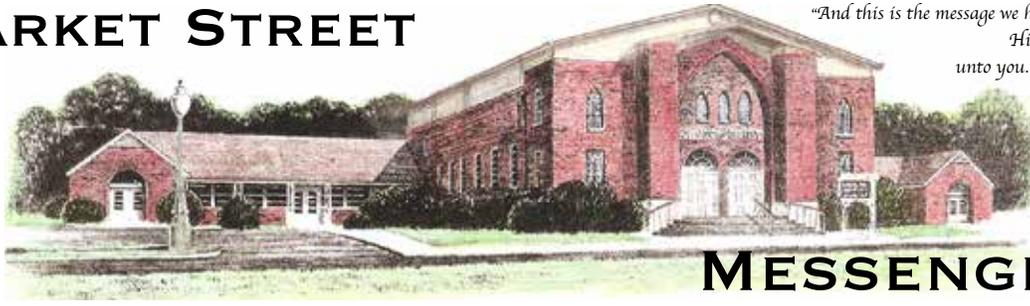


MARKET STREET



"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

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

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume XII

October 4, 2020

No. 40

How to Set Your Focus on Spiritual Things

David A. Cox

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the spirit" — (Romans 8:5).

In Romans 8:5, Paul makes it clear that our devotion to the physical, worldly enticements will end in death. Since this is the case, we must give our dedication to spiritual things and live a life focused on God and obeying Him. What can we do to keep our focus and appetite for spiritual things?

Read the Bible. Paul says, "we...do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Colossians 1:9). Reading the Bible does not mean just reading to cover the book. Instead, it is filling yourself with God's word. It is to know and understand the context and the meaning of what we are reading (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Acts 17:11). The reading of God's word will involve a consistent study, and this will take some effort, but when you fill yourself with the word, you will desire it even more and more.

Pray. Ask God for wisdom in applying the knowledge you have gleaned from His Word. Pray for courage, to stand for what is right, in whatever opposition you might face. Talk with the Lord in prayer daily and cast your cares upon Him. The spiritually-minded person will talk to the Lord daily in prayer. James says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). One thing accomplished through prayer is that there is a recognition of God, who He is, and who we are. We need to see our dependence on God and talk to Him about our lives, cares, and concerns.

Sing. The lifting of one's voice to praise and exalt the name of God helps to bring one closer to God. Yes, we sing in worship, but what about daily as we sit alone or driving down the road. James says, "Is anyone cheerful let him sing" (James 5:16). Singing can reach deep into the heart

of man. It will deepen our faith, intensifies our love, and strengthens our hope. The thoughts of the songs, the truths taught, will challenge us, encourage us, and provoke our minds to focus on the things that are above and keeps our spiritual appetite keen.

Spend Time with Other Christians. Hebrews 10:25 teaches that Christians should not forsake the assembling with the church. Still, the Hebrew writer also stresses the value spiritually the assemblies have in our being together. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope...let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works...exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:23-25). Assembling with other Christians at every opportunity builds us up spiritually and increases our spiritual appetite. Yes, spending time together, whether in or out of the assemblies, is essential. Much is said in the scriptures about hospitality. Why? Because of its value to us spiritually. We never need to think lightly of times to gather together as just something to take or leave. May we see these opportunities for growth and spiritual strengthening of ourselves and others. Using our time together to arouse, stir up, stimulate ourselves and others to greater spiritual work.

Work to Serve Others. Jesus came and lived a life as an example for us. In His life, He came to serve, not to be served (Matthew 20:28). We need to remember that to grow spiritually and to become more Christ-like, we will be servants. As Peter described Jesus to those gathered at Cornelius’ house, he said, “who went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). Dorcas was a faithful Christian, who died and was remembered for the good deeds (works of service) she did while living (Acts 9:36,39). The life of Dorcas followed the example of Christ. The Hebrew writer reminds us to run the race of life, “looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). When we “look to Jesus,” we see His service to others, His compassion for others, and His love for others. Understanding the example He left for us will help us be more like Christ and help keep our spiritual appetite strong. Think about: What can we do? How can we serve? How can we show Christ living in us?

May we never be satisfied with an anemic spiritual life. Let us give all diligence work to develop a thriving, passionate, spiritual appetite in our lives. Let us do the things that will draw us closer to God and closer to heaven.

Bow Down to Babylon?

Cain Atkinson

Let’s do a perspective-taking exercise. You are a young person...let’s say thirteen years old. You have served your God faithfully for your entire young life. One day, the news comes. A foreign nation has swept through and taken your people and is now carting your friends, family and loved ones off to be taken into captivity. They are helpless at the hands of their enemies.

Fast forward a few years. You grow up, carefully manicured by this foreign land to walk in their way, adopting their language, even changing your name. This foreign nation does everything that they can do to tear your faith and identity from you...eventually demanding that you bow the knee to their king and worship. This was the reality for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—three faithful young Jewish men who were staring down the barrel of a very hard decision. Bow to the Babylonian idol or remain faithful to God and be burned alive.

“And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace” Daniel 3:4-6.

Yet, surrounded by people with their faces to the ground, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood up. They said, “but if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” They had real courage—the kind that can only come from holy confidence in the promises of God.

As Christians we are called to endure all kinds of spiritual attacks. We are told that we will face pressure and persecution so long as we try to live the way Jesus wants us to live. These things are sure. How will we respond, then? Even if everyone around us bows their faces to the idols of today—will we have the courage to stand? Will you make your faith in Christ known?

Will we find our identity in culture or in Christ? Will we bow down to Babylon? Not a chance. *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the re-*

newal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”
Romans 12:2.

~via *The Pathway Home*; Centerville, Ohio.



Face Reality

Dan Lankford

Here's a piece of practical advice straight from the Bible: It's healthy to attend a funeral once in awhile (Ecclesiastes 7:2). That's not to say that it's pleasant, but it is healthy for the young, the middle-aged, and the aged to face the reality that it presents us with. Namely, that life is finite. Everyone dies, and knowing that increases our consciousness of how we live (see Psalm 90:9-12).

It's often not very fun to face reality, but God calls us to do it. He wants us to live with a firm intellectual grasp on the hard facts of existence. And there are plenty of areas where it's necessary for believers.

- Authentic confession and repentance of sin requires a hard look at what we've actually done with our hands and thought in our hearts.
- Godly family life requires a hard look at our own habits toward our spouses and our children, and it also occasionally demands that we face the reality of their lives (e.g. not making excuses for our kids, etc).
- Biblical money management calls us to face the reality of how we use our money. Are we living beyond our means? Are we slaves to debt? Are we using money mainly for our fulfillment or for God's things?

The list could go on for a long time, but our job would be the same for each item on it: to face the realities of life, the Bible, God, and ourselves and determine whether they match up as they should. It's always easier to let life pass us by in a haze of half-awareness, but it's always healthier to face reality and adjust to live a better life as a result.

~via *Eastland church of Christ*; Louisville, Kentucky.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Dale Adcock	Margaret Carter
Jerry McGlocklin	Pat Nixon
David Barnett	Mitzi Carruth
JoAnn Gilbert	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Ann Bush
Larry Morris	Judy Whitt
Kelli Gordon	Jerry Hinkle
Roger Jackson	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Loretta Warner
Vicki Stringer	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir	Janice Cagle
Cornelia Pepper	Ella Melvin
Wayne Wooldridge	Carrie Warner
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier	Lloyd Adams
Gene Carpenter	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 22A
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Alice Roberson, rm. 49
Deanie Britton, rm.	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Barbara Carter, Traditions
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:

Margaret Carter has been sick this past week. She is feeling some better...**Dale Adcock** is to have an MRI on Thursday and her surgery will follow the next week ...

Sue Thomas's sister, Sharon Simmons, came home from the rehab this past Wednesday... *Sue Thomas's granddaughter, Haley Gill*, continues her recovery from her surgery... *Louise Melvin's grandson, Luke Davis*, continues his rehabilitation following his back surgery.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Allison Usery and all the family* in the passing of her great-aunt, *Wanda Romine* last week in Savannah, Georgia. May the Lord bless the family at this time... We want to express our sympathy to *Lona Jackson* in the passing of her sister-in-law, *Joan Carpenter*. Joan passed away Thursday morning. She laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery on Saturday.

BIBLE CLASSES TO RESUME: The Elders have decided to resume our Bible classes beginning Sunday, October 11th. It is great that we can begin having our classes on Sunday morning at 9:45 and Wednesday night at 7:00.

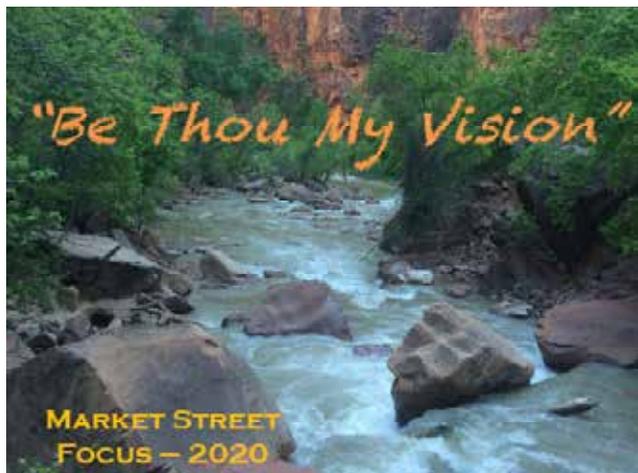
GOSPEL MEETING: The *West Madison Street church* in Pulaski, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday night. The speaker in this meeting will be *Jim Deason of Cullman*.

TEACHERS' MEETING: There will be a teachers meeting this afternoon at 4:20 in the West Wing Auditorium.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Userys: Steve & Allison* are back home after being in Savannah, Georgia for Allison's great-aunt's funeral... *The Stiles: Chuck and Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... *Christian Usery* is in Montgomery working.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of September 27th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	
	Morning Worship	127
	Evening Worship	79
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	60



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Albert Haraway
Assisting	Larry Tucker
Serving	Matthew Usery..... Matthew Vaughn
.....	Marvin Putman..... Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	David Barnett
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Albert Haraway
Closing Prayer	Keith Hinkle

Other Assignments for the week of October 4th:

Ushers.....	Heath Dollar/Keenon Currier
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, October 7th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading	Landon Adams
.....	James 3:1-13
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Clayton Hamm

Sunday, October 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Joel Hamm
Serving	Clayton Hamm Russ Wulfekuhl
.....	Tony Thomas Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Frank Melton

Other Assignments for the week of October 11th:

Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Danny Holt
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams