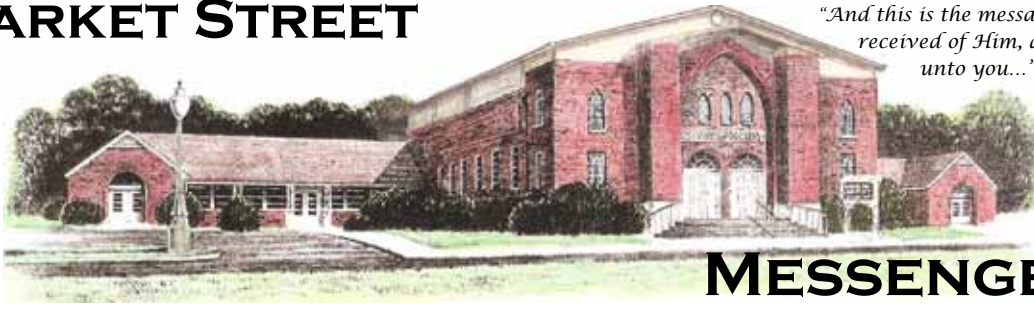


MARKET STREET

"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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Volume X

September 30, 2018

No. 39

The Reality of Repeated Sin

Mark McCrary

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
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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

History repeats itself. In Genesis 12, shortly after we are first introduced to the man Abram, we are told of a trip that he and Sarai took to Egypt seeking food. In order to protect his life, he told Sarai, who was a beautiful woman, to tell people she was his sister (since she was his half-sister, this was a half-truth). This plan turned around to bite him when the king's eyes fell on her and he, thinking her to be the sister and not the wife of Abram, took her to be his own.

One would think Abram would have learned from this experience, but in Genesis 20, some 25 years later, the same thing happens again. To protect himself, they lead Abimelech, king of Gerer, to believe she was solely his sister, and not his spouse. In both cases, not only did this sin show a lack of trust in God, but a lack of love for fellow man who suffered as a result of Abraham's actions.

It is unfair, perhaps, to suggest that these two occasions imply Abraham had a big problem with the sin of lying. But, it does remind us of the reality of repeated sins—sins that seem to plague us or others.

It doesn't take long in life for someone to disappoint, hurt or even sin against you. If you are part of a family, married, have children, or just interact with people from time to time, these things are going to happen. It is tempting to think when others sin against us repeatedly that they didn't really mean it. But, this is not realistic, or fair. Maybe they were, but this is an area where they are weak. Our job is to forgive them (Matthew 18:22), even if their sin is repeated.

Don't we hope and pray people are that understanding with us? Certainly it is when it comes to God. Have you not sinned, felt awful, asked for forgiveness, only a day, a week or month later to do the same thing? Don't you want God to forgive you?

Finally, a personal note. It is discouraging to stumble with the same sin time after time, isn't it? How often have you said, "Boy, I keep committing this same sin! I must not be serious about it." Or, "I just can't overcome this!" Repeated sin does not mean you are hopeless, it simply

means you are weak and need strengthening. I'm not saying we should excuse ourselves of the severity of the sin, or make light of it in any way. I've heard people say, "This is my only vice." Such an attitude in a child of God is unacceptable. The argument of Romans 6 is that sin in the life of the child of God is unacceptable. When we commit ourselves to purity, all sins are a danger to us and we must fight to overcome all sins—even those that show up as unwelcomed, but reoccurring guest. The good news is with God's grace and our determination, those sins can eventually lose their hold on us. But, such a battle takes time, so don't become discouraged.

Abraham was a man saved by faith, despite his weakness. What saved him was his love for God. The same things saves us today—so keep fighting and don't give up!

~via *Applying God's Word*; Louisville, Kentucky



Assurance of Salvation

Lawrence Kelley

There is such a thing as a well grounded assurance of salvation and there is also such a thing as ill founded presumption. One of the primary goals of the Apostle John in the letter of 1 John is to instill confidence in genuine believers that they are right with God and need not fear His judgment. Consider some of the signs of life given to us in 1 John that help answer the question of "Where do I stand with God?"

The first sign of life is that we are **walking in the light** – 1 John 1:6-7. Light and Darkness are typically used in scripture with reference to moral uprightness or perverseness respectively. The faithful *walk* (their general manner of life) *in light*. They habitually prefer the pure to the impure; clean to dirty. The presumptuous may speak of a commitment, but they love the darkness. You regularly find them skulking about in dark alleys.

Second, is an **awareness of sin** – 1 John 1:8,10. The more time spent communing with God, the more glaring our sin becomes to us. The real believer knows that if sin were blue, everything he did, thought or said would be in some way shaded blue. By contrast the falsely assured

become increasingly convinced that their *sins* are actually *virtues*. "I'm not gossiping, I'm just concerned about how sister Molly is doing with her alcohol problem."

Third is **obedience** – 1 John 2:3-5; 3:7-8,10. True assurance knows that salvation is by grace through faith, but that it is a faith that is revealed in specific acts of obedience. False assurance says that it is legalistic to worry about obedience. *Obedience* grows in the faithful. *Excuses* grow in the presumptuous.

Next is a **genuine longing to see the Lord** – 1 John 3:2-3. Do you love theology and the discussion of issues? Nothing wrong with this, but it is possible to imagine we love the Lord, when we are actually in love with ideas and doctrines. Do you ache to *see His face*, *hear His voice*, *touch His hand*? Do you long for the day when you will be *perfected* and never have another sinful thought or action? If so you will be striving in the present to become what you are destined to be in eternity.

Last is **love for the brethren** – 1 John 3:14; 4:12-5:3. This is the proof John is most adamant about. The problem with the test of love is that, everyone thinks they are a loving person, but John reminds us that love is not "whatever I define it to be," but love is seen in God's sending His Son to take away our sins. In other words, love is actively seeking the best interests of others. Love is not just a pleasant attitude or empty words, but involves emptying ourselves in order to fill others. Love calls for the sacrifice of time, energy and money. In order for our love to give us confidence and assurance in the most frightening place imaginable - before the judgment seat of God - our love must parallel His love. So the question is clear. Do you love others? Are you sure? What deeds and actions are there to prove it?

This kind of evaluation always reveals shortcomings to the genuine soul searcher. Interestingly, the more you are troubled over your lack of holiness, the greater your assurance will be. This is because the one who finds himself regularly in need of the blood of Christ is the one who is daily pursuing Christ. If you find nothing in this article that convicts you or if your shortcomings do not bother you, then you have a deadly serious problem. The characteristic of the falsely assured are three: they are smugly confident that they are lacking in nothing, or they are angry that someone has pointed out their fault, or worst of all they see their errors, but don't care.

So, let me exhort you to be a confident Christian. As the Apostle said, "*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to*

believe in the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:13). Do you believe in the name of the Son of God? Are you trusting in Him alone to save you from your sins? Have you been joined to Him in Baptism? Are you striving to show your love for Him by the obedience of your faith? Then stop doubting and rejoice that your sins are forgiven, and your name is written in His book.

~via *Lost River church of Christ*; Bowling Green, Kentucky.



How Can We Return?

Jarred McCrary

If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me-- I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies--or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land (Leviticus 26:40-42).

What is God looking for when His children mess up but want to return to Him?

This doesn't have to be a hard answer at all. As a matter of fact it's quite simple and can be found in a number of places throughout scripture. One of the most complete and easiest to see answers comes straight from God in Leviticus 26:40-42

In the earlier verses of chapter 26 God was reminding the Children of Israel of their covenant. He re-affirmed that as long as they kept their end of the covenant they would continually see His confirmation of it. However, He also exposed the dark side. His warning of disobedience was severe. Without Him they would essentially rot away. But that didn't have to be their final fate. God said in vss. 40-42 if they were willing to confess their iniquities and their unfaithfulness, confess their hostility towards Him, humble their hearts and then make amends for their wrong, **then** He would remember their covenant.

We all mess up. We'll all transgress against God and essentially act hostile towards Him. Some may even turn their backs on Him completely. When that happens, destruction doesn't have to be our final fate.

What is God looking for when that happens? Humble hearts that are willing to confess their mistakes and make amends for their wrongs.

When you read passages like this it makes it easy to see God's gracious love and mercy towards us all, even when we have been hostile towards Him. Thank you God for your love and patience!

~via *Ridgeway Bulletin*; Ridgeway, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Donna Wright	Jewell Dean Kennemer
Helen Blankenship	Mildred Lambert
James Johnson	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Jennifer Sellers
Linda Jones	Ann Bush
Damien Powers	Winfred Corsbie

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Patsy Thomas	Ella Melvin
Marvin Putman	Lucille Craig
Cornelia Pepper	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	Ava Brooke Campbell
Cindy Glass	Una King Carrier
Susan Cox	Wayne Gooch
Gene Carpenter	Cindy Walker
Elizabeth Howard	Wayne Wooldridge
Linda Ordonez	Phillip Harwell

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Bobbie Adcock; Athens- Limestone Hospital – rm. 224
Dean Holt; Huntsville Hospital – ICU
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

JoAnn Gilbert, rm 117	Kathleen Wales, rm. 110
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Joyce Martin, rm. 63	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7

Leonard Clines, rm. 94

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
Virginia Meyer, Traditions Assisted Living
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison

Updates:

Kenia Adams went to the doctor on Thursday to see what they can do for her back...**Drew Ogles** is also scheduled to go to the doctor on Monday to see how he is progressing...**Paul Hasting** had out-patient surgery done on Thursday at Athens Hospital ...**Kenneth Smith** continues to recover from his knee surgery. He is at home and going to therapy ... **Jewell Dean Kennemer** continues to make slow progress in recovery from the fracture in her back and continues to have pain ... **JoAnn Gilbert** has completed her antibiotic infusions. She continues to wait for approval to have the knee surgery ... **James Johnson** is at home and not doing well with hospice care... **Adrian Maynard**, a preacher in Barbados, had his surgery this past Monday and the doctors were pleased with the surgery. He continues in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Bridgetown.

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

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Hillsboro Heights church** in Moulton is beginning a meeting today, and it will continue through Thursday. **Tom Holley** will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Chumbleys:** *Buc, Martha & Molly* are in Belgreen today. Buc is preaching there... **Jackie Cox** is in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this weekend... **Will Chumbley** has been in Sacramento, California with his work.... **The McLemores:** *Alvis & Ann* are back from the trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee... **Jim Whitt** came home Friday from his work in Seattle, Washington... **Mike Ogles** has continued to be working in Auburn.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Sept. 23rd

Sunday:	Bible Classes	125
	Morning Worship	160
	Evening Worship	126
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	92

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Russell Melvin
Assisting	Mike Ogles
Serving	Tommy Burns.... Roger Hammonds
.....	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Clayton Hamm
	Bob Broadus

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Preaching.....	Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper	Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer	Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for the week of September 30th:

Ushers.....	Danny Holt/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, October 3rd:

Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Bible Reading	Clayton Hamm
.....	Mark 8:27-38
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Invitation	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell

Sunday, October 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Ashton Gatlin
Prayer.....	Steve Usery
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Hunter Cox
Assisting	Marty Adams
Serving	Matthew Vaughn.....
.....	Harold Davis
Closing Prayer	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for the week of October 7th:

Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Christian Usery
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews