

# MARKET STREET

*"And this 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

### 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

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847  
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050  
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

### Deacons

Marty Adams.....(256) 233-5147  
Rusty Brand.....(256) 233-7343  
Tim Craig.....(256) 233-4597  
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223  
Bobby McGuire.....(256) 232-7887  
Frank Noblitt.....(256) 777-0725  
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

### Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910  
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net  
Warren Glass.....(256) 233-6086

### Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.org

## 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*

Volume I

February 15, 2009

No. 7

## *"Once Saved, Always Saved"*

**David A. Cox**

There are many sincere people that have been taught that once one is redeemed by the blood of Christ, it is impossible for him to sin and be lost eternally. Is this what the Bible teaches? Let us examine the question, "Does the Bible teach that once man is saved, he is always saved?"

In 1 Corinthians 15:34 Paul writes, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not." Again to the Ephesians he writes, "Be ye angry, and sin not" (Ephesians 4:26). Paul, writing to Christians at the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:2) and the saints at Ephesus (Ephesians 1:1), warns the saints (Christians) that they could sin, and he admonished them to be careful to sin not! Paul's teaching, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is clear that it is possible for Christians to sin.

The answer is sometimes offered, "Well, of course man will sin, but the grace of God will take care of that." In Romans the question is asked, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" The answer follows, "God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein." (Romans 6:1-2). Yes it is possible to sin, but Christians are not to live in sin. Again in 1 Corinthians 10, Paul reminds the Corinthians about the apostasy that occurred among the children of Israel. He then tells the Christians at Corinth to remember this example. Why? Because Paul says, "Wherefore, if a man thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Why would Paul warn them about falling and remind them of the failures of Israel if it was impossible to fall?

In Acts 8, we read of Simon, a sorcerer in Samaria, who had heard and obeyed the gospel. He was interested and wanted to be involved in the kingdom. But when Peter and John came and laid hands on the Samaritans so that they could receive the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, Simon desired to have this same power. He offered Peter money to receive the gift. Peter responded to Simon's request by telling him that he had sinned and that in order to not perish, he must repent and pray for forgiveness. We see here that Simon, in sinning after having received the grace of God, stood in a condemned position if he did not correct

his standing before God.

The position of “Once Saved, Always Saved” may bring comfort and consolation to many individuals. However, the truth of the matter is that the word of God does not teach this and many souls will be eternally lost because of this teaching.

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## *The Bridge Back To God*

**George Hutto**

Some folks have the idea that we're all destined for heaven, but there might be some obstacles in the way. Well, God certainly wants all to be saved (2 Peter 3:9), but sin so separates man from God that a bridge has to be built back to His side. And as with most bridges, there are several components in the Plan of Salvation.

However, a confirmation that all sin separates us from God is in order. Open your Bible and you will see that Adam and Eve were separated from the tree of life because of their sin, and they did die, just as God had told them. Sin doomed the whole world in Noah's day and brought God's wrath upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Through Ezekiel God said, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die...” (Ezekiel 18:20).

And Isaiah said this: “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1). All men are lost, because all have sinned (Romans 5:12).

Now, from this perspective one can see the need for salvation. Christ came to seek and save that which is lost. He is the one mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), the Savior, the necessary bridge, between God and man (John 14:6).

**The first component is hearing the gospel.** “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom

they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent...?” (Romans 10:14-15). The gospel is to be preached unto all creation (Mark 16:15), but hearers must be receptive. Prejudice, apathy, ignorance, and worldly distractions are all bad because they hinder hearing and understanding the gospel.

**Genuine listening prompts faith.** “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). By observing the universe one might believe in God, but only by listening to what He says can a person be saved from sin. And only by learning God's word can a person be faithful to what God teaches. “Without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

**Faith prompts a confession.** “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:10) The bridge back to God includes acknowledgement of who Christ is. As the Ethiopian and Timothy made the good confession, so should all (Romans 14:11).

As naturalized citizens are expected to pledge allegiance to the country and to support the Constitution, so are Christians scripturally expected to confess their faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Such a declaration is reasonable.

**Confession prompts action.** When a person vocally states a position of faith, then he or she will feel the compunction to adhere to that position. In other words, those who confess Jesus as the ultimate authority in religion will be honor-bound to keep His commandments. “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:20).

Now, the first action a believer in Jesus would feel obligated to take is *to be baptized for forgiveness of sins*. (Acts 2:38) Observe these components of the bridge to salvation in the following Great Commission:

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen”* (Matthew 28:18-20).

There is first preaching; then there is faith in the authority of Christ; the confession understood in this passage; and then there is baptism.

Baptism is the action which puts one into Christ where there is salvation (2 Timothy 2:10). It is where forgiveness takes place (Acts 22:16). It is the act which assures one of salvation (1 Peter 3:21). The act of baptism is the action by which one puts on Christ, rising to walk in newness of life, having been born again (Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-4; John 3:3-5).

Once a person is saved from past sins, he is obligated to live a holy life, "Without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By observing the teachings of Christ, one has the assurance that the Lord is with him (Matthew 28:20). The ungodly, on the other hand, are warned that the face of the Lord is against them (1 Peter 3:12).

Of course, God's Plan of Salvation is by His grace and mercy, and by obeying the gospel one does not merit salvation by his own good works (Titus 3:5). However, an active participation by the sinner is required to cross the bridge back to God. The components are hearing, faith, repentance, and baptism, and all the components are necessary.

-via *Tidings*; Russellville, Alabama.



## *Embracing What You Are Against*

**Shane Williams**

We must be very careful in our spiritual walks. We must be dedicated to putting the Lord first and relying upon His wisdom and strength. In doing so, we grow closer to Him and in our relationship. We must be careful to always realize our blessings, hope and victory comes from God through Jesus. If we aren't careful, we can begin to think more highly of ourselves than we ought.

Amaziah, King of Judah, was all set to go to battle against Edom. He had 300,000 of his own choice men. Also, he had hired 100,000 valiant warriors from Israel for 100 talents of silver. A man of God came to him before he went to war and told him that God had the power to help or to bring him down. Following the advice given, Amaziah gave the 100 talents of silver to

the warriors of Israel and then sent them away. Amaziah relied upon God and the Lord gave him a great victory over Edom (2 Chronicles 25:7-12).

Then Amaziah did an incredible thing: He brought the idols home from the conquered people and set them up as his gods! He bowed down before them and burned incense to them (vs. 14). This, as you can imagine, led to his eventual downfall.

Amaziah is a powerful example in showing us that even in doing the right things, there is a danger of thinking too much of ourselves. There is a danger in thinking we can do many things our own way, since we've followed God in certain areas. If we aren't careful, one can end up embracing the very evil he set out against!

Let you and I remember our place in following God to the fullest of our ability. Let us be humble in our own estimation and rely upon the Lord for guidance.

-via *Lilbourn Light*; Lilbourn, Missouri.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Jerry Tucker*; Athens-Limestone Hospital – ICU

*Jennie Green*; Athens-Limestone Hospital

#### *At Home:*

Wendell Sherbert

Annie Mae Bragg

Jerry Gilbert

Mary Norton

Carl Hargrave

Polly Davis

Yvonne Sherbert

Nathaniel Adams

Marty Adams

June Dawson

Peggy Taylor

Kennedy Pepper

Jeff Waddell

Dwight Lovell

Mike Sherbert

Uyles Reed

Angela Green

Adele Lovell

Lucy Clanton

#### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 108    Mary Smith, rm 85

Rosella Pugh, rm. 33        J.D. Clanton, 11E

*Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17  
Mae Alesi, rm. 35

*Limestone Manor:*

Ruth Owens , rm. 80

*Limestone Lodge:*

Lifford Abernathy , rm. 28-E

*Shut-In:*

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.  
Jimmy Killen, at home  
Clara Lewis, at home  
Reba Adams, at home  
Mauvis Phillips, at home  
Majorie Lambert, at home  
Fred Varnell, at home  
Ellis Dunnavant, at home

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Remember all those that are away serving in the military for our country. Those among us that are serving away from home:  
Cody Brown; Iraq

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Margaret Carter* in the passing of her cousin, *Debbie Hill*. Her funeral was Thursday in Ardmore.

**BIBLE DRILL:** This afternoon we will be meeting at 4:30 p.m. in the small auditorium for the Children's Bible Drill. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present at this time.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING:** Next Sunday afternoon, February 22nd, we will be meeting at 4:15 to discuss our plans for our VBS this summer. I hope that every one that is interested in this effort will be able to attend.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Eastside church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with *Paul Earnhart* preaching... The *Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Gary Patton* preaching... The *Tri-Cities church* in Muscle Shoals is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Guy McDaniel* preaching.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance – Week of February 8th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 120  
Morning Worship ..... 145  
Evening Worship..... 112  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 103

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

*Sunday, February 15th:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Frank Noblitt  
Song Leader ..... Jack Cannon  
Prayer ..... Marty Adams  
Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Rusty Brand  
Assisting ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Serving ..... David Terry ..... Tyler Cox  
..... Nathaniel Adams..... Ronnie Locke  
Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Frank Noblitt  
Song Leader ..... Jack Cannon  
Prayer ..... Jimmy Usery  
Preaching ..... Joel Hamm  
Lord's Supper ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Closing Prayer ..... Lifford Smith

Other Assingments for Sunday February 15th:  
Usher ..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
Work Sound System ..... Frank Noblitt

*Wednesday, February 18th:*

Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 7:1-9)  
..... Danny Johnson  
Prayer ..... Albert Bowers  
Invitation ..... TBA  
Closing Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton

*Sunday, February 22nd:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
Song Leader ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Wayne Vaughn  
Assisting ..... Kenneth Smith  
Serving ..... Raymond Brown ..... Cory Nelson  
..... Hunter Cox..... Dan Lovell  
Closing Prayer ..... Landon Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
Song Leader ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Prayer ..... Stuart Wilson  
Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
Lord's Supper ..... Wayne Vaughn  
Closing Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton

Other Assingments for Sunday February 22nd:  
Usher ..... Ronnie Locke  
Work Sound System ..... Marty Adams