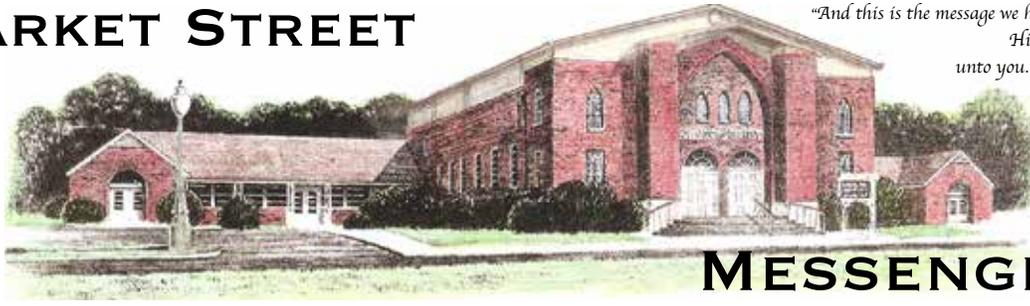


MARKET STREET



"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

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

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

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

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May 17, 2020

No. 20

The Divine Rule of Our Life

David A. Cox

The Christians in the first century were united as they were taught the word of God and understood God's will for their lives. Today we find that there is much division over the things taught in the scriptures. Why is there such division today? In research done recently by LifeWay answers the question. The study found that Americans have a favorable view of the Bible and believe that it is good for morals. In reading about the research, it was clear that there was no reference to the fact that the Bible is the word of God. It is the divine rule of our life.

The Teaching of the First Century.

The teaching that the apostles did in the first century produced faith. It produced faith in the minds of individuals that made drastic changes in the lives of people. It was the faith that saved men and taught the people what they must do to please God. Too often in our day, teaching and preaching are not based on what God's word says. People often want to make the word of God align with their feelings. The research conducted noted that ten percent did not read the Bible because they disagreed with what it says. The will of God does not change based on how we like it.

The Divine Rule

There is a rule by which God expects us to live. The unity of the believers in the first century is evidence that people heard the word of God, understood the word of God, and put to practice the word of God in their lives. Jesus prayed that the followers would be one and that it would be seen by all (John 17:20-21). Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be of the "same mind and the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). He told the Philippians, "...let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing (Philippians 3:16). The disciples were admonished to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). As we study, we will know what the will of God is. We will be able to "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). The divine rule is not what I want it to be, or what someone I respect says that it is, but what God's word states it is.

The Need for Teaching Today.

Today, the focus of Biblical teaching must go back to God and His word. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). We must reveal to man who God is. He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. It is in Him that we live and even exist. Teaching about God and man’s relationship to Him will build the faith necessary to please God. “But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). The things taught in the scriptures are crucial. It cannot be looked upon as a cafeteria-style — take what one likes here and leave behind what one does not like. The Bible teaches us “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). The Bible is God’s inspired revelation to man, instructing what one must do to be faithful and pleasing to God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 2:15).

Let us determine in our lives that the Divine Rule will be the rule in our life. Let us take time to read, study, and apply the word to our walk.



Social Distance and Spiritual Closeness

Stacey E. Durham

“Social distancing” is a new term that has entered our vocabulary in the last few weeks. In the present context of the coronavirus pandemic, it means that we are to stay away from one another to prevent the spread of disease. For the sake of social distancing, we are all staying home, and even the services of the church have been suspended.

Although we are physically distant from one another, this should not result in us becoming spiritually distant from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Instead, we should be just as close in spiritual fellowship as ever. Our mindset should be like that of the apostle Paul, who wrote to the Colossian Christians, “For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit”

(Colossians 2:5).

Being together “in spirit” is more than just a wishful thought. Spiritual nearness exists because we are all in Christ together. Because Christians are all bound to God through Jesus, we are also bound to each other and are “members of one another” (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25). This closeness transcends any physical distance because we are citizens of Christ’s kingdom (Colossians 1:13), and His kingdom “is not of this world” (John 18:36).

Our spiritual closeness to one another depends upon our closeness to God. As always, our first priority is to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). This priority has not been changed by the strange time in which we are living. Social distancing is not an excuse for backsliding even though we are not together to “stimulate one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24-25). Instead, let us follow the instructions of James 4:7-8:

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Indeed, our fellowship with God and with one another is a matter of practicing the truth and walking in the light according to 1 John 1:5-7:

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

So then, let us take up the challenge of maintaining our spiritual health as we also practice social distancing for the sake of our physical health. Stay close to God by studying His word, praying fervently, worshiping at home, practicing love and good deeds, and remaining free from sin. If we do so, then we will also be close to one another in spirit through Christ “by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose” (Philippians 2:2). This is always our formula for spiritual closeness, and it is not changed by a pandemic or any other worldly factor. Lord willing and with His help, we will all get through this soon.

~via *Creekview Bulletin*; Gallatin, Tennessee.

One Minute Sermon

Lyle A. Berry

I hope to see you tomorrow, or I hope to see you in church on Sunday are expressions of thought very common to all of us. Looking forward to a future time is as common as the word may be and as much as we may use it in everyday life. We also see it often used in the Bible. It is very important in the life of every Christian. "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:24-25).

Hope is a looking forward to, or in expectation of. Hope will sustain us in trials. We look in the future for everlasting glory. What we now have in our possession we do not hope for. We do not now see eternal life and eternal glory. But we hope for it in the future. Therefore hope is a desire with expectation. What is the Christian's hope? Not that he is a Christian. His hope reaches beyond this life. "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: But the righteous hath hope in his death" (Proverbs 14:32). "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Corinthians 15:19). As indicated above, a Christian's hope is eternal life. "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2). It was God's eternal purpose. "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7). The foundation of our hope is by the resurrection of Christ. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." (1 Peter 1:3-5). We have a living hope made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior. The Lord will not fail to keep His promises (1 Timothy 4:10; 2 Peter 3:9). 1 John 2:25 — "and this is the promise that he had promised us — even eternal life."

Are you glad you are a Christian? Don't you want to remain one? See Revelation 2:10: "*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*" Friend, don't you wish you had this hope of eternal life? It is conditional. "*And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*" (Hebrews 5:9). Now is the time to obey Him. Jesus said that night

would come when no man could work., when no man could work.

~via *Echo of Truth*, Olney, Illinois.

Editors Note: The above article was written by *Lyle Berry*. Brother Berry was the father of sister *Doris Fisher* and the grandfather of *Brenda Haraway*. Brother Berry preached for 65 to 70 years in southern Illinois, Kentucky and Indiana. One of the elders of the church at Olney, when this article appeared in the bulletin, was our own *Harold Ash*.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Marcella Coblentz	Arvid McGuire
Helen Blankenship	JoAnn Gilbert
Bobbie Adcock	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Alvis McLemore
Ann Bush	Lloyd Adams
Joyce Tucker	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Phillip Harwell	Una King Carrier
Matt Poff	Gene Carpenter
Carrie Warner	Kevin Belue

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Mattie Murray, rm. 2
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	

Limestone Health Facility:

Virginia Meyer, rm. 69	Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

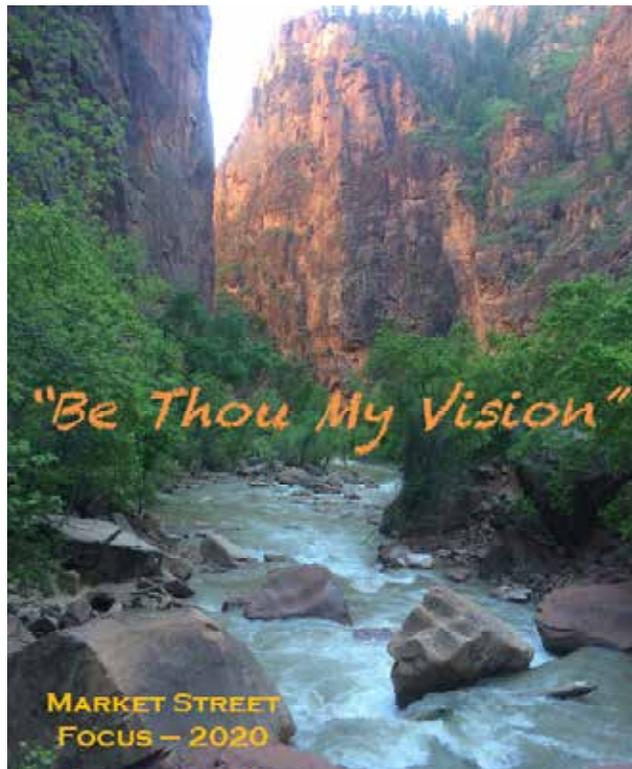
Elease Barksdale, Limestone Lodge
Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Irene Inman, at home
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Sherry Davis is scheduled for back surgery on Monday and a second surgery on Wednesday at Athens...**Steve Bradley** is scheduled for surgery on Monday...**Arvid McGuire** has not been doing well this week and had a test done on Friday. He will hear back on Monday...**Helen Blankenship** returned to the doctor on Tuesday this past week. The blood work was good...**Larry Tucker's mom, Joyce Tucker**, continues at home ...**Betty Lovell** continues her therapy at home.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* is scheduled for Monday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. We will be studying "Say Thank You" It is episode 66.

OUT OF TOWN: The Stiles: Chuck & Benita are in Vicksburg, Mississippi with Chuck's work...**Christian Usery** continues his nursing work in Long Beach, California.



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Terry Andrews
Assisting Larry Holt
Serving Clayton Hamm Harold Davis
..... Matthew Usery..... Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for the week of May 17th:

Ushers..... Danny Holt/Steve Usery
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, May 20th:

Song Leader Larry Holt
Bible Reading Bill Eden
..... Hebrews 10:32-39
Prayer..... Terry Andrews
Invitation Albert Haraway
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Sunday, May 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Harold Ash
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Marty Adams
Serving Nathaniel Adams... Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Danny Holt Roger Hammonds
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... David Barnett
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for the week of May 24th:

Ushers..... Keenon Currier/Marcus Morris
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews