

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
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

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No. 47

We Need A Stimulus Plan!

Mark W. White

Governments are often called upon to stimulate a flagging economy to help its citizens. We frequently hear cries for a stimulus plan so that businesses can remain on life-support until they can function on their own. Unemployed people still have bills to pay and when their savings are exhausted they need assistance until they can find a steady, paying job. In the midst of this worldwide pandemic, we hear the cries from nearly every country on Earth. Can governments turn an economy around? How much help should a government extend, and who should receive it? Most of us are glad that we do not have to make those decisions.

Churches are certainly affected by economic downturns. In both Bible times and the modern age, churches have suffered financially due to war, famine, disease and weather. Reading the New Testament, we see brethren often coming to the aid of needy saints both locally and in distant places. However, this is not the focus of our thoughts in this article. Churches of the Lord also need a spiritual stimulus plan. Stagnation and even death sets in where brethren are not properly stimulated to "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58). When brethren have a faith problem, the church suffers. When there is a deficit of Bible knowledge and understanding, such a famine starves a church to death over time. Hosea said, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge" (4:6).

It is interesting to observe the goings-on of the conservative religious world around us. For many years, conservative theology associated with a denomination known as the Southern Baptist Convention was credited for the church's successes. However, a new wind is blowing in this denomination. Their numbers are declining and the church wants to know why. Several leaders in that church believe their conservative outlook is detrimental to growth and expansion. As a result, more of these churches are experimenting with innovations in their worship and church programs. They hope to provide a stimulus to their congregations. Many are following

church-growth theories of the “mega churches” who are “seeker-sensitive”. Yet, even the leaders of those “mega” community churches are reassessing. Some of them are saying their church needs to teach doctrine and grow people in the faith. They have seen that mere involvement of their members in church programs does not necessarily translate into spiritual growth and maturity.

What about the Lord’s church? Do we need a stimulus plan? Some churches of Christ have remained steady in the Lord’s work while many have followed the denominational world’s lead in innovating their worship and organization. We predict they will soon learn the lessons the mega churches are observing. The Lord’s church does not need a new, clever approach to religion based on life experiences and feel-good faith studies instead of teaching the foundations of our faith. The stimulus we need is more Biblical content and conviction.

A stimulus plan is only as good as the stimulant itself. If a church gets excited about doctrinal faithfulness through careful Bible study and adherence to the apostles’ doctrine, then this stimulation is healthy and good. However, if a church is only concerned with what will swell its numbers and it pays too much attention to “church growth” in that way, it will be stimulated by the wrong things. Growth is vain unless it is according to God’s will. Every Christian needs to know the Scriptures personally and use them to judge what is truth as did the Bereans (Acts 17:11). Priority must always be given to God’s stimulus plan. It is not based on novelties or innovations but on the “gospel, the power of God unto salvation.” (Romans 1:16). We have the most stimulating plan known to man, the plan of salvation.

~via *The Family News & Notes*; Cypress, Texas.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Sunday Mornings

on WNN 770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m.

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

The Best Use of Our Freedom

Jason Hardin

Freedom is a tremendous blessing, and the greatest freedom of all is found in Jesus Christ. Through him, we can be free from sin. In Galatians 5, the apostle Paul reflected on the impact this freedom ought to have on the everyday life of a Christian.

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another (5:1,13).

As ransomed citizens of God’s kingdom, our calling is clear.

1. **Stand firm.** Remember who (and whose) you are. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord’s work. Your labor for him isn’t in vain.
2. **Don’t submit again to a yoke of slavery.** Leave your past in the past. His way is better than the wisdom of this world and the sinful works of the flesh. Your freedom was bought with a price. Now, it’s time to glorify God in all that you do.
3. **Don’t use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh.** Jesus has set you free, but that doesn’t mean you’re now free to do whatever you choose. Follow the lead of the Spirit. Bear the fruit of the Spirit. Keep in step with the Spirit that you might live by the Spirit. This is the path of life.
4. **Through love serve one another.** After all, the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

As disciples of Jesus, let’s make good use—the best use—of our freedom in Christ this week.

~via *Good News From Charlestown Road*; New Albany, Indiana.



Remember Our Facebook Study

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Market Street Private Group Page

How Deep Is Your Love?

Steve Niemeier

Years ago a pop group called the Bee Gees recorded a song by this name. In the pop world it was a classic and can still be heard on the radio today.

While this article is not about the Bee Gees or the song they sang by the same name – it is about the question the title of the song is asking. John 21:15-19 records one of the most dramatic challenges to a man Jesus could give. After His resurrection and just before His ascension he fixes a “barbeque” breakfast for His disciples. After they had eaten Jesus asks Peter if Peter loved Jesus. Not once but three times. Now we could get into the meanings of the words used here for love but that is not the point of this article either.

The question that rings through my mine is “How deep was Peter’s love for Jesus?” That is really the point I believe Jesus is getting to in this conversation. After all, He had heard Peter make some bold statements before about his commitment to Jesus only to see Peter fail in living up to those commitments. Now Jesus is asking “do you love me?” Peter answers the question each time but in verse 17 we are told that Peter was grieved. Of course he was grieved – could we be so naïve to think that Peter had forgotten how he denied Christ three times in a time Jesus needed a friend? I would have been grieved too – wouldn’t you have been also? When we as Christians come to Jesus and meet Him in the watery grave of baptism we are basically stating we are going to live for Him no matter what comes or goes in our lives. Yet, we lose our enthusiasm – or our boldness to stand for Him – or something happens in our lives that changes our focus. Certainly this happened with Peter – it was fear of his enemies – it was a period of time that he became blind to the blessings found in Jesus.

So, the question was presented to Peter three times about love. How deep is my love for Jesus? Is it deep enough to move forward like Peter did in where he died for the cause of Jesus?

Twenty-one books of the New Testament are directed toward those who have obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ to remain faithful to Him. Why? It seems the Lord knew that the love we state we have for Him is not as deep as it should be.

Jesus told Peter to follow Him in verse 19. Isn’t that just short of amazing? Jesus has faith in Peter – even after experiencing Peter denying Him! What a statement of love from a Savior who is the product and example of true and unperverted love!

Jesus has proven His deep love for God and for man – no one could question His love or the deepness of His love. Yet, He has earned the right to question us with “How deep is our love for Him?”

~via *Greenwood Bulletin*, Greenwood, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Marcella Coblenz	Bonita Dollar
Jewel Dean Kennemer	Bonnie Sutton
JoAnn Gilbert	Jimmy Johnson
Doris Lovell	Ann Bush

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	Bill Faulkner

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

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	Bobbie Adcock, rm. 121
Frances Bowers, rm. 67	Alice Roberson, rm. 49
Deanie Britton, rm.	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Marci Bassett, 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
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

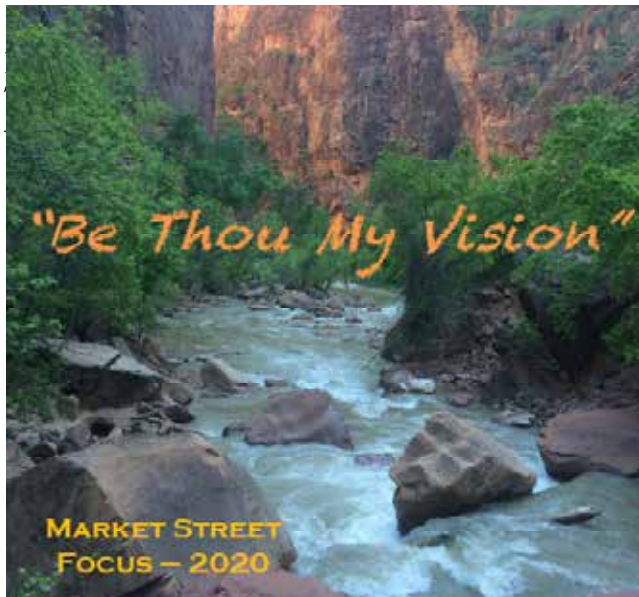
Peggy Mitchell received good results from the biopsy she had done last week... **Marvin Putman** had surgery on Wednesday for a lead that was loose following the surgery for the Difibrillator last week. The surgery seems to have been a success... **Frances Bowers** moved a couple of weeks ago to the Limestone Health Facility.

OUT OF TOWN: **Nancy Hardison** has been in North Carolina this past week... **The Ashes: Harold and Barb** are at the Gulf... **The Stiles: Chuck and Benita** are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... **Christian Usery** is finished his work in Montgomery and will begin work in Birmingham tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE: This coming Wednesday night, December 2nd, there will be no in-person service at the building. The canceling of the classes will be due to work that will be going on in the building, and they ask that we not have services. There will be a Study on the Market Street church Facebook Private Page at 7:00.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of November 15th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	100
	Morning Worship	124
	Evening Worship	69
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	56



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Harvey Nixon
 ServingTommy Burns..... Landon Adams
Marvin Putman..... Sam Gregory
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Hunter Cox
 Preaching.....
 Lord's SupperTommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for the week of November 29th:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, December 2nd:

Song Leader
 Bible Reading

 Prayer.....
 Invitation.....
 Closing Prayer

Sunday, December 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Larry Holt
 Serving Roger Hammonds . Charles Vaughn
 Matthew Vaughn. Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Hunter Cox
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for the week of December 6th:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Russ Wulfkuhl
 Work Sound System..... Marty R. Adams