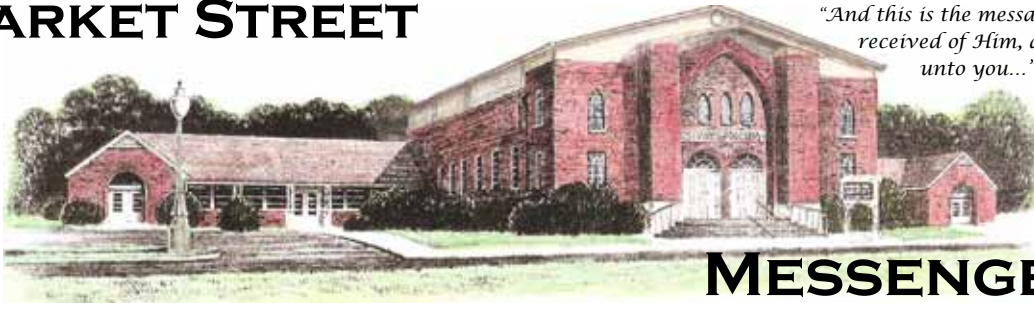


MARKET STREET



"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

April 22, 2018

No. 16

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

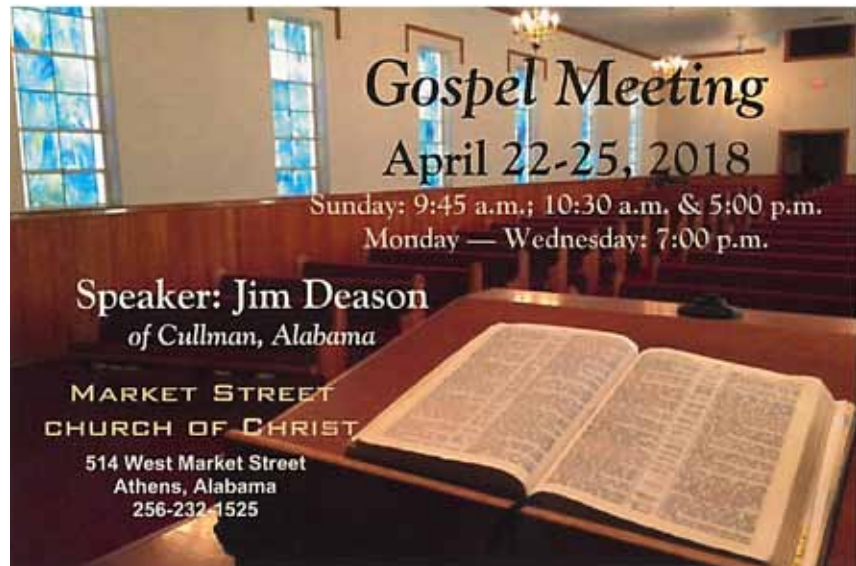
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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church.

David A. Cox, Editor



Gospel Meeting

April 22-25, 2018

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday — Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jim Deason
of Cullman, Alabama

MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama
256-232-4525

Jesus, The Good Shepherd

Jim H. Deason

As one who loves to sing it often seems as though each song is my favorite. But perhaps none touches the heart with such a poignant message as does the hymn, "Does Jesus Care." Written in 1901 by J. Lincoln Hall and Frank E. Graeff, the message is timeless. "Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth or song, As the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long? Does Jesus care when my way is dark with a nameless dread and fear? As the daylight fades into deep night shades, does He care enough to be near? Does Jesus care when I've said "good-bye" to the dearest on earth to me, and my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks, is it aught to Him? Does He see? O yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; when the days are weary, the long night dreary, I know my Savior cares."

Yes, Jesus cares. And this is communicated so beautifully to us in John 10: 1-29 as Jesus pictures Himself as the Good Shepherd. As I write I allow my imagination to picture the beautiful grass covered hills of Canaan with quiet, gently moving streams. There on the mountainside is a flock of sheep carefully being nurtured and protected from nature's elements.

From the many hours spent together the shepherd knows all his sheep down to the last frail lamb. And they know his strong but gentle voice. Willing to spend and be spent the shepherd will risk his life to protect the flock from predators and on dark and stormy nights he gathers them safely within the sheepfold. Those torn by the rock's jagged edge he mends and those lost he risks all to find. From this tender care a flock prospers.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10: 11, 14). Thus all of the peace and security that the sheep could find in their shepherd we likewise should be able to find in Jesus Christ. Let's let our minds dwell on the specific aspects of this figure of speech for a few moments...

A Good Shepherd Nourishes His Sheep. He would make them to "lie down in green pastures" (Psalm 23: 2) and "feed them in good...rich pasture on the mountains" (Ezekiel 34: 14). Likewise, Jesus feeds His sheep. He said, "I am the bread of life...This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die" (John 6: 48, 50). A disciple finds spiritual nourishment as he studies and imitates the life of his Lord and grows as he continues in the Lord's commands. Such nourishment is necessary to become spiritually strong (2 Peter 2: 1-2; Hebrews 5: 12-14).

A Shepherd Protects His Sheep. On one occasion while David was tending his father's sheep he had to protect them from both a lion and a bear (1 Samuel 17:34-36). Flocks left alone become "food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd" (Ezekiel 34: 8). "He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep" (John 10: 12-13). Jesus promised, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10: 11, 15).

Perhaps there is no greater assurance of protection to the disciple of Christ than is found in this figure of speech. Hear the Lord as He continues, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of my hand" (John 10: 27-28). The advocates of the "once saved, always saved" doctrine find no proof text here for the Lord's promise of protection abides only with those who "follow" Him. But in refuting denominational dogmas let us not miss the Lord's beautiful declaration of security for those

who are His own. Jesus here promises that there is no power on earth or from the pits of Hell that can take you away from the Lord and His blessings against your will. In Christ, the good shepherd, the obedient believer can find true security.

The Good Shepherd Knows His Sheep and They Know Him. My experience with sheep is very limited in that I have never personally known a shepherd. However, a friend here in Middle Tennessee is a dairyman with probably fifty or sixty cows. Black and white Holsteins all look alike to me but he knows all of his cows individually. He's named them all. And it is neat to me how that he can call his cows one at a time to be milked and, knowing his voice, they each push through the crowd to get to their appointed stall for the business at hand.

Jesus declared that the same is true with the good shepherd and his sheep. Speaking of the good shepherd He said, "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. And a stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers" (John 10: 3-5).

The lesson here for us is that Jesus knows those who belong to Him. Whether or not we are able to make such judgment is immaterial and beside the point, Jesus knows and will be the judge (2 Corinthians 5: 10). But my greatest fear here is that there may be some who think they are in the sheepfold who don't know the shepherd. It's one thing for a person to go through a form of worship and something entirely different to see beyond the form to Him whom we worship. Of what benefit is it to know the proper worship, work, and organization of the church if as individuals we have not the mind of Christ?

There are many other lessons to be learned from the good shepherd. He cares for the special needs of his flock. He leads them. And he seeks those who are lost. When all are considered we see a beautiful portrait of our Lord, the **Good Shepherd**. Jesus the loving shepherd cares. He cares for you.

~via *Searching The Scriptures*; Vol. 30 No. 10; October 1989.

Vacation Bible School

June 11-14, 2018 — 10:00 a.m.

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Power of A Goal

Jonathan L. Perz

One of the greatest goals set before mankind can be found in God's word. Among His final instructions before departing this world, Jesus gave His disciples a mission. He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16).

At the time, this goal may have seemed more than challenging—even overwhelming. Some may have even thought it impossible. Indeed, preach the gospel to the whole world with twelve men and a sparse group of followers. Do this in the face of adversity, trial and even death. Preach this message to a disinterested world.

This goal is reminiscent of a similar one in a parallel period of time, where the twelve tribes of Israel were sent to go forth and take the land God had promised them. When God commanded that twelve spies search out the land they were to take, despite their initial good report, ten of those spies clearly saw the goal that God had set as impossible for them to achieve. They proceeded to complain and rebel against the Lord. As a result of their faithlessness, they died and the rest of the people wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Only Joshua and Caleb had the fortitude and faith to move forward and achieve God's goal (Numbers 13:16-14:38). Do we have the same fortitude and faith today that they did in the first century to meet the goal God has set for us? In their day, the disciples preached the gospel to every creature under heaven (Colossians 1:23). They achieved that seemingly impossible goal the Lord had set!

That goal still stands for us in our generation. Will we preach the gospel to every creature under heaven? What other goals has the Lord set for us that— at the onset— seem impossible, but with a working faith, can be achieved? The Lord clearly sees a great power in setting a goal before His people. Do we?

~via *The Voice of Truth*; Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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	Benita Stiles
Jane Meredith	Nancy Abernathy
Pat Nixon	JoAnn Gilbert
Jo Dunnavant	James Johnson
Cornelia Pepper	Bobbie Adcock
Ann Bush	Ruth Sullivan
Doris Lovell	Linda Jones
Wayne Reyer	Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Irene Inman	Jeanette Weir
Janice Cagle	Patsy Thomas
Priscilla Tucker	Ella Melvin
Bobby McLemore	Cindy Glass
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	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Ann McLemore, rm. 106	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Mable Crafts, rm. 39
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7

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:

Ann McLemore had surgery Monday for her broken leg. She is now in rehab at Athens Health. Her planned surgery has been delayed...*Nancy Abernathy* had cataract surgery last week and has had some trouble following her surgery ...*Kenneth Smith* had cataract surgery on

Wednesday afternoon ... *Kim Rogers mother, Ruth Sullivan* has been diagnosed with cancer in her liver and pancreas... *Adrian Maynard, from the Hindsbury Road church in Barbados*, had 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.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We want to extend a warm welcome to *Bob and Gina Werka* in their decision to be a part of the work here at Market Street. We look forward to working together with them for the cause of Christ.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Capshaw church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in the meeting will be *Joseph Casimier*.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: Today we are beginning our gospel meeting with *Jim Deason* preaching. We will meet at our regular times today and will meet Monday through Wednesday at 7:00p.m. It is good to have Jim and Paige with us. Jim will do an excellent job of opening the scriptures and teaching us things that will help us get to heaven. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be at every service. The songleaders will be Monday night – *Joel Hamm*; Tuesday night – *Ashton Gatlin*; & Wednesday night – *Albert Haraway*.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Prices: A. J. & Andrea* have been in North Carolina on vacation this week... *Evelyn Stitt* has been out of town this past week... *Jim Whitt* continues in Boston, Massachusetts with his work... *The Ashes: Harold and Barbara* are back home after being in Gulf Shores a couple of weeks.

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 April 15th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 128
 Morning Worship 158
 Evening Worship 121



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer..... Tony Thomas
 Preaching..... Jim Deason
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Marty Adams
 Serving Heath Dollar Griffin Holt
 Matthew Usery..... Landon Adams
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Ashton Gatlin
 Preaching..... Jim Deason
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for the week of April 22nd:

Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, April 25th:

Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Bible Reading No Reading
 Prayer..... Steve Usery
 Invitation Jim Deason
 Closing Prayer Larry Michell

Sunday, April 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... A. J. Price
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Larry Holt
 Serving Marvin Putman Danny Holt
 Clayton Hamm Charles Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer..... Hunter Cox
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for the week of April 29th:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Steve Bradley
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams