

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 VII

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No. 52

Reason For A Desolate Land

Carlton G. McPeak

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz(256) 232-3312
Joel Hamm.....(256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell(256) 230-0185
Russ Wulfekuhl(256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox(256) 233-8910
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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

Zechariah was a prophet who spoke to the people of Israel several years after they had returned from exile. He gives an explanation as to why the land of Israel had remained desolate for a period of time. The parents and grandparents of the generation Zechariah was talking to were to blame.

In speaking to these people he told them that when God had spoken to those before the Babylonian captivity, the people "refused to pay attention, and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing. And they made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear" (Zechariah 7:11, 12). This shows that even though God was speaking to the people and trying to get them to repent and obey Him, they had the choice as to whether or not they would listen as well as whether or not they would obey.

It may be hard for us to imagine someone refusing to "pay attention" to what God is saying but we must admit that some people do. It may be equally hard to imagine someone turning a "stubborn shoulder" (we would say "a cold shoulder") to the message of God. The most revealing part of this passage may be the fact that they "made their hearts like flint."

Flint is a very hard stone used to start a fire by striking it against another stone. Metaphorically a flint stone represents someone or something which is "unyielding." Those Israelites who lived before the exile period had a heart that was "unyielding" to the message of God. We might ask why, especially when God is speaking to them?

The text tells us that they "made their hearts" like this hard stone. They made their hearts so that it was unyielding to the instructions and pleading of the Lord. They "heard" the speech given by the prophets who were in the land before the Babylonians took the people off into captivity, but they were not willing to "hear with the intention of obeying what they heard."

What is interesting is that this story in Zechariah tells us how God

delivered His message to the people. He says that “the law” was “the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His spirit through the former prophets” (Zechariah 7:12). Sometimes we think of “the law of God” being what Moses received from God when he was on top of Mount Sinai and we would be correct. However, this “law” was not what was spoken on Mount Sinai by God but rather was what God had the “former prophets” to say to the people. This makes anything God says His “law.”

If it is “His law,” then when one is disobedient to this law they are disobedient to God. When these people were disobedient to “this law” then “great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.” The people were conquered by the Babylonians as their punishment and were scattered “among all the nations whom they [had] not known” (Zechariah 7:14).

The lesson for us to learn today is that we are accountable to God for the message He sent by “His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit” (Ephesians 3:5). If we are like these Israelites and do not obey the message of God, then His wrath will be upon us. We will be “taken into captivity” just like they were. The only difference is that their captivity lasted seventy years where our “captivity” will last for eternity. The similarity is that we will be punished just like they were punished.

We have the same opportunity to make our “hearts like flint” just like they did. We have the same opportunity to “turn a stubborn shoulder.” We have the same opportunity to refuse to “pay attention” to the message God has delivered to our generation. God has given that opportunity to us. We do not need to take advantage of this “opportunity.”

We need to “pay attention” to the message, turn a soft shoulder to the Lord and a heart that can be “broken” by the message of the Lord (Luke 20:18). Heaven does not need to be desolate!

-via *The Transformer*; Lake City, Florida.



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Riding Out The Storms

T. Doy Moyer

Paul told the Romans that his desire was to go to Rome. He would make it to Rome, but probably not in the way he imagined. He would go as a prisoner. Even so, his journey to Rome would be filled with peril, for in the middle of the Mediterranean the ship he was on encountered a storm that threatened the lives of all on board (Acts 27). When we consider that the bulk of the passengers were also prisoners, one would have to wonder how these people would deal with an impending tragedy.

The storm was going to hit, but God was still in control even when the fear had gripped those on the ship. Imagine the scene: violent winds driving the ship, no control over the direction, and they begin to jettison cargo. Neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and with the violence of the storm, all hope of being saved was gradually abandoned. Add to this that they were now without food. Hunger. Fear. Impending death. How could they deal with this?

Paul had warned them not to sail at that time, but the captain refused to listen (perhaps even mirroring the attitude of those who refused to listen to the Gospel for salvation). Yet Paul, not bitter, offers more encouraging words: “Yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you. Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told’ (Acts 27:22-25).

The question that then remained was whether or not they could trust God. This has ever been the question. Can we trust God? When the storms hit the hardest, can we trust that God is still in charge? Can we take comfort in His guiding hand? Can we trust that He does know what is best? Paul’s attitude is stellar. “I believe God.” Period. No second-guessing. No demanding why. Just, “I believe God.” With this in mind, we offer the following lessons:

1. **When the storms hit, God is still in control.** We live in a world that is storm-tossed, and we cannot escape

that fact. Accepting that God is in control should never depend on our lives being storm-free. God might just be in that whirlwind, telling us to trust Him (see Job 38).

2. **Trusting God is a matter of accepting His promises.** “I believe God” is not just a statement of believing God exists; it is a statement of believing that He rewards those who diligently seek Him (Heb 11:6). God keeps His word.

It is important to recognize that God never promised that our lives would be easy or pain-free. Some use the problem of suffering as a way to deny God, but God’s promises are not based upon a pain-free life. Rather, the ultimate promises we look to go beyond the here and now. We look not at the things that are seen but at the things unseen (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). We must keep this perspective in place.

3. **Storms provide us with opportunities:**

- to trust God and grow closer to Him
- to trust others (could those on the ship trust what Paul was saying?)
- to be more like God Himself in compassion, love, and generosity
- to pray
- to glorify God
- to serve God’s greater purposes

It is difficult for us to know exactly what God may have in mind when we go through those storms. It may well be that He intends for us to be a blessing to others in helping them come to a greater realization of why they are here. If our pain can help unite, strengthen, and give proper spiritual perspective to more people, then let God be glorified in the storms.

-via *Kirkwood church of Christ*; Kirkwood, Missouri.

Fifth Annual Singing

February 26, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Steve Klein



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Editor’s Note:

Brother A. J. Rollings, an evangelist at Market Street for many years, would recite this poem each year as the old year would be finishing and the new year would be coming in. We appreciate the truths that are told within this poem and commend the thoughts of it to you. May we all do better with the time that is ahead of us.

I came to my teacher with quivering lips,
My task undone;
“Teacher hast thou another sheet for me?
I have spoiled this one,”
She took the old sheet, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad face smiled,
“Do better this time, my child.”

I came to the Father with a quivering heart,
The old year done;
“Father, hast thou another year for me?
I have spoiled this one.”
He took the old year, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad heart smiled,
“Do better this time, my child.”

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Frances Bowers	Loretta Warner
Mot Dollar	Cornelia Pepper
Bobbie Adcock	Gayle Ball
Ella Melvin	Christian Usery
Allison Usery	Marjorie Dunnivant
Reba Byram	Robert & Mot Beasley
Janice Cagle	Irene Inman
Gilbert Hardy	Gwen Bullock
Essie Hardison	Carl Hargrave
Jeanette Weir	Ann Bush
Shaun Carruth	Ben Hinkle
Elizabeth Howard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Eli Williams	Charles Burns

Abi Gilbert	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Matt Poff
Al Pollard	Una King Currier
Phillip Harwell	David Richardson
Gene Carpenter	Analynn Tegg
Donald Cole	Margaret Frost

In The Hospital:

Mitzi Carruth; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 727
Faye Allen; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 1758
Stan Carter; Flower Hospital – Toledo, Ohio

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Judith Groce, rm. 45	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Terry Camp, rm. 91	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Mable Crafts, rm. 98	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43

Limestone Health Facility:

Mildred Landers, rm. 103
 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 20W

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Shut-In:

Hazel Brooks, at home
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

SERMON IN SONG: Remember this Wednesday night, December 30th will be a “Sermon In Song.”

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30.

SYMPATHY: We want express our deepest sympathy to the *Glass Family* in the passing of *Charles Glass* this past weekend. Charles was brother to Warren, and uncle to Curtis. His funeral was on Tuesday afternoon in Rogersville. His body was laid to rest in the Evans Cemetery.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Dec. 20th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 151
 Morning Worship 201
 Evening Worship..... 168

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Russell Melvin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord’s Supper	
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting	Steve Usery
Serving	Stefan Fudge..... Marvin Putman
.....	Cody Kennedy Seth Todd
Closing Prayer	Arvid McGuire

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	Song Service
Lord’s Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 27th:

Usher	Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, December 30th:

Song Leader	Sermon In Song
Bible Reading
.....
Prayer	Terry Andrews
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Sunday, January 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	David Cox
Lord’s Supper	
Presiding	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Landon Adams David Terry
.....	Danny Johnson Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Joel Hamm
Preaching	David Cox
Lord’s Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Jason Conn

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 3rd:

Usher	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams