

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

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

Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 32

What is the Purpose of Baptism?

David A. Cox

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

There are two common views about the purpose of baptism. One view is that baptism has absolutely nothing to do with salvation but is a public proclamation of one’s faith. This view is often stated as “an outward sign of an inward grace.” The second view is that baptism is essential for obedience and is directly connected to man’s salvation. It is quite evident that these two views stand in direct conflict with each other. What does the Bible teach concerning the purpose of baptism?

Jesus taught that baptism and salvation were connected. In Mark 16:15-16, He told His disciples to go “and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:15-16). Just days later, Peter told those at Jerusalem to “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Peter clearly states here that baptism was to remit or bring about the forgiveness of their sins. Peter made a connection between baptism and salvation when he spoke of Noah. Noah did all that God commanded him to do (Genesis 6:22) and built an “ark for the saving of his household” (Hebrews 11:7). Peter speaks of Noah’s example foreshadowing baptism, which now saves us (1 Peter 3:21). As Peter describes the deliverance of Noah and his family from the flood, the likeness of baptism that now saves us. This is done at baptism because:

1. Our sins are “washed away” or remitted (Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38).
2. The old man of sin is put to death, and we arise as a new man in Christ (Romans 6:4-6).
3. One enters a new relationship in Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).
4. In this new relationship, one is taken from the kingdom of darkness, translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son (Colossians 1:13).

In baptism, the Bible teaches that one should not be concerned about

the “outward sign” but “the answer of a good conscience toward God” (1 Peter 3:21b). Baptism is when one is added to the body of Christ, brought into a relationship with God, and saved from our sins.

Let us remember that when it comes to baptism that we need to make sure that we do not align ourselves with what man says but with what God has said. Man needs salvation from sin, and God has done all He can do for us. May we all completely place our trust in God and submit entirely to his will.



Our Spiritual Footprint

Jim Jonas

We hear a lot about our “carbon footprint,” especially from environmental hypocrites who fly around in private jets telling others how they are damaging the planet. The rules never apply to the self-righteous.

But the hyper-awareness of how much we have warmed the globe, fouled the environment and wasted our resources led me to think about a more important impact we are having on the world – namely, our spiritual footprint. That is, by our daily actions, life choices, influence on others, etc., are we moving the needle of spiritual influence at all? Are we conscious of making such an impact as we go about our lives?

Consider:

Don't underestimate the impact you can have on others. It is natural for us to reflect on those who have impacted us in a positive way in our lives – parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, friends, etc. We can all think of words of wisdom, special experiences shared, examples set by those who were either mentors or more casual acquaintances.

But as we mature we need to realize that we become the influencers. It may be uncomfortable to think of yourself as the adult in the room: the parent who is creating long-term memories in the minds of children;

the teacher who is planting seeds of God's word in students; the counselor whose advice can potentially reshape one's worldview.

Consider the chain of influence:

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

“The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:9).

“These hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:34-35).

Paul was conscious both of teaching and setting examples for others, and so must we be. This is not arrogance; it is reality. We all have influence.

You will not always see the effects of your spiritual footprint. Another element of a mature mind is to engage in or do things because they are right, not necessarily to achieve a specific outcome. There are a lot of things we will not do if we use false metrics. For example, I have spoken to an audience of 15 people, and I have preached to 1,500. Do I owe those 15 less effort or enthusiasm than I owe the multitude? Some athletes have admitted that it has been difficult performing to empty seats and deserted stadiums. Perhaps they have confused the love of their sport with the cheering of the crowds.

In response to the factionalism in Corinth, Paul noted a great truth about spiritual influence: “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed ...I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then, neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:5-7). It is rare to see one's efforts all the way through from a person's conversion to their spiritual maturity. The lesson here is not one of immediate gratification but patient, gradual efforts to make a positive difference in someone's life.

Maybe it is the consistent example set before your neighbors of going to worship every Sunday/Wednesday; maybe it is not cursing in the midst of a stressful situation; maybe it is the unheralded acts of kindness and courtesy that you show to strangers without expecting anything

in return. The focus is not to do what is right and then immediately get feedback on its impact. Rather, plant and water and let God handle the fruit-bearing.

Your spiritual footprint has an expiration date. I don't say this to be negative, but simply to acknowledge a truth that Ecclesiastes develops more fully: "For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come" (Ecclesiastes 2:16). "There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it, besieged it, and built great snares around it. Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that same poor man" (Ecclesiastes 9:14-15).

Your influence, even your great contribution to the common good, may be completely overlooked. You may affect your children significantly, your grandchildren to a lesser extent, and future generations little. The impact of your life fades; few are the words that get chiseled into granite for posterity. Do the right thing; take advantage of the present moment; be content with influencing the people in your orbit one at a time. The spiritual footprint of humble service will make the impression God desires.

~via *The Centerville Journal*; Centerville, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Ruby Dean Ezell
Pat Nixon	Gayle Ball
Bonnie Sutton	Shirley Miller
Jimmy Johnson	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Justice Gentry
Janice Cagle	Diane Kilpatrick

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Mike Ogles	Donna Wright
Tommy Burns	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Lloyd Adams	Phillip Harwell

Cornelia Pepper	Carrie Warner
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Barry DeFoor	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	Matt Bassford

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Shelia Barrett, rm.

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
Frances Bowers, rm. 67	Ann Bush, rm. 75
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	Bobby Ogles, rm. 13

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock, at home
 Nell Barksdale, at home
 Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
 Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter, Traditions
 Unaking Currier, Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
 Irene Inman, at home
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Tommy Burns will be going to the doctor on Wednesday and Thursday for tests...*Mike Ogles* spent several days in Nashville in preparation for his CAR-T treatments...*Priscilla Tucker* received radiation treatments this past week. On Friday she had a swollen lymph node removed from the back of her neck...*Gayle Ball* is at home recovering from a broke shoulder...*Donna Wright* is scheduled to have her next round of immunotherapy treatments this week...*Ruby Dean Ezell* has been troubled with her back the past week and has not been able to be out as she would like...*Anita Wheeler* is continuing to do her therapy at home...*Marci Bassett* has been sick but is doing better now...*Don Bates* gall-bladder surgery this past week was postponed...*Ewell Smith, Rita Smith's husband*, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He is scheduled for surgery on August 26th...*Kerry Cox's mother, Fredia Lowman*, is scheduled for surgery on August 19th in Decatur... Remember our expecting mothers *Heather Cox, Casey Curry*, and *Lynsey Adams*, in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet

next Monday morning, August 16th at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. If you would like to be a part of this, please join them next Monday.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class is meeting each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is studying the *"Authority of the Scriptures."* The class meets in the West Auditorium.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. The speaker in the meeting will be *Jeff May*.

CONFESSIONS: This past Sunday morning, *Tommy Burns* came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness. *Mike Ogles* requested prayers on his behalf for forgiveness and strength... Wednesday evening, *Jay Baker* came forward asking for prayer for forgiveness and to live a good example to others. We appreciate Jay, Mike, and Tommy's good hearts and their desire to please God and be the kind of influence Christians should be. May the Lord bless them in their life of service. May we all encourage them as they have and will encourage us.

BAPTISM: Wednesday night *Kenia Adams* came forward, stating that she wanted to be baptized into Christ. We appreciate Kenia and her desire to live her life to please the Lord. May Kenia have a long life to serve the Lord. May we all encourage her as she has and will encourage us.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are continuing to be made after services. If you need to get your picture made, go to room 22 in the east wing.

OUTOFTOWN: *The Userys: Steve, Allison, Christian, Elizabeth & Matthew* are in Memphis this weekend... *The Stiles: Chuck & Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... *Opal Conn* is in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of August 1st:

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	87
	Morning Worship.....	105
	Evening Worship.....	93
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	83



Remember Our Study Periods

- Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.
- Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader.....	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting.....	Stephen Lynn
Serving.....	Charles Vaughn.....Matthew Usery
Kenneth Adams...Matthew Vaughn
Closing Prayer.....	Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader.....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper.....	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer.....	Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for the week of August 8th:

Ushers.....	Russ Wulfekuhl/Keenon Currier
Work Sound System.....	Marty R. Adams

Wednesday, August 11th:

Song Leader.....	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Kenneth Adams
(John 1:29-42)
Prayer.....	David Barnett
Invitation.....	Albert Haraway
Closing Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz

Sunday, August 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader.....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Stephen Lynn
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting.....	Larry Tucker
Serving.....	Matthew Usery.....Clayton Hamm
Heath Dollar.....Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer.....	David Barnett

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader.....	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper.....	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer.....	Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for the week of August 15th:

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