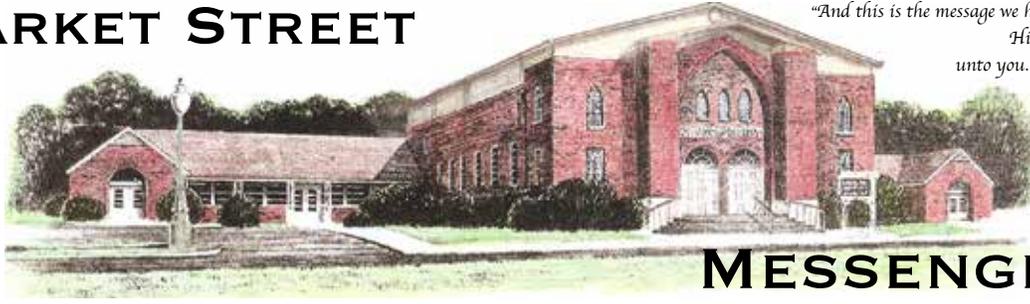


MARKET STREET



“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 25, 2021

No. 17

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 Coblenz..... (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

Are You a Friend of Jesus?

David A. Cox

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:13-14)

It has been said that man demonstrates great love for others when he invests his time in them. By no means would we ever want to minimize the significance of what Jesus says by only seeing time investment. Jesus speaks of the greatest love that man can have is demonstrated by giving their life for him. As valuable as time may be to spend with others, it pales when compared to the “laying down one’s life” for them. Indeed, Jesus has expressed this great love for us. Jesus says that we can be His friends by doing what He commands us to do. There is no greater friend for us to ever have. Are you a friend of Jesus?

God’s Greatest Desire for Us to Be His Friend. Think about how much the Father loved His Son. On more than one occasion, the Father said of the Son, “In whom I am well pleased.” It was Jesus’ love for the Father, and His desire to please Him is why He came to earth. Why did the Father need for Jesus to come to earth? It was to save man from his sins. The sins committed by man required a perfect sacrifice, and Jesus, the Son, came to provide the sacrifice the Father required. The Father and Jesus shared the same love for man, and it is seen in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Love does not stop short in doing good for the one loved. It goes the distance in always doing only good for the one loved. The desire to have a relationship with man moved the Father and the Son to go the distance to save man. The Father and Jesus want to be our friend. Indeed, it is a great desire.

It is the Greatest Decision We Must Make. We all determine who will be our friends. The same is true with our being a friend of Jesus. As much as the Father and Jesus want us to be friends, the choice is ours to make. We must decide to follow Jesus. Following Jesus will cause us to humble ourselves and turn away from sin and selfishness. We will turn to the word of God and the commandments for our lives. We will obey the things

taught in God's word. Will there be temptations in this life to turn us away? Yes, there will be, and we may fail at times, but as a true friend, Jesus will be there for us. We will gain courage and strength, and the value of our friendship will increase as time goes on.

It is Our Greatest Joy. In doing the Father's will, the Hebrew writer speaking of Jesus on the cross says, "who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). Obeying God and pleasing Him becomes a great joy. Jesus is described on the cross enduring pain and suffering. Despising the ridicule and hate spewing from the mouths of those crucifying Him, He sees the joy this will bring. Some commands may be difficult for various reasons in life, but in obeying the commands, we will see the joy of the friendship with Christ. The joy that we find in the relationship with Christ will produce a joy that we will not be able to contain. This joy we experience will cause us to tell others about the change that this relationship has made and is making in our lives.

Let us see the great love God has for us. May we all choose to be friends with Jesus. Jesus will rejoice, and the angels in heaven will rejoice, and we will rejoice.



Is Anyone Among You?

Bubba Garner

"I'm spiritual, I'm just not into organized religion." That is the approach of many religious people. Since their relationship with God is personal, they don't think they need the church or anyone else in order to please the Lord. We have people at Southside who may not believe that, but certainly practice it. When you assemble occasionally, whenever it's convenient or doesn't interfere with your other plans, you are saying to the world and to your brethren, "I don't need the church."

Do you realize that there are some passages you cannot fulfill without the local church? We sometimes refer to them as the "one another" responsibilities. "Con-

fess your sins to one another and pray for one another." "Give preference to one another." "Love one another." When you're just one, there is no another.

James asks three questions in James 5:13-14 that speak to this responsibility, even though he doesn't use the phrase "one another." He does not ask, "Are you suffering? Are you cheerful? Are you sick?" He begins each question with, "Is anyone among you..." The implication is: How would you know? If you're never here or not involved with our people, how would you know who is suffering, cheerful, or sick?

I am certain that we have all three of those who have been handed a bulletin today. Let us encourage one another to look up for answers.

Is anyone among you suffering? Being a Christian does not eliminate suffering. It often magnifies it. This word used by James, also translated "afflicted," speaks to bad experiences or outward circumstances that are unfavorable. Paul told Timothy to "suffer hardship with me" (2 Timothy 2:3) because he said, "I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal" (2:9). Is anyone afflicted by the circumstances of life or suffering for doing what is right?

"Let him pray." We act like that says, "let him grumble and complain." "Let him quit." "Let him worry." "Let him pray... after he's tried everything else." James' solution is to first take it to the One who can change it. Pray for strength to endure. Pray for the right attitude. Pray for wisdom (James 1:5) and understanding. Pray for one another.

Is anyone among you cheerful? This is not someone who is simply happy. To be "cheerful" it means to "be encouraged" or to "be of good heart" or to be "happy in spirit." This word was used by Paul in Acts 27 when he told his fellow passengers to "keep up your courage" (27:22,25). The person who is cheerful was perhaps suffering, but they found the good in their circumstances.

"Let him sing praises." Singing is another of our "one another" responsibilities. Again, this involves something we cannot accomplish alone. "Speaking to one another" (Ephesians 5:19). "Teaching and admonishing one another" (Colossians 3:16). And notice that we are not just to sing in our cheerfulness. But to sing praises. That is worship. Is anyone among you cheerful? Let him sing praises to Him "Who gives songs in the night" (Job 35:10).

Is anyone among you sick? “Let him call for the elders of the church.” Why the elders? What powers do they have? If “the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (James 5:16), what can the prayers of our seven shepherds accomplish! “And let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” As the Good Samaritan “poured oil and wine” on the wounds of the traveler (Luke 10:34), so medicine and prayer provide healing for the body and soul.

“And the Lord will raise him up.” The emphasis is on what God provides. You pray, you anoint with oil in the name of the Lord, but the Lord will raise him up. “And if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him” (5:15). Perhaps the sickness was brought on because of sin. Perhaps their suffering has awakened within them a desire to make sure their soul is healthy. Regardless of whether the sickness is physical or spiritual, God provides the cure.

What is the result? We can be a part of God’s working. “He who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:20). God saves. God forgives sin. God raises up. But he used us to accomplish His purposes.

Is anyone among you able to do that without the church?

~via *Southside church of Christ*; Houston, Texas.

We rationalize, “Everyone else is” going to that once in a life time party where we know sin may lurk.” “Everyone else is” wearing revealing or immodest clothing, justification, it’s the latest fashion. “Everyone else is” lying just a little bit on their taxes, justification, Uncle Sam won’t miss it. God told His people long ago, “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil” (Exodus 23:2). When everyone else was bowing down to the golden image king Nebuchadnezzar built and erected, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to do so. The result was they were cast into the fiery furnace, but the Lord was with them (Daniel 3).

We must be very careful not to allow ourselves to be conformed to what everyone else in this wicked world is doing (Romans 12:1-2). God doesn’t want us to be different just for the sake of being different. We are to be different because we belong to a holy God whose ways are different than that of this world. My mom used to ask, “What if everyone else jumped off a bridge?” The fact of the matter is the path to destruction is paved with what “everybody else is”, doing. Only the righteous will find eternal life in heaven and everyone else is destined to eternal punishment (John 5:29).

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



Everybody Else Is...

Kristopher Sanders

The title “Everybody else is” is a statement too often heard from an immature child while trying to convince their parents to allow him or her to do what everybody else is doing, sounds familiar? Well sadly this attitude or line of thinking has led to the insurmountable number of religious denominations in the world as well as the reasoning some immature Christians use to justify crossing the boundaries God has set forth in his word.

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 Carrier
 Barry DeFoor

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Eliese 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. 106
 Frances Bowers, rm. 67 Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
 Ann Bush, rm. 75 Alice Roberson, rm. 49
 Betty Sue Christopher, rm. 117

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
 Bobby Ogles, Merrill Gardens
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Don Bates had shots put in her neck this past Monday...
Wayne Vaughn received a good report from his stress test done on Friday...
Tony Thomas hurt his back this past week, he is scheduled for a MRI on Friday...
Bob Broadus has a foot that is not healing since surgery two years ago. He has been going to the wound clinic every 2-3 weeks. Keep Bob in your prayers...
Ann McLemore was able to be at our evening service last Sunday. She is continuing her out-patient therapy...
Harold Ash completed his radiation treatments on Friday in Huntsville.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are being made after services today in the east wing, room 22. This year we would like to update all the pictures for everyone. Please get your picture made soon.

OUT OF TOWN: **Ida Nell Griffin** has been out of town in Pennsylvania to see her granddaughter...
The Stiles: **Chuck and Benita** are in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of April 18th:

Sunday: Bible Classes 112
 Morning Worship 143
 Evening Worship 91
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 77

Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Mitchell/Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System..... Marty R. Adams

Wednesday, April 28th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading Kenneth Smith
 (1 John 2:1-14)
 Prayer..... Joel Hamm
 Invitation Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Sunday, May 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Nathaniel Adams..... Heath Dollar
 Clayton Hamm Kenneth Adams
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Stephen Lynn
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of May 2nd:

Ushers..... Danny Holt/Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams