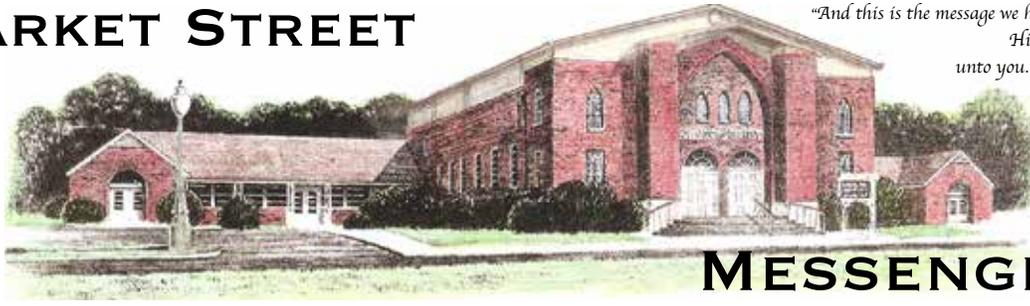


MARKET STREET



"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 XIII

April 18, 2021

No. 16

Living in the Present

David A. Cox

"In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

People often procrastinate on things they need to do. They offer many excuses about why now is not the time to do it. It always seems that they look a time as an endless commodity. Felix is an example of this when he tells Paul, "Go away now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you" (Acts 24:25). The fact is that time is undoubtedly not something that we can have any guarantee. The Bible is clear about this. In the above verse, Paul is making the statement that "now is the time." He is telling the Corinthians to live as Christians and the time to do God's will is now. Christ has come and given His life as a sacrifice for sin, and there will not be another time for salvation. When Christ returns, the time to serve Him and do His will be over. We need to be impressed with living our lives in the present and serving God with all that we have today. Let us consider how to live in the present.

Put The Past Behind Us. The past can be the greatest curse we have as we try to live in the present. It may be failures of the past that cripple us to the point of inactivity, or we may want "rest on our laurels." Either view of the past will not spur us to live life and serve in the present time that we have. So we must learn from the past in both successes and failures and continue to see the day we live. See the opportunities that we have in the present.

Treasure Your Time. The psalmist writes, "The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,...For it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10). It may be that it may sound like a long time, but it is very short in comparison to eternity. Each one of us only has a number of days to live—only a period to live and to serve in our lives. The psalmist goes on to point to the value of our days. "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Living in the present, we will treasure the days we have.

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

Make the Most of Every Opportunity. In Ephesians 5:16, Paul tells the Ephesians to “redeem the time.” Paul is saying to them to live each day to make the best use of the time and opportunities. The reason Paul gives for doing this is “because the days are evil.” Satan is continually working to rob us of joy, peace, contentment, etc. In doing this, Satan will get our minds off of the opportunities for good that we can do. He will cause us to live our time in worry, become idle, and simply engage in activities that will even rob us of opportunities. The opportunities are wasted, and our lives are in turmoil. Instead, let us redeem the time by seeing the opportunities before us and making the most of them.

Do the Will of God. Paul continues in Ephesians 5:17, saying, “understand what the will of the Lord is.” Let us use our time to read and study to know the will of God. In the time in which we now live, let us know the will of God and do it. Serving God today will keep our hearts focused on the present time.

May each one of us live in the present. May we get the past behind us and reach toward the thing before us. Let us remember that now is the time! Let us learn to treasure the moments we live, learning what God desires in our lives, and use those moments in life, seizing the opportunities to serve God.



Mutually Bearing Life's Burdens

Ken Weliever

In 1624 the English author and poet John Donne was confined to his bed with a serious illness. As he [lay] there alone with his thoughts, he heard the ringing funeral bells of an adjoining church house.

As Donne reflected on the transitory nature of life and the reality of death, he responded with these words that would forever cement his place in literary history.

No man is an island entire of itself; every man
is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;
if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe
is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as
well as any manner of thy friends or of thine

own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am
involved in mankind.

And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
it tolls for thee.

While Donne speaks of the interconnectedness of humanity, Christians in a unique way experience connection, community, and comradeship. The Bible calls it fellowship. It is highlighted in Scripture with numerous “one another” commands about our mutual relationships.

“Each one of you is a part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace,” Paul penned (Colossians 3:15, CEV).

There is an interdependence within the Body of Christ as metaphorically depicted in 1 Corinthians 12 with the analogy of the physical body. All the members, directed by the head depend on each other. We each have a distinct role and responsibility. And we need each other. Help each other. And serve each other. As a result, “if one member suffers, all the members suffer together.”

Therefore, we are commanded: “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

The word “burden” refers to “a weight, anything that is pressing one down physically or makes demands on one's resources. It is a load that is too heavy for one person to carry and requires assistance. It is used in the New Testament for carrying a coffin, stones, and even a corpse. Figuratively, Christians shoulder together one another's burdens to lighten the load.

We bear the burden of sin by seeking to restore the erring. The text speaks of a brother being “overtaken in a sin” (Galatians 6:1). This does not mean a deliberate sin, but a slip. Like a driver hitting a patch of ice and sliding into the ditch. It's something unintentional. Realize that you too might have slipped under the same conditions. Humbly help him overcome his feelings of guilt, shame, and disgrace. Seek his restoration. Offer forgiveness. And pray for his future faithfulness.

We bear the burden of material want by helping those in need. It's very easy in our land of plenty and prosperity to become calloused and unconcerned by the needs of others, even our own brethren. The Bible commands us to work, not only to provide for our own, but to “have something to share with anyone in need” (Ephesians 4:28). Of course, this involves both our ability and the *opportunity* to do so (Galatians 6:10).

We bear one's another's burdens by offering comfort in times of sorrow. Sorrow may be caused by physical

sickness and suffering. It may result from family problems. And death always brings sorrow into our hearts and homes. We can “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15). We can pray. Show our concern. Offer encouragement. Give our time. And share our lives with those who are hurting.

Christians are called to care about one another. To be involved in each other’s lives. And to offer a helping hand. As George Bernard Shaw correctly observed, “The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That’s the essence of inhumanity.”

So, when we see a brother who’s fallen, needy, or suffering, let’s respond with compassion, not censorious criticism. And to remember, “There, but for the grace of God, go I.”

Ask not for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for you.
~via *East Columbus Bulletin*; Columbus, Mississippi.



“Tipping Point”

Wilson Adams

What is the tipping point of the bowl of God's wrath? I don't know, but I know there is one. Sodom and Gomorrah had one. So did the immoral nations. So did His own people. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach..." (Proverbs 14:34).

So, what is our hope? It's not in politicians -- on both sides of policy divides. Have we been blessed as a nation because our leaders have been stellar examples of good and godliness, wisdom, and right? Hardly.

The righteousness of a people resides in the heart of ... people.

God was willing to save Sodom for fifty righteous. Remember the countdown? "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." Ten? Ten. (Genesis 18:22-32).

Never underestimate the power of a godly life. Scripture reminds us of a tipping point. A lack of a God-conscience along with sexual depravity seems to hasten it. Romans 1 says as much. I keep thinking

about Abraham's countdown: 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10 ... Ten righteous. By the way, not self-righteous, but God righteous.

Never underestimate the power of a godly life. Love Him, love your neighbor, and shine a light of grace and truth.
~via *The Bulletin*; Corinth, Mississippi.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	Lona Jackson
Betty Lovell	Pat Nixon
Shirley Miller	Tony Thomas
Peggy Smith	Betty Pepper
JoAnn Gilbert	Jimmy Johnson
Doris Lovell	Justice Gentry

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Harold Ash	Leigh Ann McGlocklin
Peggy Pepper	Loretta Warner
Vicki Stringer	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Judy Vaughn
Lloyd Adams	Jeanette Weir
Janice Cagle	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Carrie Warner
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Phillip Harwell
Wade Williams	Una King Currier
Barry DeFoor	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62	

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Joy Warner, rm.
Frances Bowers, rm. 67	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm.
Ann Bush, rm. 75	Alice Roberson, rm. 49
Bobby Ogles, rm. 27	Betty Sue Christopher

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock, at home
 Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
 Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge

Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter, Traditions
 Irene Inman, at home
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Donna Wright had injections put in her neck this past Monday. **Joy Warner** is in Limestone Health Facility for rehabilitation. **Ann McLemore** came home from Restore Rehabilitation on Monday. She is continuing to do out-patient therapy. **Joan Glass** CT scan this past week was clear. She continues to have some dizziness, but that should clear up in time. **Harold Ash** has continued his radiation treatments. Harold has five treatments left and should complete them this week. **Helen Blankenship's great-grandson, Grayson Craig** has continued to make improvements following his hospital stay last week.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: **Jerry and Wanda Baker** have been visiting with us for a while now and have expressed their desire to be a part of the work here at Market Street church. We are thrilled to have them with us and let us extend a warm welcome to them.

BAPTISM: We are rejoicing over the decision that **Emily Vaughn** made this past Sunday morning to be baptized into Christ. We are thankful for good hearts like Emily's that are tuned to please the Lord. Let us all encourage Emily, as she has and will us in our service to the Lord. May we all welcome Emily to the family.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are being made after services today in the east wing. This year we would like to update all the pictures for everyone. Please get your picture made soon.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Jordan Park church** in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. **Steve Niemeier** will be the speaker in this meeting. The **Capshaw church** in Capshaw is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. **Kenny Moorer** will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Stiles:** **Chuck and Benita** are in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of April 11th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	123
	Morning Worship	154
	Evening Worship	98
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	74

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Stephen Lynn
 Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Marcus Morris
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 Serving Roger Hammonds .. Danny Johnson
 Heath Dollar Sam Gregory
 Closing Prayer Marty R. Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
 Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm

Other Assignments for the week of April 18th:
 Ushers..... Keith Hinkle/Christian Usery
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, April 21st:

Song Leader David Barnett
 Bible Reading Marty R. Adams
 (1 John 1:1-10)
 Prayer..... Hunter Cox
 Invitation Larry Tucker
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Sunday, April 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Larry Holt
 Assisting Larry Tucker
 Serving Clayton Hamm Keenon Currier
 Matthew Vaughn.... Landon Adams
 Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Dan Reed
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Larry Holt
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Other Assignments for the week of April 25th:
 Ushers..... Larry Michell/Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System..... Marty R. Adams