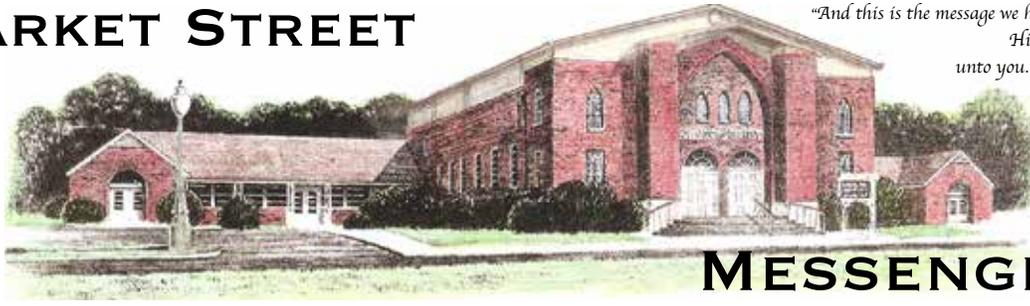


MARKET STREET



“And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you...” (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
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Volume XIII

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No. 18

What About “Once Saved, Always Saved”?

David A. Cox

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5)

The verse above is one verse used by some to teach that it is impossible for man, who is once saved, to sin and be lost eternally. This doctrine is often referred to as “once saved, always saved.” The doctrine teaches that a child of God can’t sin in such a way as to lose his salvation. Many sincere people who desire to please God have been taught that once the blood of Christ redeems one, he can’t sin and be lost eternally. Is this what the Bible teaches? Let us examine the question, “Does the Bible teach that once a man is saved, he is always saved?”

In 1 Peter 1:5, how is it that Peter says that Christians are kept to salvation? It is through their faith! Is it possible for Christians to lose their faith? Yes, Christians can lose their faith and quit believing in God. The Hebrew writer wrote about this very possibility, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God” (Hebrews 3:12). The writer of Hebrews is writing to Christians. They were people who had been “saved by grace through faith” (Ephesians 2:8), but the real possibility existed for them to lose their faith and depart from God.

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 not to sin! It is clear from Paul’s teaching that the real possibility exists for Christians to sin.

Paul, writing to the Romans, says, “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, Christians can and will sin, but Christians are not to make that the practice of life. To live a life characterized by sin shows a lack of faith and desire to

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 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

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*is published in the interest of New Testament
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

please God. In Acts 8, we read of Simon, a sorcerer in Samaria, who had heard and obeyed the gospel. He was interested in serving God and wanted to be involved in the kingdom. However, Simon sinned after seeing Peter and John laying their hands on the Samaritans to receive the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit. Simon desired to have this same power, and he offered Peter money to receive the gift. Peter responded to Simon, telling him that his heart was “not right in the sight of God.” To not perish, Peter told Simon to “repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God” for forgiveness. We see here that Simon, sinned 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. There are other passages we could look at, but the result would be the same. The teaching from the word of God does not support this doctrine. May we live our lives to be characterized by the holy, godly truths that we find in the scriptures. In doing so, we will be kept by “faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”



Aiming for Always

Adam Litmer

In Deuteronomy 5, Moses recalls God’s covenant with the people. He speaks of the Ten Commandments and how they felt when God showed His glory. They were in awe and committed to doing His will. Pleased, God declared, Oh that they had such a mind as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever! (Deuteronomy 5:29). Sadly, they did not always have such a mind but often went from not quite what they needed to be (Psalm 50:7-15) all the way to open rebellion (Psalm 50:16-22).

The New Testament writers found fertile soil in these examples. (1 Corinthians 10:1-12; Hebrews 4:1-8, etc.) Who among us hasn’t heard it asked, “How could they

grumble/complain/disobey/rebel with God’s mighty works right before their eyes?” That’s not a bad question if it leads to a more pressing one: How can we?

We Christians do our fair share of grumbling and complaining. Social media has given us a microphone our predecessors did not possess. We’re using it, too! God, of course, is not unclear about grumblers and complainers. Please pause a moment to read Philippians 2:12-16. In this passage we find the need to obey, work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, God working in us for His good pleasure, the need to be blameless and innocent so we can shine like lights in the world, and the need to hold fast to the word of life. In the midst of all that we find this: Do all things without grumbling...Its context shows it to be part of doing all the other things described in those verses.

Are any of us grumblers or complainers? If so, we’re at least not quite what we ought to be. Perhaps a grumbler is thinking, “Well, I know I wouldn’t be if the works of God were around me like they were them!” It should be recognized that the creation we live in is a constant and present mighty work of God. We need not see the parting of a sea or pillars of cloud and fire to be surrounded by the mighty works of God (Psalm 19:1-6). It is possible that such things cease producing the reverence and honor for God they are, in part, designed to produce (Romans 1:18-21). If so it’s a tragedy, though a familiar one.

Staying with the sin of grumbling/complaining, perhaps someone knows what God says about it but just doesn’t care, believe that He sees, or has the power to act. That, too, is familiar (Zephaniah 1:12; Isaiah 40:27; Psalm 14; 74:18, etc.). Why would any of us continue to live in open sin when we become aware of it? Is there any good answer? Am I a grumbler/complainer? God would have me stop. Now. Though I’ve used grumbling/complaining for the sake of this article, obviously any sin applies.

The reason Paul declared, These things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction... (1 Corinthians 10:11) is because we are like them. We, too, have the mighty works of God surrounding us. We, too, have a standard by which to live. We, too, worship and serve God. We, too, have times when we do it really well (Deuteronomy 5:29). We, too, must strive to possess the true servant heart always.

~via *University Heights Messenger*; Lexington, Kentucky.

Four Kings Face Correction

Jeff Himmel

Uzziah ruled as a faithful king of Judah. But then, inflated with pride, he flouted God's law by entering the temple and burning incense (which only the priests were permitted to do). When the high priest and his companions came in and confronted Uzziah, he "became enraged with the priests" (2 Chronicles 26:19).

Uzziah's father was king Amaziah. He "did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart" (2 Chronicles 25:2). After a great victory in battle, Amaziah brought home the captured foreign idols, set them up, and worshiped them. God sent a prophet to rebuke the king's sin, but Amaziah said to him, "Have we appointed you a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be struck down?" (verse 16).

Amaziah's father was king Joash. He started out as a godly leader, but later turned to idolatry. God inspired the priest Zechariah to speak out against this wickedness, but "at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord" (2 Chronicles 24:21).

David, the ancestor of these men, was a righteous king. But then he had a sexual tryst with another man's wife and, when she became pregnant, tried to cover it up by having her husband killed and marrying her himself (2 Samuel 11). God sent Nathan to confront the king, and David answered simply, "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Samuel 12:13).

All four kings willfully sinned against God. All four received correction from godly men. Uzziah responded with anger. Amaziah responded with sarcasm and threats. Joash responded with violence. (As Chronicles reveals, each one was judged by God for his reaction.) David, however, responded with humility and repentance. And, although he still faced consequences from his actions, David sought to draw closer to God (see Psalm 51).

Question: When you find yourself on the receiving end of spiritual correction, which of these examples best matches your reaction?

~via *The Plant City Planter*; Plant City, Florida

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Barbara Ash | Lona Jackson |
| Betty Lovell | Pat Nixon |
| Shirley Miller | Tony Thomas |
| Peggy Smith | Betty Pepper |
| JoAnn Gilbert | Jimmy Johnson |
| Doris Lovell | Justice Gentry |

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Harold Ash | Leigh Ann McGlocklin |
| Peggy Pepper | Loretta Warner |
| Vicki Stringer | Freddie Mae Elmore |
| Nikki Ogles | Anita Wheeler |
| Lona Jackson | Judy Vaughn |
| Lloyd Adams | Jeanette Weir |
| Janice Cagle | Cornelia Pepper |
| Carrie Warner | Cindy Walker |
| Kenneth Fisher | Barry DeFoor |
| Al Pollard | Charles Burns |
| David Collier | Phillip Harwell |
| Wade Williams | Una King Currier |

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Dianne Kilpatrick; Creswood Hospital, SS rm. 1

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 | Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B |
| Brenda Wilson, rm. 77 | Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36 |
| Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 | Christine Hudson, rm. 77 |
| Connie Brock, rm. 62 | |

Limestone Health Facility:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bettye Harrison, rm. 59 | Joy Warner, rm. 106 |
| Frances Bowers, rm. 67 | Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38 |
| Ann Bush, rm. 75 | Alice Roberson, rm. 49 |

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock, at home
Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Barbara Carter, Traditions
Irene Inman, at home
Bobby Ogles, Merrill Gardens
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Shirley Miller went to the doctor on Thursday to check her feeding tube. They determined to begin weaning her off the feeding tube...*Betty Lovell* is continuing

to deal with the case of shingles she has. She is some improved... **Tony Thomas** had an MRI done for his back on Friday... **Bob Broadus** has a foot that is not healing since surgery two years ago. He has been going to the wound clinic every 2-3 weeks. Keep Bob in your prayers... **Mike Ogles** had a CT scan done this past week and has a mass in his upper stomach. He is to go to Crestwood Monday morning for a biopsy. ... **Bobbie Adcock's son, Larry Owen**, had a brain scan done last week and is to return to the doctor this week for the results ... **Bonnie Sutton's son-in-law, Benjy Taylor**, had out-patient surgery at Vanderbilt in Nashville for his severe case of vertigo... **Tommy & Marcella Coblentz's son-in-law, Al Pollard**, has been having trouble with his leukemia. He will begin taking treatment for this over the next several weeks. Keep Al in your prayers.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Wanda Nave, Danny Johnson** and **Jimmy Johnson** in the passing of their aunt, **Jean Casteel**. She passed away on Monday. Her funeral was on Wednesday afternoon at the Spry Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Lentzville Cemetery... We want to express our sympathy to **Marilyn Wooldridge** and **Carol Dean** in the passing of **Wayne Wooldridge** this past Thursday afternoon. The visitation and funeral will be Monday afternoon at Limestone Chapel... We want to express our sympathy to **Lona Faye Jackson** in the passing of her brother, **Gene Carpenter**, on Friday. The visitation and funeral will be this afternoon at the McConnell Funeral Home.

CARD WRITING: A group meeting at the building on Monday morning at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to be a part of this, please come Monday morning. The group will meet in the west wing auditorium.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are being made after services today in the east wing, room 22. This year we would like to update all the pictures for everyone. Please get your picture made soon.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Adcocks: Paul & Dale** are in Texas visiting their daughter... **Russ Wulfekuhl** is on a hiking trip in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas this week... **The Stiles: Chuck and Benita** are in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of April 25th:

Sunday: Bible Classes 127
 Morning Worship 154
 Evening Worship 108
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 93

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Nathaniel Adams..... Heath Dollar
 Clayton Hamm Kenneth Adams
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Stephen Lynn
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of May 2nd:

Ushers..... Danny Holt/Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, May 5th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Bible Reading Keenon Currier
 (1 John 2:15-29)
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
 Invitation..... David Cox
 Closing Prayer Frank Melton

Sunday, May 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 Serving Griffin Holt..... Matthew Vaughn
 Charles Vaughn Marvin Putman
 Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
 Song Leader Stephen Lynn
 Prayer..... Marcus Morris
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for the week of May 9th:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Hunter Cox
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt