3. Even if they had them, they were not allowed to use material resources or the help of friends. They were to see themselves as doing the Lord’s work and dependant upon Him for even their most common every day need. During this journey every meal received was to be seen as the Lord’s provision.

Third, they were to focus on their task, v. 4. They were not to be concerned about staying in better quarters, picking and choosing the best locations, or seeking to improve their lot. They were to be thankful for those who took them in and understand that it was all temporary anyway. Where they lodged was never to be considered of importance compared to what they preached and where they were to go next.

Fourth, and last, they were to expect opposition, v. 5. Men opposed their Master, why would they expect any less for themselves? Nevertheless, they were not to be concerned about vengeance, pride, or anything else. They were to shake the dust from their feet and move on to the next village. Their job was to offer a message, not force compliance.

What about us? As we go about our limited commission in our “villages” I wonder if the Lord expects any less from us. As opportunities to study and worship and obey are presented weekly, do we seriously consider our responsibilities? As hours go into preparing specific messages and lessons for the fall conference, will we be taking “our” charge to heart, i.e., to share the good news of the kingdom with others? I wonder even how many of us will make no plans at all...and thus will allow the Devil to present us opportunities to absent ourselves from our responsibility.

Will we ignore our charge to **proclaim**? To speak, explain, invite, and proclaim that there is a Savior who wishes all men to be saved. Will we ignore our call to

faith? Will we sit down and try to figure all the angles, determine what God *can* do before it's done, and then limit our prayers to what we ourselves believe possible with our own hands. Will we lose our **focus**? Will we run after vacation trips, and winter homes, and grandchildren, and soccer games, and extra activities at school or work?

~via *Anderson church of Christ*; Anderson, Indiana.



Our Treasures In Heaven

Kenny L. Chumbley

He was one of those who heard Christ say: "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:20), and it appears he never forgot, for early in the first chapter of his first inspired letter, he unpacks the kind of treasures Christ had in mind.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4).

The words Peter uses are: *aphthartos*, *amiantos*, and *amarantos*. Let's take a look at each of them.

APHTHARTOS: Incorruptible

Every bit of us is corruptible. In every cell of our body there are agents working to decay and disintegrate every bit of us. From dust we art, to dust we shall return.

But the dead, we read, are "raised incorruptible" (1 Corinthians 15:52); there will be no more rot in our spiritual bodies than there is in Christ's. "We shall be like Him" (1 John 3:2).

AMIANOTOS: Undefiled

I've read the ancients had a precious stone they called the *amianthus*. Dust wouldn't settle on it, filth would fall from it, and one's breath wouldn't cloud it. Somewhere along the line this word came to describe a type of asbestos; and asbestos, of course, is a substance that cannot be defiled by heat. If incorruptible describes

our resurrected bodies at the start, undefiled describes them thereafter; we start out incorruptible and no corruption can ever be added to us.

AMARANTOS: Unfading

Unwithering would be another translation of this term. Whereas *amiantos* was used of an undefilable gem/mineral, *amarantos/amaranth* was used of an unfading flower. Other flowers might droop, wilt, and fade, but the *amaranth* retained its beauty.

Incorruptible, indestructible, and imperishable, then, are three ideas Peter marshals to describe the substance, purity, and beauty of what awaits us in heaven.

The only thing I know for certain about an eternity in heaven is that it will be beyond anything I've ever thought or imagined. Isn't that what Paul's getting at when he says the sufferings of the present aren't worthy to be compared with the glory ahead (Romans 8:18)? And all this, because up from the grave He arose!

~via *Gibson City Bulletin*; Gibson City, Illinois.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Barbara Ash | Lona Jackson |
| Betty Lovell | Peggy Mitchell |
| Judy Vaughn | Pat Nixon |
| Shirley Miller | Tony Thomas |
| Peggy Smith | Betty Pepper |
| JoAnn Gilbert | Jimmy Johnson |
| Doris Lovell | Justice Gentry |

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 |

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Ann McLemore, rm. 114 Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36 Christine Hudson, rm. 77
 Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59 Frances Bowers, rm. 67
 Alice Roberson, rm. 49 Bobby Ogles, rm. 27
 Ann Bush, rm. 75

Shut-In or Away From Home:

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

Updates:

Peggy Mitchell had blood work done on Monday and they determined that her potassium was low ... **Ann McLemore** had knee replacement surgery done on Tuesday and the surgery went well and she's in rehab at Restore... **Kim Rogers** received good news this week on the biopsy she had done last week ... **Joan Glass** went to the doctor this week and had the staples removed. She will return to the doctor in two weeks for a CT scan... **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 3 more weeks.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: This morning we are beginning a new quarter in our Bible classes. I appreciate the dedication and work of all of those involved in the teaching program at Market Street. If you are not attending our Bible Classes on Sunday and Wednesday night, now would be a great time to begin.

OUT OF TOWN: The Parks: Charles, Meredith, Aharon, Harper & Carson have been in Missouri this past week visiting... **The Burns:** Tommy & Susan were out of town this past week... **The Coblentz':** 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 28th:

Sunday: Bible Classes 95
 Morning Worship 119
 Evening Worship 94
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 72

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Tommy Coblentz
 Song LeaderTommy Burns
 Prayer.....Marty R. Adams
 Preaching.....David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Joel Hamm
 AssistingLarry Mitchell
 ServingSam GregoryRoger Hammonds
Keenon Currier.....Landon Adams
 Closing PrayerDanny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Tommy Coblentz
 Song LeaderHunter Cox
 Prayer.....David Barnett
 Preaching.....David Cox
 Lord's SupperJoel Hamm
 Closing PrayerBob Broadus

Other Assignments for the week of April 4th:

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

Wednesday, April 7th:

Song LeaderClayton Hamm
 Bible ReadingLandon Adams
(2 Peter 3:10-18)
 Prayer.....Kenneth Adams
 Invitation.....David Cox
 Closing PrayerDan Reed

Sunday, April 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song LeaderLarry Holt
 Prayer.....Kenneth Smith
 Preaching.....David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Harvey Nixon
 AssistingMike Ogles
 ServingChristian UseryMatthew Usery
Charles VaughnHeath Dollar
 Closing PrayerFrank Melton

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song LeaderTommy Burns
 Prayer.....Marty R. Adams
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's SupperHarvey Nixon
 Closing PrayerDanny Holt

Other Assignments for the week of April 11th:

Ushers.....Larry Mitchell/Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System.....Terry Andrews