

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 XV

October 8, 2023

No. 41

Twenty-three Things That Save Us From Sin

Brent Hunter

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web

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

Brethren often talk about “the five steps of salvation,” in reference to man’s part in his response to the gospel. Although there is value to this concise list, the Bible never speaks of “The Five Steps Of Salvation” as it is typically used today. Don’t misunderstand me, I believe in what is typically referred to as “the five steps” because you can put clear Bible verses after each of the “steps!” My concern is that constant reference to “man’s part,” may make man’s response more important in some people’s minds than “God’s part.” The formula, though useful, can also be limiting. For example, I am not alone in expressing concern that nowhere in “the five step formula” is the grace of God mentioned!

In discussing the plan of salvation with others, I believe it is important that we need to be careful about narrowing down the plan of salvation to certain elements and leaving out other important elements. Clearly, all the elements of salvation we find in scripture are important. If not, why not? Surely beloved, the Holy Spirit would not have chosen to reveal anything to us if they did not matter!

Further, it seems to me, that instead of starting at man’s response, we should start with the story of Jesus and His sacrifice, the revelation of God’s grace and His love, and the amazing nature of God’s eternal plan, etc. First and foremost, in sharing the gospel, we should start with sin, and how serious it is, and how Jesus is the only resolution to our sin problem. People first need to understand why it was necessary for Jesus to die, etc. before we begin talking about man’s response to Christ and try to get people in the water!

Over the years in teaching people the gospel, I have found it beneficial to go way beyond and be much more expansive than the simple, standard, five step approach. I think we ought to be careful to lay out everything God has said about salvation, and first make sure individuals understand God’s part in the plan! After all, “we love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19)! Only after God’s part is clear, and what the Godhead has done for us in providing a Savior, should we begin to talk about man’s

response to the fact that my Jesus died for me!

If you look at the scriptures carefully, you will find that God has specified 14 things that have some part in our salvation from sin. This list is not original with me, I first saw them catalogued in this way in a tract by Royce Bell, who has used this approach successfully in presenting the gospel to prospects in his local work. A list of this sort is very simple to arrive at yourself; just use a concordance!

1. *The Father* (Isaiah 12:2, Titus 3:4-5, Romans 6:23; 8:33, 1 Timothy 4:10)
2. *The Son* (Jesus Christ) (Matthew 1:21, 1 Timothy 1:15, Hebrews 5:8-9)
3. *The Holy Spirit* (1 Corinthians 6:11, John 14:26, 16:7-13, Ephesians 6:17)
4. *God's Grace* (Acts 15:11, Romans 3:24, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 2:11-12)
5. *God's Love* (John 3:16; 1 John 4:7)
6. *God's Mercy* (Titus 3:5)
7. *Hope* (Romans 8:24; Titus 1:2)
8. *Life of Christ* (Romans 5:10)
9. *The Cross* (Christ's sacrifice) (1 Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 6:14)
10. *The Blood of Christ* (shed on the cross) (Matthew 26:28, Romans 5:8-9, Ephesians 1:7, 13-14, Hebrews 9:22, 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7)
11. *The Name of Christ* (His authority and dominion) (John 20:30-31; Acts 4:10-12; 10:43)
12. *The Gospel* (contained in the New Testament of the Bible) (Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23)
13. *Preachers/Messengers of the gospel of Christ* (Mark 16:15; 1 Cor. 1:21; 2 Thess. 2:14)
14. *Truth* (John 8:31-32, 2 Thessalonians 2:10)

Similarly, the Bible shows we are to respond to the gospel in 9 ways. Each of the following are specified as being effectual in our salvation.

1. *Hear the words of the gospel* (Romans 10:14-17, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 55:3, Acts 11:14)
2. *Faith in Christ* (belief that He is the Son of God) (John 3:16, 8:24; Romans 5:1-2, Acts 16:31, Hebrews 11:6)
3. *Repentance of sin* (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; 17:30; 2 Corinthians 7:10)
4. *Confession of faith in Christ* (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 9:26; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-37)
5. *Baptism in water* (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; 1 Peter 3:21)

6. *Works that are specified by faith's action in obedience*—see #7 below (John 6:28-29, James 2:20-26, 1 John 3:24)
7. *Obedience (of faith)*—see #6 above (Romans 1:5, 16:25-26; Hebrews 5:8-9)
8. *Endurance (faithfulness to the Lord's will)* (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10)
9. *Save ourselves (nobody can do it for you)* (Acts 2:40-41; 2 Corinthians 5:20; James 4:8-10).

In summary: there are 14 elements dealing with God's part, and 9 elements which deal with man's part; 23 total things that save! Now, which of these 23 things should be left out?

~via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama.



Can We Talk?

Michael J. Davis

I think it was the late comedian Joan Rivers, whose famed expression was, "Can we talk?" Of course, she did all the talking and expected her audience to do the listening. She also expressed herself on a subject she felt would be entertaining to the listeners, but a viewpoint that her "talking" was "confidential." While humorous and entertaining (at times), normal conversation is not always that way. Most of the time, there is a seriousness to our conversing, a seriousness that often requires more listening than talking!

Professional counselors must first master the art of being professional listeners. They must train themselves to not only hear what the patient is saying and, more often, what the patient is not saying. Through the conversation, the wise counselor will then say, "Yes, you said it this way," and repeat what they said, and interject what they didn't say but indicated. It is a means of getting the patient to fully grasp their problem, identify the details, and face their issues. Otherwise, the patient most often remains in denial of their problem and never learns to deal with it appropriately.

God wants us to talk to Him, and He listens! Peter tells us, “The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers” (1 Peter 3:12). John concurs when he writes, “This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us” (1 John 5:14). He wants to hear from us, and frequently! (1 Thessalonians 5:17). He’s not being comedic when He asks in sincerity, “Can we talk?” Examine 1 John 1:5-10 for additional proof!

I muse on how often we talk with God. While we think we’re praying frequently and fervently enough, consider how long we hold conversations with our loved ones compared to God, who we should love the most! We’re to cast all our cares upon Him, for He careth for us (1 Peter 5:7), but we can’t do that without talking to Him! It isn’t wasting His time...it’s wasting ours if we refuse to talk to Him!

~via *Orleans Church Bulletin*; Orleans, Indiana.

5.14). Love becomes the motive for service. What job is more tiring than a mother’s, yet what job is more happily fulfilled than a mother’s? Love compels our service even under the most unfavorable conditions.

How Love Behaves

Love’s behavior is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4–8. It’s a standard of behavior that takes us far beyond what anyone expects of us (Matthew 5:41; who hasn’t known a marriage where a wife stays with a brute of a husband long after most think she should leave?). It’s when our love takes us beyond the expect to selfless, sacrificial service that “all will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

Christ-like love in us sends a message as powerful as a good sermon. For isn’t it the case that actions speak louder than words?n to God. May He be patient with us until that happens.

~via *Gibson City Church Bulletin*, Gibson City, Illinois.



Love

Kenny L. Chumbley

No authority is obeyed more readily than the authority of love.

Motorists who ignore the speed limit when approaching a school will slow down if they see children present. Their concern for children and their fear of harming a child will affect them when a speed limit sign won’t. They may ignore the law, but they cannot ignore their love for a child. No law in this world carries more clout than love.

How Love Begins

“We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). The reality of our love for God rests on the certainty of His love for us. If you want proof of God’s love, here it is: “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us” (1 John 3:16). Our love for God should be the natural response when we learn how He loved us.

What Love Becomes

“For the love of Christ compels us” (2 Corinthians

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Patricia Abernathy	Judy Brown
Margaret Carter	Pat Nixon
Jeanette Weir	Steve Stringer
Shirley Miller	Amy Gill
Larsen Plyler	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Paul Adcock	Doris Lovell
Priscilla Tucker	Sharon Nave
Harvey Nixon	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Anita Wheeler
Nikki Ogles	Wynell Romine
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Lloyd Adams	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Wynell Romine
Anthony Sutton	Jerry Lawrence
Henry Fusch	Liz Fusch
Kimberly Pressnell	Tim McGuire
Monica Nelson	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Auteen Campbell, rm. 96

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Ann Bush, rm. 75 Marie Nave, rm. 84a

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Barbara Carter; Goldton at Athens
Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
Irene Inman; at home
Lona Jackson; Vitality Living Upland Park, Huntsville
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 morning at 10:30. They are studying "Preparing To Teach My Neighbor."

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, October 9th, at 10:30. If you would like to participate, join them next Monday morning.

NEWBABY: We want to congratulate *Kevyn & Mary Glenna Currier* on the birth of their grandson, *Henry Miller*. Henry was born Wednesday afternoon, weighing four lbs. nine ozs. and 18.5 inches long. He is home with his mother and father, *Brettyn and Josh Miller*. Henry is the great-grandson of *Mary Cecile Keenon*.

OUT OF TOWN: The Burns: *Tommy & Susan* have been out of town this week.

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.

BARBADOS/CARRIACOU REPORT: Lord willing, this evening I will plan to give my report of the trip to Barbados and Carriacou. I look forward to sharing the report of the work done in these two islands.



Communion Preparation for October

Communion Bread — Peggy Smith
Communion Cups — Joel Hamm

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
Song Leader Larry Holt
Prayer..... Jerry Baker
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Hunter Cox
Serving Sam Gregory Heath Dollar
..... Marvin Putman Hayden Pierce
Closing Prayer Larry Snell

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... Harold Ash
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Stephen Lynn
Other Assignments for the week of October 8th:
Usher Marcus Morris/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, October 11th:

Song Leader Albert Haraway
Bible Reading..... Larry Tucker
..... (Acts 16:25-40)
Prayer..... Larry Snell
Invitation..... Dan Reed
Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm

Sunday, October 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Stephen Lynn
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
Preaching..... Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Albert Haraway
Assisting Stephen Lynn
Serving Ronnie Locke Christian Usery
..... Matthew Vaughn... Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Larry Tucker

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
Preaching..... John Gibson
Lord's Supper Albert Haraway
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell
Other Assignments for the week of October 15th:
Usher Keith Hinkle/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System..... Larry Holt