

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 XVI

March 17, 2024

No. 10

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..... 6:30 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
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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

Salvation By Grace

David A. Cox

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” — (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The scriptures teach that man is saved by grace. Those who regard the Bible as God’s word could not dispute grace in connection to salvation. The question is not, “Is man saved by grace?” But, “How is man saved by grace?” Let us consider what the scriptures teach us about salvation by grace.

What Is Grace?

Grace is defined as unmerited favor. It is a benefit bestowed upon one who does not deserve it. Those who need it can do nothing to merit it. If grace was given as a payment of a debt or something one had earned, it would not be grace.

We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith.

Many believe that to be saved means to be saved “wholly of grace,” that it is God who saves us, and that there is really nothing for us to do. However, we must notice that in Ephesians 2, Paul writes that we are “saved by grace through faith.” What part does faith have to do with our being saved by grace? If salvation is “wholly of grace,” faith is unnecessary. However, we must remember the Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please God.” Consider some examples where the Bible shows us what grace through faith means.

- **The Case of Noah.** In Genesis 6, we read about the wickedness of man during the life of Noah. Men were so wicked that God determined that He was going to destroy the earth. However, verse 8 says, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Here, God’s grace was extended to Noah to save him from the destruction of the earth. Was it automatic? No. Was there nothing Noah was expected to do? No. In Genesis 6:13-22 we see a list of explicit instructions that God gave Noah to be saved from destruction. The Hebrew writer says, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen yet, moved with fear prepared an ark to the saving of his house” (Hebrews 11:7). Did Noah

in obeying God's command negate God's grace? No! Without the grace of God, Noah would have perished in the flood.

- *The Children of Israel.* In Numbers 21:4-9, we have the children of Israel after they are out of Egyptian bondage. They are murmuring and complaining. God sent fiery serpents that bit the people, and they began to die. God then told Moses to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole, and if the people looked upon that serpent of brass, they would live. Was God's grace extended to the children of Israel who were sure to die as a result of being bitten by the fiery serpents? Yes, most certainly. God did not owe them anything, but His grace allowed them an opportunity to be saved. Did they have to do something? Yes. What if they had not looked upon the serpent of brass on the pole? Would they have lived? No. Was the power in the serpent of brass on the pole to cure them, or was it the power of God? The power to heal them was in God. Indeed, we see again that God is extending His grace, but something was required to access that grace.

How This Applies To Us.

In looking at two examples of God's grace working through faith. They were saved by grace through faith. Many more examples of God's grace through faith are found in God's Word. Now, what about our being saved from sins today? Should we presume that since salvation is by grace, there is nothing we can or should do? Absolutely not! If we are saved by grace through faith today, we must do what God has told us to do in His Word. We will:

- Believe (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)
- Repent (Acts 2:38)
- Confess (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10)
- Be Baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)
- Live faithful to Him (Revelation 2:10)

Doing the things God commands us does not earn or merit our salvation any more than Moses and the children of Israel earned their salvation. But in our obedience, we access the grace of God through faith, by which we are saved. To God, be the glory.

Remember Our Bible Study Periods

- Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.
- Wednesday Evening at 6:30 p.m.

Wisdom With Digital Distractions

Mark Roberts

The Internet and all that goes with it used to live on a desktop or laptop computer. Now we carry it in the palm of our hands with a smart phone or tablet. Apps and browsers connect us to the entire world at the speed of light. Yet more and more people are beginning to think and re-think about how they are affected by the digital devices we carry (and love). Of course, the Bible doesn't have an explicit "Thou shalt not have an iPhone" passage. Does that mean we get one and use it without thought? What is needed in situations where there is not a clear "thus saith the Lord" is wisdom. How can I get the good from digital devices without them causing me more problems than they are worth? Let's go get some wisdom from the Bible's books of wisdom, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

First, recognize part of our problem is that we are not intentional with our devices. Someone says "Have you got this app?" and we load it. "Are you on this social network? Everyone is; it's so cool!" and we join it. But everything we add to our phone (and use) puts additional pressure and time loads on our lives. If I'm not on Instagram and then I join, where will the time come from that I surf and look at Instagram? I don't get more minutes added to my day when I add an app. So where will the time to use that app come from? Did I intentionally choose "I will do less of this because I want to do this?" No. I just download it to my device and end up with a life that is cramped and compressed. When I add an app, particularly a social media app, I need to ask "What will I give up to make room for this? What will be crowded out by doing this new thing?" More often than not, it could be my spiritual disciplines that suffer. That's why I need to be intentional. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Secondly, part of the trouble with social media is that it can feed arrogance. A lot of social media is about me. It's me showing my great vacation. It's me talking about me and my life. It's me sharing my opinion on everything. This news story. This action by a celebrity. This political contest. Apparently the world is waiting to hear what I think about all this and more and I need to weigh in! I will set people straight – just wait till they read my Facebook post on today's hot topic! Wait till they see

the meme I post ridiculing those I disagree with!

This is madness. This is pride gone to seed and bearing a bitter harvest. Making something about me is not wise. Always talking about me isn't good for me. As for thinking that my opinion matters on the recent scandal or news story ... that's just as foolish. How do we imagine that we know enough to comment because we saw something on the Internet? Do we think we really have all the facts? Do we really know the background and context of complicated situations and circumstances? Could we be led astray by fake news? Without any regard for these cautions I can dive right in and tell the world what is what, but... "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

Thirdly, we need to realize that the "instant" isn't always wise. The Internet is immediate, isn't it? I can share my thoughts, my photos, my opinions, my ideas now. So when I'm angry I can just vent on the spot. When I'm upset I can tell the world how unhappy I am. When I'm sure I know the problem (and its solution) I can spout my counsel to everyone. All of this can be done without much thought, much consideration, or much time spent carefully considering if what I'm saying needs to be said, is helpful, kind or loving. I just type it out and press **Send** or **Post Bang**. Instantly I've put it out there. But there's not much wisdom in that, is there? "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Proverbs 12:18).

I don't believe we have to smash our phones or go back to old fashioned flip phones with no Internet access. However, I do believe we should bring wisdom to every part of our lives, and that includes the device in your pocket! Be wise in your use of technology. "When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent." (Proverbs 10:19).

~via *Charlestown Road Bulletin*; New Albany, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Theresa Tucker	Claudia Bates
Pat Nixon	Shirley Miller
James Adams	Wayne Faulk
Jonathan Keenon	Trudy Romine

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Danny Johnson	Doris Lovell
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Priscilla Tucker	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Anita Wheeler
Wynell Romine	Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir	Lloyd Adams
Charles Burns	Larsen Plyler
Cindy Walker	Al Pollard
Anthony Sutton	Jerry Lawrence
Henry Fusch	Liz Fusch
Tim McGuire	Monica Nelson

Updates:

Theresa Tucker continues to recover from her recent surgery at home... **Dan Lovell** learned that he will need to go the Cancer Center in Decatur to set-up and begin radiation and followed by Chemo treatments ... **Jonathan Keenon, Mary Cecile Keenon's son and Mary Glenna Currier's brother**, had back surgery on Monday and is doing well in his recovery ... **Taylor Gregory's aunt, Monica Nelson**, is in the Decatur General Hospital dealing with C-dif and other issues ... Remember to keep all of our sick in your prayers.

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Brenda Wilson, rm. 38
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 2 Connie Brock, rm. 62
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7

Limestone Health Facility:

Ann Bush, rm. 75

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Barbara Carter; Limestone Lodge
Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
Lona Jackson; Vitality Living, Huntsville
Marion Mitchell; Decatur Health & Rehab
Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee
Stan Stanford; Goldton at Athens
William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the West Auditorium. All ladies who are able to come are invited to be a part of this class.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at the *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care* at 5:30 p.m. Please join us to sing, if you are able.

COMMUNION BREAD: The Communion Bread sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for the ladies who would like to make the communion bread for the

worship services.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: The outline for the VBS studies is uploaded in the **Shared Files** are on the **Member's area** on the church's website, "**VBS -2024**".

CARD WRITING: There is a card writing group that meets regularly to write and mail cards to people for appreciation and encouragement. The group will meet next Monday morning, March 25th at 10:30. If you want to participate, join them next Monday morning.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Shelby Kirkland** in the passing of her sister, **Robbie Tribble**, last Saturday. The visitation and funeral were on Thursday morning at Limestone Chapel. She was laid to rest in the Madison Cemetery... We also express our deepest sympathy to **Rebekah Reeder** in the passing of her grandmother, **Martha Alean Reeder**. She passed away last Sunday and the visitation and funeral were on Thursday afternoon at the Valhalla Funeral Home in Huntsville. She was laid to rest in the Cemetery at Valhalla... We also express our deepest sympathy to **Deborah Slaton** in the passing of her ex-husband, **Jimmy Slaton**. He passed away on Tuesday. There are no funeral arrangements planned. May the Lord bless all of these families during the time of sorrow.

DEATH: Early Friday morning, my sister-in-law and **Jackie Cox's daughter-in-law, Mary Cox**, passed away at her home in Goodlettsville, Tennessee after her battle with Pancreatic Cancer. No arrangements have been made at this time. We appreciate all the prayers and concern that so many of you have expressed and done on Mary's behalf. May the Lord bless you all.

OUT OF TOWN: **Brenda Haraway** has been at the Grand Canyon this week with her granddaughter... **The Ashes:** **Harold & Barb** have been in Destin, Florida with friends.

PICTURES: Have you had your picture made lately? We have several that need to be updated. If you have not had your picture made or had it done lately, please plan to do it soon.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible Drill this afternoon at 4:45 before our evening service. I hope all our children can come and participate in this time of instruction and learning.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Mar. 10th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	143
	Morning Worship	167
	Evening Worship	115
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	118

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Harvey Nixon
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Landon Adams..... Heath Dollar
.....	Harold Davis Roger Hammonds
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Harvey Nixon
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris
Other Assignments for the week of March 17 th :	
Usher	Marvin Putman/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, March 20th:

Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Landon Adams
.....	(Acts 25:13-27)
Prayer.....	Larry Snell
Invitation.....	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Hayden Pierce

Sunday, March 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Charles Vaughn Ronnie Locke
.....	Matthew Usery..... Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer	Harold Ash

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Prayer.....	Frank Melton
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Marty Adams
Other Assignments for the week of March 24 th :	
Usher	Marvin Putman/Roger Hammonds
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl