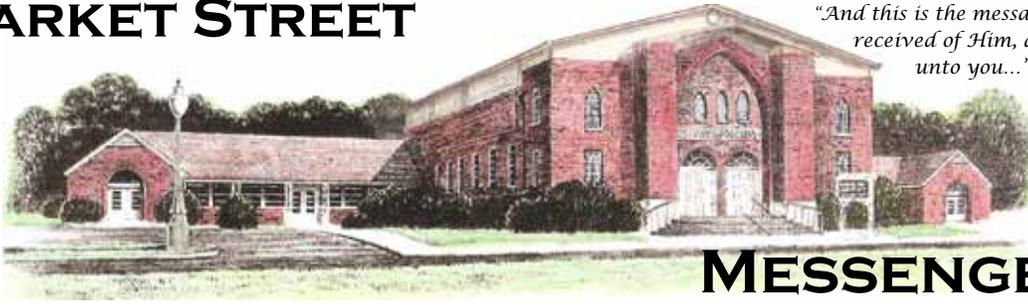


MARKET STREET

"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

May 20, 2018

No. 20

Learn To Forgive, As God Forgives

David A. Cox

When the civil war was nearing its end, Abraham Lincoln was successfully elected to his second term as president of the United States. At this time, he faced the intimidating task of trying to bring the country back together. As he prepared for his second Inaugural Address, he had received much advice to deal sternly with the Confederate States. On March 4, 1865, President Lincoln delivered an address with words of much compassion toward those that had been enemies during the war. Lincoln made a statement saying things like: "with malice toward none" or "with charity for all." He was calling on people to forgive the past and build for the future. From history, we learn that after the assassination of Lincoln that his appeals for forgiveness were not carried out; and vengeance won at the end of the day.

Forgiveness does not seem the natural way for a man to react. "I will forgive, but I won't forget" seems to be the motto that is lived by with so many. Perhaps this is the reason why Jesus, early in his ministry, dealt with the subject of forgiveness in the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus, giving an example of prayer for his disciples, said, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Jesus then gave this instruction following the prayer, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 5:14-15). It is clear from this that men need to learn to forgive: one who does not forgive, will not be forgiven by God.

What Does It Mean to Forgive?

Too many believe that forgiveness is merely a ceasing of hostile actions toward another. Often there is a willingness to place the one that committed a wrong on probation, but not a full restoration as if nothing ever happened. To truly understand forgiveness we must see how God does it. When God forgives sin:

1. **He pardons our sin.** He removes the very thought of the transgression from Him (Hebrew 10:17). An example of this in Luke 15. The main character in this parable, the forgiving father, is a picture of God. The

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

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

father receives the son back that had sinned against him and was not worthy to be called his son. As the son returns to the father the text reads, "But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fattened calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry" (Luke 15:20-24).

2. **He treats us just like the sin never happened.** In Luke 15, the father forgave the son and restored him back in the position he had left. The best robe was put on him to wear; the ring was placed on his finger and shoes on his feet. This son wanted to be a servant, but the father wanted him back as his son; with forgiveness that is possible. Without a doubt, God is seen receiving us back into his love, favor, and fellowship unconditionally. God greatly loves us and patiently waits for us to repent so He can show us His great mercy.

Having a Heart of Forgiveness

Forgiving is a difficult thing to do, but we must learn to do so. We must develop a heart for forgiveness. When you examine the word "forgive" you will see the word "give." That word is vital when it comes to having a heart of forgiveness. We must give before we can forgive.

We must give up pride, the delusion that we are always right, and always having our way. Until we can give up these things, it will be impossible for us to forgive as we should. We may call it forgiveness, but there will always be expectations beyond the contrite heart that we will expect. We must learn that we cannot control the lives of people and all the things around us. We must allow others to make the choices in their lives and for their lives. We must let God control us and let the word work through us and into the lives of those around us. The heart of forgiveness must always possess the willingness to forgive. Remember Jesus taught his disciples not to forgive until "seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:22).

May we work to develop a heart that is tender and genuinely forgives as God forgives.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

The Powerful Authority of Christ

Leland R. Ping

Jesus Christ has all authority. There's no question that He is "before" all things (Colossians 1:17). There's no doubt that the authority that was given to Him is an authority that transcends earth's realm (Matthew 28:18). The power of Jesus' authority needs to be appreciated not just because of its totality but also because it is powerful in transforming our lives. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth about this incredible authority when he addressed the subject of those who wouldn't go to heaven. After listing a number of different sins that would disqualify a person from making it into heaven, the apostle writes, "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11). Of course, without the authority of Christ, none of these three powerful things could have occurred.

Through Christ's authority each of us can have our sins "washed" away. When Saul was being taught by Ananias, Ananias asked Saul why he was waiting and stressed the need to "wash away" his sins (Acts 22:16). To dispel any notion otherwise, the scriptures teach that this "washing" has nothing to do with physical filth but everything to do with a spiritual renewal. Peter writes that our baptism is our answer of good consciences toward God (1 Peter 3:21). For anyone who has done wrong and then "made it right," there's nothing "better" than the feeling of being washed with a good conscience!

The authority of Christ also allows us to be sanctified. This act of being "made holy" and separate from the world is key to pleasing God. Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand the importance of separating themselves from the world and from their own past lives. The same must be true for us. Rendering obedience to the One who gave His life for us is the only way to do this. By the authority of the Holy One, each of us can be holy too.

Finally, it is through Christ's powerful authority that we are justified or "rendered innocent" of our wrongdoing. Of course, as sinners, we're far from being innocent. But therein lies one of the greatest observations about our God. He loves us so much that, even though we don't deserve it, He'll make it so that we "appear" innocent in His sight. After all, it is only through this magnificent grace that we can make it to heaven. Thanks be to God, not only for His mercy, but for the powerful authority

of Christ Jesus who made all these things possible and gives each of us immeasurable hope!

~via *Lake Elsinore Bulletin*; Lake Elsinore, California.



“Lead Us Not Into Temptation”

Heath Rogers

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Matthew 6:13a). This phrase in the model prayer continues the focus upon our spiritual needs. As sheep in the Lord’s fold, we are in need of His guidance and protection as we walk through this world of sin and darkness (Psalm 23).

God allows us to suffer and to be tempted as a means of growing and developing (James 1:12-13). He may not cause the temptation and suffering, but we know God is able to control the tempter (Job 1:12; 2:6; Luke 22:31-32). He is faithful not to allow us to be tempted in a way or to a measure that is beyond our ability to resist (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Prayer is one of the weapons God has given us in our battle against temptation. On the night that Jesus was betrayed, He told Peter, James, and John to, “watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation” (Matthew 26:41a). Instead of blindly walking into the Devil’s minefield every day, we should stop and ask the Lord to lead us away from these temptations and deliver us from the evil one.

This guidance and deliverance is not miraculous. We are guided by God’s word, and we are delivered by God’s providence. However, much like receiving our physical needs, we are to ask for this guidance and deliverance, with the faith that God is willing and able to provide.

While forgiveness of sins is available, it is God’s will that we do not sin (1 John 2:1). We need help, guidance, and strength in resisting the temptations that appear in our daily lives. Perhaps if we spent more time requesting God’s help in avoiding and resisting temptations, we would have to spend less time asking God to forgive us for our sins.

~via *Tri-Cities Edifier*; Tusculumbia, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Donna Wright	JoAnn Gilbert
James Johnson	Cornelia Pepper
Bobbie Adcock	Ann Bush
Ruth Sullivan	Linda Jones
Doris Lovell	Wayne Gooch
Wayne Reyer	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Irene Inman	Jeanette Weir
Janice Cagle	Patsy Thomas
Priscilla Tucker	Ella Melvin
Bobby McLemore	Cindy Glass
Matt Poff	Susan Cox
Elizabeth Howard	Al Pollard
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Ava Brooke Campbell	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Macon Horne, rm. 101
Joyce Martin, rm. 63	Matty Murray, rm. 2
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Mable Crafts, rm. 39

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
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Wanell Vellocido is now at home after spending about a week in the Huntsville Hospital for fluid retention... *Jackie Whitt’s mother, Dean Holt*, is schedule for surgery this week at the Huntsville Hospital. Please keep her in your prayers... *Ann McLemore* is now at home from her time in rehab at Athens Rehab and Senior Care... *Jo Dunnavant* is also at home now from rehab at Athens Rehab and Senior Care... *Adrian Maynard*, from the *Hindsbury Road church in Barbados*, has been in touch with the doctor about his brain surgery. Still waiting.

DIRECTORY PICTURES: We are in the process of making directory pictures. There are several pictures that we are needing for the directory and some pictures that need to be updated. The pictures will be made in the next couple of weeks in room 20 in the east wing.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate **Kenneth Adams** who will be graduating on Tuesday night at Athens Bible School. We rejoice with Kenneth over the accomplishments that he has obtained. May the Lord bless Kenneth in his future educational endeavours.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice over the decision that **Sam & Taylor Gregory** have made to be members of the church here at Market Street. We are thrilled to have them with us and look forward to working with them for the cause of Christ. We want to extend a warm welcome to **Sam, Taylor and Cara Blake**. The Gregorys' will be in Work Group 2.

OUT OF TOWN: **Steve Bradley** is in Houston, Texas... **The Userys:** **Steve, Allison, Christian, Elizabeth & Matthew** are in Fayetteville, North Carolina this weekend... **The Nixons:** **Harvey & Pat** are in Waynesboro, Virginia this weekend for their grandson's graduation... **Jewel Dean Kennemer** has been out of town with family... **Jim Whitt** has been in Seattle, Washington with his work.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of May 13th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	166
	Morning Worship	220
	Evening Worship	152
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	96



June 11-14, 2018

Monday through Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Albert Haraway
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting	Joel Hamm
Serving	Keenon Currier..... Christian Usery
.....	Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Albert Haraway
Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Larry Holt

Other Assignments for the week of May 20th:

Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Dwayne Allfrey
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, May 23rd:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading	Mark 3:1-12
.....	Danny Johnson
Prayer.....	Dwayne Allfrey
Invitation	Albert Haraway
Closing Prayer	Marty Adams

Sunday, May 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Albert Haraway
Serving	Harold Ash..... Nathaniel Adams
.....	Kenneth Adams..... Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Other Assignments for the week of May 27th:

Ushers.....	A. J. Price/Hunter Cox
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams