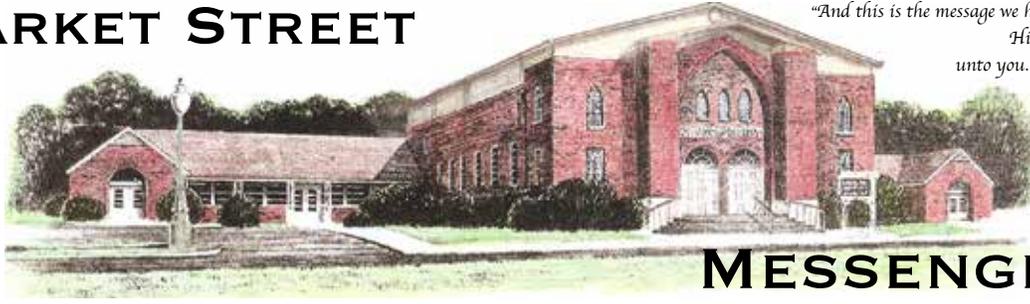


MARKET STREET



“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

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No. 19

Christ Died for All Men

David A. Cox

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” – (John 3:16)

God’s desire to save can be seen in John 3:16. Christ declared to His disciples that He “came to seek and save that which is lost” (Luke 19:10). Paul wrote, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15). Let us look at God’s love and desire to save man.

The Gift of God

Ephesians 2:8 says salvation is “the gift of God.” The gift is seen in the expressions God “sent” or “came” and implies a pre-existence of Christ before coming into the world. God’s desire to save was so great that God sent “His only begotten Son” to save man. In the gospel of John, we read, “in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1-2). John tells us that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Indeed, this is the declaration of the fact that Jesus Christ came into the world. Here we see God’s willingness to save man and involved the giving of Himself to save man.

The Grace of God

John declared, “we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth...And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:14-17). We are told grace came by Jesus. Paul writes, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11). All can be saved by grace. Paul reminds the Ephesians, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8). Grace came by Jesus to save all men, but each one must develop faith to access the grace of God (Romans 5:1).

Examples of Those Saved

The Jews at Pentecost. In Acts 2, a group of Jews was gathered at

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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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Jerusalem for Pentecost, a religious observance. Peter preached to them about the Christ whom they had crucified. We see the response of those who heard his sermon, “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:37-38). Imagine the feeling that these Jews felt recognizing that they were sinners and had crucified the Son of God. Their sin was terrible. What did Peter tell those who were guilty of crucifying the Son of God? “Repent and be baptized” (v. 38).

Saul of Tarsus. Paul referred to himself as the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). Saul, as Paul was called, was a man who committed many terrible sins in persecuting the church and consenting to the death of the disciples. What did Ananias tell Saul to do to receive the forgiveness of his sins? He told him, “Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

All men need the grace of God for salvation. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We see those guilty of murdering the Christ, Saul of Tarsus, or Paul, anyone who lives needs the forgiveness that extends to man by grace. Christ died for the sins of all. But those that will avail themselves of the gracious gift of God’s Son and the cleansing power of His blood by humbly submitting to what God requires will receive forgiveness of sins.



Ten Years in Tarsus

Chris Huntley

The dramatic conversion of Saul began the career of one of the greatest of Jesus’ apostles. But that career didn’t begin right away; there was something else Saul needed.

In the history of Christianity, few men compare to the apostle Paul. His writings still provide valuable knowledge and practical application in the lives of Christians. Yet he’s probably most well-known for his

spreading the gospel to so many new places. It would be easy to assume that being an incredible tool, God converted him and started using him right away. It would also be an incorrect assumption.

In Acts 9, Luke records that Paul was converted, spent a little bit of time in Damascus, came to Jerusalem and then was sent off to Tarsus. Then after a couple stories with Peter, Paul was reintroduced as Barnabas came to get him to help with the church in Antioch (Acts 11:22-25). If all you have is Luke’s account, you might believe that these events occur within a matter of months. However, Paul’s timeline in Galatians demonstrates a different story.

Galatians 1:15-17 is equal to Acts 9:1-25. Galatians 1:18-24 is equal to Acts 9:26-30. Take note of the time lapse that occurred. It wasn’t a matter of months that Paul spent in Damascus (and the surrounding Arabian region), it was three years! We don’t have any record of any success in Paul’s evangelistic efforts, only of people trying to kill him (Acts 9:23-25; 2 Corinthians 11:32-33). After he went to Jerusalem and people tried to kill him again, he was sent to his home in Tarsus. How long did he spend there?

Galatians 2:1-10 is equal to Acts 11:27-30. This event occurred eleven years after Paul was sent away to Tarsus (the fourteen years in Galatians 2:1 is from the conversion, not the previous trip to Jerusalem, so you subtract the three years in Arabia). Thus if you allow for even up to a year that Paul spent in Antioch before he went up to Jerusalem in Galatians 2 / Acts 11, this means Paul spent about ten years in Tarsus.

Can you imagine? Such an incredible tool for God was put on a back burner for an entire decade! How much could God have done with Paul in that time that he spent twiddling his thumbs? Why would God do such a thing?

It’s hard for us to fathom in our “we want it right now” culture, but sometimes good things do come to those who wait. God was apparently setting up the pieces on the chessboard just right to use Paul as He desired to use him. We know the story: When used at the time of God’s choosing, Paul became one of the most effective evangelists of all time. And perhaps there’s an indication that Paul wasn’t just spending that time twiddling his thumbs in Tarsus. Maybe it was this time of maturity, study and reflection that made him into the Christian juggernaut he became.

We need patience in our lives. Perhaps right now you're going through your own "Ten Years in Tarsus." Are you feeling underutilized by God? Are you feeling abandoned or disappointed thinking God could be doing so much more with you right now? Let me suggest that you do not know what God has in store for you. Like Paul, use this time now in study, meditation, and reflection so that when God is ready to use you, you'll be ready to be used. ~via *Wings*; Wichita, Kansas.

a "crown of life," we are rich indeed!

In our materialistic culture, we need to continually reevaluate our thinking about riches. Material wealth is fine, though it comes with many weighty responsibilities (1 Timothy 6:17-19). What truly matters is whether or not we are spiritually rich.

~via *Shelby Central Bulletin*; Shelbyville, Kentucky.



Two Rich Churches

Mike Noble

Things were not going well for the church in Smyrna — from a worldly perspective, that is. In the letter addressed to them in Revelation 2, mention is made of their tribulation and how they had suffered at the hands of some Jews. Things weren't to get any better soon, either. Some of them were about to be thrown into prison because of their faith — perhaps, even executed. They were an impoverished people, financially speaking. (It doesn't appear that they had heard of the 'health and wealth gospel' we hear preached so often today, does it?)

Yet the Lord looked at His people in Smyrna and said, "But you are rich" (2:8ff). Hmmm...

About 100 miles away the church at Laodicea was doing great — or so they thought. They were rich and had everything they needed — so they said. Yet the Lord looked at them and told them they were "wretched, miserable, poor..." (3:14ff).

"How can this be?" someone asks.

Obviously the Lord doesn't look at riches the way we do. We can have all this world's goods we desire, live in luxury — even meet with 'saints' in a beautiful building — yet if we are "lukewarm" in the Lord's service (as was Laodicea), we are spiritually poor and without Jesus' approval.

On the other hand, we can be "rich," even while living in squalor or rotting in a dungeon. If we have the Lord's approval and, consequently, look forward to

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	Mike Ogles
Betty Lovell	Pat Nixon
Shirley Miller	Tony Thomas
Betty Pepper	Jimmy Johnson
JoAnn Gilbert	Doris Lovell
Justice Gentry	Diane Kilpatrick

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

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
Una King Currier	

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:

Mike Ogles was diagnosed with B Cell Lymphoma this past Wednesday. Mike will be going to doctors this week for tests and preparation for the chemo treatments that should begin next week. . . **Betty Lovell** is continuing to deal with the case of shingles she has. . . **Donna Wright** went to the doctor this past Monday and learned that there are still two spots in her lung. Donna will be having some additional scans to check other areas. She will have 5 radiation treatments and a year of immunotherapy. . . **Jennifer Threet** is scheduled to have surgery at Crestwood Hospital on May 21st. . . **Justice Gentry** received a good report from his visit to the doctor this week concerning his surgery and rehabilitation. . . **Tommy & Marcella Coblentz's son-in-law, Al Pollard**, will begin his treatments Monday for his leukemia. . . Remember our expecting mothers **Heather Cox** and **Casey Curry** in your prayers.

GRADUATES: It is the time of year that people typically graduate from various levels of education and begin to embark on further education or work. This year we have a number of our young people who are graduating. They are **Kenneth Adams, UAH; Keenon Currier, Auburn; CSam Gregory, Faulkner; Clayton Hamm, UNA; Griffin Holt, Alabama.**

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, May 17th, at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. If you would like to be a part of this, please come next Monday morning. The group meets in the west auditorium.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are not being made after services today. They will be made next Sunday, May 16th, in the east wing, room 22. Please get your picture made soon.

OUT OF TOWN: The Stiles: *Chuck and Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of May 2nd:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	104
	Morning Worship	132
	Evening Worship	99
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	87

Men Privileged To Serve:

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

Wednesday, May 12th:

Song Leader Clayton Hamm
 Bible Reading Bob Broadus
 (1 John 3:1-9)
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Invitation Mike Ogles
 Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Sunday, May 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching.....
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Marty R. Adams
 Assisting Stephen Lynn
 Serving Matthew Usery Marvin Putman
 Charles Vaughn Clayton Hamm
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Larry Holt
 Preaching.....
 Lord's Supper Stephen Lynn
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for the week of May 16th:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews