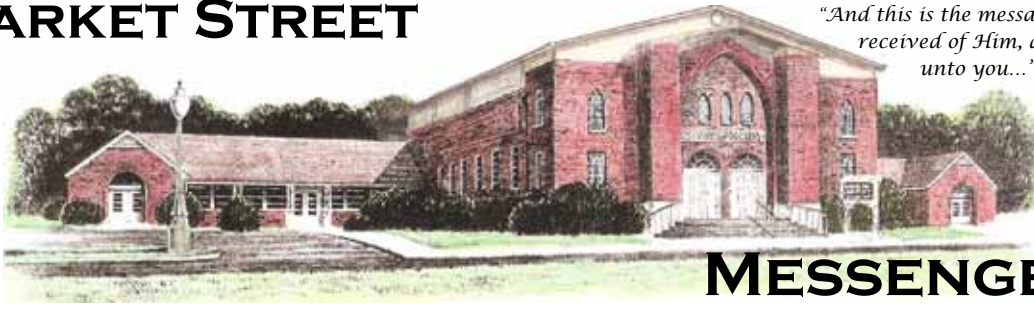


MARKET STREET

"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 X

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No. 13

Jesus Our Redeemer

Hal Hammons

Job probably figured things couldn't get any worse after he lost his possessions and children, after his wife's consolation was limited to "curse God and die." And then his "friends" showed up. Not knowing Job's situation any better than they knew the mind of God, they assumed Job's difficulties must have been a curse from God for some wrongdoing on Job's part. Job's refusal to acknowledge any such wrongdoing only convinced them further that he was rebelling against God.

As frustrated as Job was at his friends' superficial explanation, he was even more so at God's failure to provide an accurate one. For chapter after chapter he beseeched God for the method to all the madness in his life. But throughout the ordeal he never questioned that God was in control or that God would eventually come to his defense (as eventually He did, Job 42:7-8). Perhaps the most eloquent statement of faith in all of Job's speeches is in Job 19:25. – "And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth." Since the New Testament nowhere applies this text to Jesus, we must accept the possibility that Job is simply speaking figuratively of the Father here, that God would make His justice known in the presence of Job and his detractors "on the earth". However, since the Father never literally came to earth (and the Son did), we can't rule out the possibility that Job spoke here prophetically of the coming of Jesus, who would "bring forth justice to the nations" and not break the bruised reed or extinguish the dimly burning wick (Isaiah 42:1-3).

The Greek words "lutroo" and "exagorazo," rendered "redeem" in the New Testament, each have reference to financial transactions, where money or goods are exchanged for an item (or more frequently, a person) of value. The second of the two is used metaphorically for taking advantage of opportunities ("redeeming the time" or "making the most of the opportunity") in Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians 4:5. The point is this: Satan is in possession of something God wants – a human – soul; the price necessary to "redeem" the soul is the blood of His Son on the cross; God willingly pays that price so that anyone who wishes can be freed from Satan's rule.

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web

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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

As despicable as Job's physical state may have been, it pales when we consider the spiritual state of a soul separated from his God. We were slaves of sin, laboring day-in and day-out with only our inevitable wages waiting for us (Romans 6:18-23). But much as a man could purchase the freedom of a slave during Bible times, so Jesus "redeemed" us, paying with His own blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). We have a new Master now, and a new wage to look forward to – eternal life.

The New Testament particularly refers to the redemption process in reference to the Law of Moses. Prior to the gospel, the only remedy available for sin for the people of God was the perfect keeping of ordinances. The system itself guaranteed our disaster – not through any fault of the Law itself, but rather through our own fault as imperfect law keepers. Paul writes for us in Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse for us" (see Galatians 4:4-5). His point is that such teaching returns its followers to a system that was ultimately ineffective in reconciling them to their God, a system Jesus gave His life on the cross to replace.

We are not left to do the best we can under a system of reconciliation that depends wholly and futilely on ourselves. We have been redeemed. Jesus' blood gives people of faith (like Job) the confidence that our toil is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58) – the confidence that He recognizes and appreciates our efforts in His cause. The missteps that previously would have merely added fetter to fetter in Satan's dungeon now can be forgiven when we confess our sins and re-dedicate ourselves to a life worthy of the sacrifice made on our behalf.



Trapped But Not Bound

Greg Litmer

Several years ago I had the opportunity to go to a nursing home every Saturday morning with a group of Christians and sing, pray, and teach God's Word with a number of the residents. One week, we were studying

Acts 16 and our particular focus was upon Paul and Silas being imprisoned in Philippi. I read vs. 22-25, "And the multitude rose up together against them and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God and the prisoners heard them."

As we examined the passage and the situation in which Paul and Silas found themselves, I made the point that their actions served to illustrate that, as children of God, we can have joy no matter our circumstances.

Looking at the crowd gathered to study with us, I noticed one older woman. She was bent over, obviously unable to straighten her body. She could barely lift her head. Yet when I mentioned that circumstances do not control the true joy of a Christian, she smiled and nodded her head as best as she could.

As I looked at her, I could not help but compare her with Paul and Silas. Here was an older woman, trapped in a wheelchair by a body that would no longer function as it used to. I thought of her childhood and imagined the way she used to run and play as the wind blew through her hair. I thought of her as a young woman, beautiful and so full of promise. Perhaps she was married and raised children. But now, her time was drawing near and her body would not permit her to engage in the physical things she used to do. She was trapped but not bound.

Nursing homes are paradoxical. I have spent much time in them over the years and have witnessed some of the saddest scenes I could ever imagine. At the same time, I have learned wonderful lessons about what it means to have our citizenship in heaven and our souls anchored there. So many older brothers and sisters in Christ, trapped in bodies that just would not function properly, have held my hand, smiled, and helped me to understand just exactly what Paul meant when he wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

Whatever happens to our bodies—accident, sickness, or just the cumulative effects of age—may entrap us physically but the spirit of the faithful Christian cannot be bound.

~via *Prattmont Weekly Bulletin*; Prattville, Alabama.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

When Nothing Else Matters

Bill Robinson

It was not the obligation or duty of Jesus to die for us. His sacrifice was wholly a matter of love. It is His incomprehensible willingness to love the unlovable that staggers the mind. A love publicly manifested by His giving up heaven's glory to enter a hostile and sinful world as a man rejected and condemned to die unjustly. The innocent for the guilty, to set them free, forever declares His humiliation and voluntary sacrifice on our behalf.

There are only two reasons that love motivated Jesus to sacrifice Himself on our behalf. Namely, His love for God and His love for God's creation – nothing else mattered (Hebrews 10:5-7). We must understand this, without that sacrifice it is impossible! Nothing else mattered in His love but God and people – not His physical comforts (Luke 9:58); not His personal preferences (Matthew 26:42); not even His intense longing to be with His Father in Heaven, apart from going to the cross (Luke 5:16).

Only when nothing else matters but God and people will God's people come to know the true meaning of sacrifice. Until then, the work of the local church will suffer want at the hands of physical comforts, personal preferences and longing to be elsewhere. We are not called to duty or convenience but to conviction and sacrifice that willingly serves through love. "And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me... No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God'" (Luke 9:23,62). If we learn to sacrifice because nothing else matters but God and people, then our light will always shine.

~via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*; Montgomery, Alabama.



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Lona Jackson	Jeanette Stinnett
Jo Dunnavant	James Johnson
JoAnn Gilbert	Cornelia Pepper
Marion Mitchell	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Ann Bush
Wayne Reyer	Wayne Gooch
Linda Jones	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Jeanette Weir
Irene Inman	Janice Cagle
Patsy Thomas	Priscilla Tucker
Ella Melvin	Bobby McLemore
Matt Poff	Susan Cox
Elizabeth Howard	Al Pollard
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Ava Brooke Campbell	Cindy Glass

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Flossie Smith, rm. 102
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Mable Crafts, rm. 39

Limestone Health Facility:

Larry Owens, rm. 114 Esther Jernigan, rm. 116

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
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Joe Leopard has taken a turn for the worse this week ... *Ann McLemore* has been scheduled for surgery on April 20th ... *Arvid McGuire* is scheduled for further removal of some cancer that was still present after his recent biopsy on April 16th... *Margaret Carter* has been having problems with her gall bladder... *Ashton Gatlin's grandfather, Wayne Reyer*, has been experiencing dif-

faculties with his kidneys ... *Joseph Griffin* was able to come home from the hospital after spending several days there last week ... *Adrian Maynard*, from the *Hindsbury Road church in Barbados*, is scheduled to have the second part of his brain surgery on Wednesday.

DIRECTORY PICTURES: We are in the process of making directory pictures. There are several pictures that we are needing for the directory and some pictures that need to be updated. The pictures will be made in the next couple of weeks in room 20 in the east wing.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Helton Drive church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. *Joshua Carter* will be the speaker in the meeting.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singings on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at Athens Health & Rehabilitation.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Paul Hasting and Wanell Vellocido* in the passing of Wanell's sister and Paul's sister-in-law, *Elaine Taylor*. She passed away on Monday at the Limestone Health Facility. Her funeral was on Saturday at the Spry Funeral Chapel. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. May the Lord bless all the family at this time.

OUT OF TOWN: *Jim Whitt* is in Oklahoma with his work... *Harvey Nixon* has been in North Carolina with his work this past week... *The McLemores: Alvis and Ann* are in the mountains for a few days.

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.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of March 25th
 Sunday: Bible Classes 153
 Morning Worship 178
 Evening Worship 134
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 93



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Mike Ogles
 Serving Kenneth Adams..... Charles Vaughn
 Clayton Hamm Heath Dollar
 Closing Prayer Daniel Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... Christian Usery
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 1st:

Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Steve Usery
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, April 4th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Bible Reading Mark 1:14-28
 Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Dwawine Allfrey
 Invitation Mike Ogles
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Sunday, April 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Larry Holt
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Steve Usery
 Serving Marvin Putman Matthew Usery
 Larry Tucker Roger Hammonds
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 8th:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams