

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 XI

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No. 15

Baptism; A New Birth

David A. Cox

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

Evangelist

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

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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

When discussing the subject of the necessity of baptism, the charge is made that if one must be baptized to be saved then that makes it a meritorious work. Is this the case? Certainly not! The Bible teaches that we are not saved by works of merit (Ephesians 2:9). Rather, the scriptures teach us that baptism is involved in our spiritual re-birth. In Ephesians 2:10, the verse following the instruction that we are not saved by works, Paul writes, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Paul tells us we are "created in Christ Jesus," therefore, we are spiritually recreated through Christ unto good works. Let us examine what the scriptures teach us about baptism being a new birth.

Jesus speaking to Nicodemus said, "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Jesus tells Nicodemus that one must be born again to enter the kingdom. Jesus goes on in the passage to explain the new birth as being "born of water and of the Spirit" (John 3:5). This passage shows the necessity of spiritual birth and that it is accomplished by water and the Spirit. The Spirit is involved in the revelation of God's will to man through the word of God which produces faith (Romans 10:17). Then as man learns the will of God and is convicted of his sins, is then baptized to have his sins forgiven (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 22:16).

Paul tells the Christians of Galatia that their baptism was a result of their faith in Christ. Their faith led them to put on Christ by being baptized (Galatians 3:26-27). In putting on Christ, the scriptures speak of being a new man.

- In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."
- Paul writing to the Romans about their baptism into Christ, says that baptism is a burial of the old man and they were raised up to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-6).
- In Ephesians 4:24 Paul writes, "put on the new man, which is created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness."

The new man or the newness of life is not just the same person who

has been baptized and now attends worship services, but he is one that has a changed life with a different direction, feelings, goals, and desires for his life. Paul expressed this change in his life when he wrote to the church at Philippi in Philippians 3. “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:7-8, 13-14). Paul mentions that at a point in his life he trusted and had confidence in the flesh, but as a new creature, after being baptized and crucifying the old man, his direction of life changed. As a new man, his goals and desires are changed for Christ. After the new birth, the new man will not conform to the world but will be living a righteous, holy life, and conform his life to the image of God.

The new birth is essential; it causes people to change their life so that they might receive the crown that awaits the faithful (2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 2:10). If one is not born again by obeying the command to be baptized in water for the remission of his sins, he will die in his sins and hear the Lord say, “depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).



Moses' Instruction To Parents

Richie Jenkins

God has no grandchildren. He only has children.

As much as we would love it, there is no automatic transfer of God's truth to others. Everyone must make his or her own spiritual journey.

Moses recognized that. This mighty leader of Israel spent his last words telling the Israelites how to pass on God's word to their children. "...that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your sons

and grandsons, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged” (Deuteronomy 6:2). If we have children, or grandchildren, He is talking to us. He is telling us how we can pass along His word.

To get the full impact of Moses' words, remember the present location of the Israelites. After wondering for 40 years, they now stand on the banks of the Jordan river, on the verge of the Promised land. This new territory before them would be the place where their children and grandchildren would grow up. At the beginning of this new life for God's people, Moses gives three directives:

Hear the truth continually (vs. 4). Knowing they were about to march into a land that had no history of faith, He began with the basics: “Hear, O Israel. The Lord is our God, the Lord is One!” Take this Lord your God with you into the new land. As you set up home and establish your faith, remember, the Lord alone is your God. Don't forget and don't compromise. God is first. God is the focus of our worship. He is, in fact, the foundation of our life. Drive down family roots deep with this truth. The Lord is our God.

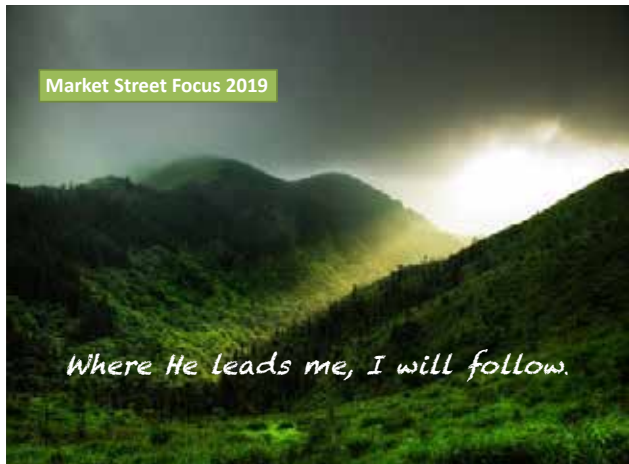
Love the Lord fervently (vs. 5). Moses' second point: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” He is talking about total commitment to love and to trust God. Our children discover it in moments like this: “Kids, it's a hard time for us as a family right now, but God will provide. We are going to trust Him during these tough times; you trust Him along with us.” There is something wonderful about loving God with all your heart and soul. It un.masks us.

Teach the young diligently (vs. 7). This is not about parents learning the Bible and stopping there; it is about parents implanting God's word in the hearts of their children. It is telling about and showing them our faith. What we have heard and what we have grown to love, we now teach to our children. Look at how natural Moses made it: “Talk to them about God's truth.” Talk, not deliver a lecture. Don't try to force a whole sermon into your dinnertime prayer! Don't shove big chunks of truth down their throats – live it on a day-to-day basis. Let it come naturally. One way to do this is to make God's word the very center of your home. Live it out in how you respond to life's joys and challenges. It is fine to frame verses and put the Bible on a coffee table, but they've never changed a person's life. The verses written on the hearts of parents shape a kid's perspective. If we are not careful, life gets busy and complicated, and a teachable moment will fly by without a word. Don't let

it. Moses' warning in Deuteronomy 6 is as fresh today as it was then.

We all want our children and grandchildren to live godly and courageous lives. It will not happen automatically. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, assure the children you love that your relationship with God is your first priority, that you love Him with all your heart, all your soul, and with all your might. Pass those truths on to them. Begin early!

~via *The Tri-Cities Edifier*; Muscle Shoals, Alabama.



News & Notes

THE SICK:

Arvid McGuire	Jimmy Johnson
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Bobbie Adcock
Wes Stiles	Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir	Marvin Putman
Cornelia Pepper	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Una King Currier	Matt Poff
Susan Cox	Gene Carpenter
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Wayne Wooldridge	Kenneth Fisher
Pat Wulfekuhl	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Brittany Bates Carter; M.D. Anderson – Houston, Texas

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Leonard Clines, 99	Valeria Dalton, 7
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, 77
Evelyn Hogan, 36	Dorothy Draper, 73
Joyce Martin, 63	

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 117

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
 Irene Inman, at home
 Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Arvid McGuire has been struggling to overcome his bout with pneumonia. He is at home... *Jewel Dean Kennamer's granddaughter, Brittany Bates Carter* is in Houston, Texas at M.D. Anderson for seven weeks taking treatments. She has completed 6 treatments at this point. Keep her in your prayers... *Russ Wulfekuhl's mother, Pat Wulfekuhl*, was not able to have her colonoscopy as planned on Wednesday and will have it this week... Remember to keep *Laura Adams* in your prayers for the upcoming delivery of her baby soon.

TEACHERS' MEETING: The teachers' meeting is scheduled for this afternoon at 4:00p.m. We will be discussing this year's VBS in this meeting.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice that *David & Myrtle Barnett* have expressed their desire to be a part of the work at Market Street. Let us all extend to them a warm welcome to the work here.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* in Russellville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *East Florence church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Mike Richardson* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Needmore church* in Haleyville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in the meeting will be *David Maxson*.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Edens: Bill & Brenda* are in Macon, Georgia for the funeral of a longtime friend... *The Holts: Larry and Shelia* are out of town on vacation

in Holland... *Steve Usery* has been in Houston, Texas with his work this week... *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* have been in Texas this week... *Will Chumbley* has been in Maryland this past week... *The Wulfekuhls: Russ, Lisa and Ali* are in Tennessee this weekend.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Here is a list of dates for things at Market Street this year. Make sure to mark these dates.

- April 21-24 Gospel Meeting John Gibson
- June 10-13 Vacation Bible School
- Sept. 15-18 Gospel Meeting Johnny Felker

PICTURES: We are in the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing.

BARBADOS MEETINGS: It was good to be with the *Hindsbury Road, Barbarees Hill* and the *Trents* churches the last couple of weeks. The work there continues to make progress, but there are still a number of challenges. The brethren there all sent their greetings to the Market Street church and wanted me to express their love and appreciation for allowing me to come to be with them. I will plan to talk more about the trip tonight.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are away in college:

- Brettlyn Currier*, at the Cumberland Law School
- Keenon Currier*, at the University of Alabama
- Griffin Holt*, at the University of Alabama
- Elizabeth Usery*, at Mississippi State University

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of April 7th

Sunday:	Bible Classes	132
	Morning Worship	161
	Evening Worship	129
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	102



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Larry Tucker
Serving	Matthew Vaughn..... Sam Gregory
.....	David Terry
Closing Prayer	Heath Dollar
.....	Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for the week of April 14th:
 Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Danny Holt
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, April 17th:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading	Harold Ash
.....	Mark 14:66-72
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Invitation	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin

Sunday, April 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching.....	John Gibson
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Harold Ash
.....	Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer	Clayton Hamm
.....	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	John Gibson
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for the week of April 21st:
 Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System..... Will Chumbley