

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 V

March 3, 2013

No. 9

For The Remission of Sins – Acts 2:38

Daniel W. Bailey

50 days after Christ's crucifixion and about 10 days after His ascension, the apostles gather together in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4 tells us that on this momentous day, the apostles received the Holy Spirit. As promised, this great Helper, sent by Christ, called to their remembrance the words of Jesus and guided them into all truth that He had yet to teach them (cf. John 14:26, 16:12-15). Consequently, these brave men were able to preach the "wonderful works of God" with authority and power from Christ (Acts 2:11). On this occasion, Peter stood up and preached Christ crucified, accusing the listening Jews of rejecting and murdering God's Messiah, and boldly declaring that God raised this Jesus from the dead to be both Lord and Christ. Upon hearing this message, the Jews were absolutely devastated – "cut to the heart" – and so turned to Peter and the rest of the apostles to ask what they could do to escape the wrath of God (Acts 2:37). In response to this earnest plea, Peter gave a simple command – a command bound first in heaven, now to be bound on earth by the apostles (Mark 16:19) – "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). In other words, repent and be baptized in order to obtain forgiveness of sins, to be "saved" (Acts 2:40,47).

Some religious teachers argue that the little word **for** in this passage means not "to obtain" but "because of," striving to prove that baptism is not a condition of forgiveness but an outward sign that a person has already received the remission of sins. In other words, some claim that Peter told his audience to be baptized because they had already been forgiven, not because they still needed to be saved. An appeal to the language of Acts 2:38 reveals the error of this theory.

1. Researching authoritative Greek lexicons (such as Thayer's or Strong's) reveals that *for* (Greek, *eis*) does not mean "because of," but denotes purpose rather than cause. In fact, Thayer notes that the Greek phrase here translated "for remission of sins" literally means "to obtain the forgiveness of sins" (Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament,

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

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz(256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell(256) 230-0185
Todd Williams.....(205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl(256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox(256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell.....(256) 777-8998

Visit Us On The Web
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

94). Consequently, the New Revised Standard Version translates this phrase, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.” Interestingly enough, Edgar J. Goodspeed, the Baptist theologian and Greek scholar who translated the American Translation of the New Testament, evidently drew much criticism from his denominational peers for abandoning faith-only theology in striving to accurately translate the text of Acts 2:23 - “Peter said to them, You must repent, and every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, in order to have your sins forgiven...” (cf. Reese, *New Testament History: Acts*, 78).

2. “For the remission of sins”: this exact same phrase (identical in the original Greek) is used in Matthew 26:28 by Jesus Himself – “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins,” Christ’s blood was shed on the cross of Calvary “for the remission of sins,” to “[take] away the sins of the world” (John 1:29). Surely no one would argue that Jesus sacrificed Himself because the sins of the world were already forgiven, but so that the world might obtain the forgiveness of sins!

3. Just looking at the context of Acts 2:38 shows that a casual use of for does not make logical sense: the Jews were not rejoicing in their saved condition, but were cut to the heart because of their tremendous guilt and shame. These sinful person wanted to know what they needed to do in order to be saved, and Peter responded by inspiration of the Holy Spirit to that earnest question. After all, the text goes on to say, “And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this perverse generation. Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and the day about three thousand souls were added to them” (Acts 2:40-42). They already believed in the risen Christ but they were not yet “saved” until they responded to Peter in being baptized!

4. Lastly, if Peter really meant that his audience should be baptized because they had already been forgiven of their sins, then Acts 2:38 necessarily teaches that repentance was also commanded because they had already been saved – after all, he said that repentance was “for the remission of sins,” too. However, the Scriptures clearly teach that repentance (a change of will/mind and a turning toward God caused by sorrow for sin) must come before salvation, not after it – “godly sorrow brings

repentance that leads to salvation” (2 Corinthians 7:10 NIV; see also 2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 9:13; Luke 13:5; Acts 3:19).

Upon examining all of these factors, Acts 2:38 simply cannot be properly handled to advocate the doctrine that baptism follows the salvation of a believer in Jesus. Jesus Himself commanded that “he who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). Following His Master, and by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter clearly commands that believers must repent and be baptized in order to obtain the forgiveness of sins, i.e. in order to be saved.

And Peter never changed his story! “There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21).

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.



You Light Up My Life

Ken Weliever

“In Him was life and the life was the light of men”
(John 1:4).

In 1977 song writer Joe Brooks wrote a song entitled “You Light Up My Life.” It was recorded by Debby Boone and became an instant success. It was the best-selling single of the 70’s. In fact, it continues to rank #7 on the Billboards list of 100 top songs. Brooks wrote it as a love song, but Debby interpreted it as a song about her relationship with Jesus. Some of the lyrics go like this:

“Alone in the dark, but now you’ve come along. You light up my life. You give me hope to carry on. You light up my days. And fill my nights with song.”

Regardless of your feelings about Brooks, Boone or the song, it does express a Biblical truth. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

We live in a world of spiritual light and darkness. People are seriously engulfed in the darkness of sin. They are held captive by the devices and deceit of the Devil. He entraps. He ensnares. He enslaves. He charms us. And disarms us.

The wiles of the wicked one are well-known. He used them on Eve. He attacked Jesus in the same fashion. And he goes after Christians today with similar schemes. He attacks our attitude so we don't see sin as bad as it is. He uses entertainment to attract the sinful desires of the flesh. He allures the eyes to lust. He uses many means. Books. Magazines. The internet. And even people to fuel the fire of our illicit desires. And he appeals to the boastful pride of life. Pride is at the root of all sorts of sins. Lying. Cheating. Stealing. Greed. Covetousness. Thankfully, God sent the light into the world (John 1:4-9). Jesus, the Light, exposes the dark and deceptive deeds of the devil. Last night I shared 7 ways Jesus lights up my life. Let me just bullet them in here for your consideration.

1. Light brings sight and understanding. We know absence of light causes blindness. It's true spiritually as well. Jesus has come so we can see. He enlightens our understanding (John 12:25; Luke 4:17-21)

2. Light sustains life. The sun is the source of energy for plants. Animals. Even humans. Take away light and we perish. Likewise, the Son is vital for spiritual life. In fact, without the Son there can be no spiritual life. (1John 5:12).

3. Light removes stains and purifies. Sunlight has a purifying effect. Jesus purifies. He cleanses us from sin (Isaiah 1:18; 1John 1:7).

4. Light nurtures healing. Infra-red light plays a part in healing wounds, building muscle and repairing blinded eyes. Jesus, the Light, brings healing. He heals wounded hearts. He mends emotional wounds. He repairs the spiritual rupture of the soul (Isaiah 61:1; Psalm 34:18).

5. Light produces cheer. Long periods without sunlight depress people. There's even a term for it SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder. To His followers Jesus exclaims, "Be of good cheer!" Jesus gives us an internal joy that transcends the situations and circumstances of life.

6. Light gives security. Fear the dark is not confined to children. Night lights. Street lights. Security lights.

All help us overcome our dread of the dark. Jesus is the light that gives spiritual security in an insecure, unsafe and unstable world.

7. Light transmits hope. We use the expression, "I see light at the end of the tunnel." In other words there is hope. Jesus is our hope. Sure. Steadfast. Anchored firm in the Father's plan for his people.

Jesus shines in darkness. He shows the way by revealing the light of truth. He dispels the gloom. He is the True Light. the Great Light. the Sun of Righteousness. the Bright and Morning star. Yes, Jesus - You Light Up My Life!

~via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jonathan Keenon
Jo Ann Gilbert
Shirley Miller
Anita Wheeler
Gilbert Hardy
Charles Burns
Una King Currier
David Hartsell
Phillip Harwell
Matt Poff

Fay Ferguson
Alvis & Ann McLemore
Gwen Bullock
Wynell Casteel
Jilya Gossett
Bruce Mordecai
Ronald Harrison
Abby Gilbert
Ava Brooke Cambell
Shelia Dunnivant Douglas

In The Hospital:

Frances Bowers; Athens-Limestone; rm. 205

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100 Mattye Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 100 Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dyral Allfrey, rm. 80

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B
Albert Norton, rm. 36 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 29-E

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Mary Riuth Gardner, at home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are continuing the study, "*The Barnabas Factor*". All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

PICTURES: *Joel Hamm* will be finishing taking pictures today of those who do not have pictures in the directory and those that would like to have their picture updated. Please see Joel to get these pictures made so that we can get the new directory published soon.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: As announced last Sunday, *Whitney Workman* has expressed her desire to be a part of the work of the Market Street church. We are delighted over her decision and want to extend a warm welcome to *Whitney* and her daughter *Mia*. May we all encourage them as they have and will encourage us.

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

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Carriger church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Jeff Archer* will be the speaker in the meeting... The *Jackson Drive church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Wes Brown* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Westview church* in Hartselle is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The Children's Bible Drill is each Sunday afternoon at 4:40 and lasts about 15 minutes. It meets in the auditorium and will end about 5 minutes before the beginning of our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present this evening for the Bible drill.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for Week of February 24th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 142

Morning Worship 172

Evening Worship..... 101

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 101

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Dan Reed
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Terry Andrews
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Nathaniel Adams Harold Davis
..... Keenon Currier Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Jonathan Keenon
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 3rd:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, March 6th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 62:1-12
..... Marion Mitchell
Prayer Marty Adams
Invitation Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Sunday, March 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jonathan Keenon
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Kenneth Adams Marvin Putman
..... Brandon Griswold .. Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 10th:

Usher Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System Landon Adams