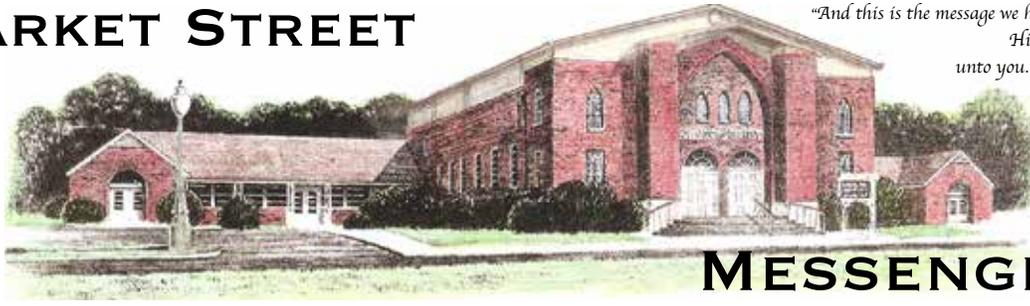


MARKET STREET



"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

May 16, 2021

No. 20

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

The Importance of Unity

Stacy D. Crim

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

The Bible describes unity of brethren who dwell together as a good and pleasant thing. It is good because there is no strife, division, biting or devouring taking place within the household of God.

Unity however, does not come without effort being made by each and every family member. Paul mentions several actions that are transpiring in the lives of the saints that solidify a unified effort within a congregation (Ephesians 4:1-3):

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

1. Each member is to live their life in such a way to bring glory and honor to the Head of the church.
2. Our attitude towards one another needs to be right – humble, gentle, longsuffering, bearing with each other (supporting each other).
3. Each member has to work at it – "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit" – each member has various likes, dislikes, backgrounds, talents and education – you have to work at it to void conflict and division. "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth"
4. The bond is peace — all saint are bound together like the ligaments that hold a human body together. Another phrase that Bible uses is "one accord."
"So contiuning daily with one accord in the temple..." (Acts 12:46).

Unity can be achieved if each one of us puts forth the necessary effort, rallying around the word of God (Acts 2:42); each molding his/her life

into the of Christ (Romans 8:29); bearing with each other all along the way (Galatians 6:2).

~via *Tri-Cities Edifier*; Muscle Shoals, Alabama.



The Incredible Jesus

Roger Shouse

“And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. And when Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, 'Woman, you are freed from your sickness.' And He laid His hands upon her; and immediately she was made erect again, and began glorifying God. And the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the multitude in response, 'There are six days in which work should be done; therefore come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall, and lead him away to water him? And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?'" (Luke 13:10-16).

In these simple words that only Luke records we find a fascinating lesson about Jesus:

Life For This Woman Was Difficult: — Luke tells us that she had a sickness that made her bent double. She had been this way for eighteen years. There are so many things that she could not do. She could not lift her head to see the stars at night. She could not see what was ahead of her, only what was beneath her. She could not reach for things above her, or lift up a child or do the many things that we do each day.

She Had Not Given Up On God: — This miracle takes place in the synagogue. This crippled woman somehow made it to the place of worship. What a testimony to her faith! We wonder how many prayers she had prayed in those eighteen years, asking God to heal her. Yet she

remained bent over. Eighteen years with an illness or handicap has a way of wearing down a person. We could understand if she was discouraged. Some might even give up on God. Not this woman! Stooped and walking slowly, she made it to the house of worship. There is no indication in the text that she even knew Jesus was going to be there. She went to worship as usual. There is no indication either that she called out to Him to heal her. Often we read of the lame and blind begging Jesus to have mercy on them. This woman seemed to be sitting quietly in the synagogue and listening to Jesus or whoever might have been reading or speaking.

Incredibly, Jesus Noticed Her: — How many others had looked at this stooped woman over these eighteen years but really didn't see her at all. Every week for eighteen years she had shuffled in and found her place. Some may have complained about her slowness or her physical condition distracting from the service. Others may have wondered why she even bothered to come. How hard was it for this woman to get up on the Sabbath day, or any other day and dress herself and go about doing what she could do? Yet, the Lord saw her because Jesus had an eye for the hurting.

By the way, how many people shuffle or walk with the help of a cane or a walker or even in a wheelchair into our assemblies each week, bent with physical and even mental problems, in pain and with worries of maybe being a burden to someone who has to give them a hand in getting in through the door or getting into their pew. It is true that we maybe see them, but do we really see them and have compassion on them as Jesus always did? But we can be assured that God "sees" and knows the crippling load that each one of them carries. And He cares.

Incredibly, Jesus Called To Her: — This was most unusual in a synagogue service where women only observed. There would have been much commotion for this bent over woman to walk up to Jesus. Everyone would have gawked at this embarrassing moment. Or if she had even called out to Him. Jesus, after all, had not announced His intentions and worshipers must have wondered what was happening. It would have been easier for Jesus, a young man in His early thirties, to make a few quick strides over to where she was. No, Jesus intended for everyone to watch what He was going to do.

Jesus Healed Her: — This is expressed in three ways.

First, verbally, as Jesus proclaims that she is freed from her sickness. *Second*, physically, as He touches her. *Third*, the most obvious, she stood erect and glorified God.

The Story Doesn't End Here.

Luke tells us of another crippled person who was crippled in the audience. It was the synagogue official who was crippled in his heart.

He was bent over in his ways and rigid to the point that he was abusive and lacking compassion. This official became "indignant." The man doesn't even speak to Jesus but addresses the crowd by stating boldly that there are six days in which she could have been healed, but not on the Sabbath. Yet for eighteen years this woman has been in that community and who had helped her? Jesus responds by talking directly to the official. In His response, the Lord referred to the woman as "a daughter of Abraham," a term of endearment that acknowledged her faith.

This is an incredible story about...an incredible Savior!

~via *Biblical Insights*; Vol. 6 No. 6 June 2006.



What Have They Seen in Your House

Curtis Pope

"At that time Berodach-baladan a son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. Hezekiah listened to them, and showed them all his treasure house, the silver and the gold and the spices and the precious oil and the house of his armor and all that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them. Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, 'What did these men say, and from where have they come to you?' And Hezekiah said, 'They have come from a far country, from Babylon.' He said, 'What have they seen in your house?'" (2 Kings 20:12-15a)

The question Isaiah asks of Hezekiah leads, in this context, to an implied rebuke for his complete disclosure

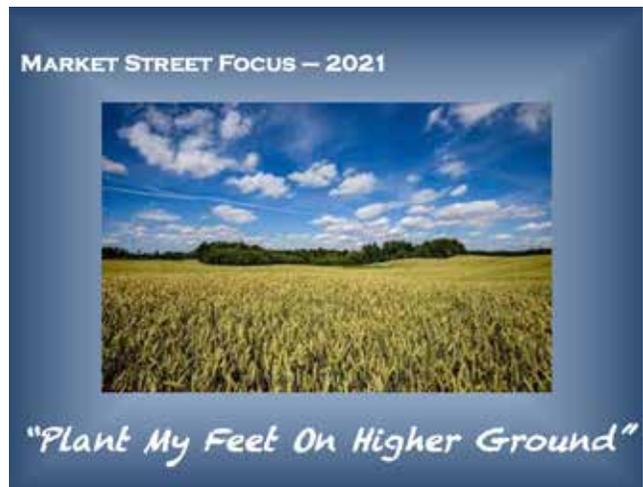
of all his treasure to the king of a country that in the next century would be the world power that conquers, deports, and despoils the people of Judah. The question, "What have they seen in your house?", however, has always been a haunting one to me, not so much because of the potential danger of theft, but because of the spiritual ramifications of the question.

If someone were to examine your house as thoroughly as Berodach-baladan did Hezekiah's, what would they see at your house? Would they see evidence of true spirituality by the prominence of bibles in places where they could easily be studied? Would there be other religious books whose wear indicated that they were regularly used to mine the depths of God's word? Or would they see a predominance of secular materials, even those that showed a lack of spiritual interest in your home? Would pornography (Psalm 101:3) be easily available? Or would the books and movies evident show an absence of God's place in your home?

What actions would such an observer notice in your home? Would they hear the songs of Zion sung there? Or would secular tunes with suggestive lyrics be the order of the day? What kind of dress would they notice in your home - clothing that would reflect purity and chastity from a modest heart or garments fashioned in Milan and Paris to inspire lust rather than godliness? Would the language heard in your home be indicative of the spirit of Christ (Colossians 4:6) or would cursing and foul speech fracture the harmony of your home?

In spite of the hypothetical nature of the home examination I have suggested, we should remember that Christ is always an unseen guest and observer in our homes. What does he see at your house?

~via *West End Bulletin*, Boowling Green, Kentucky.



News & Notes

THE SICK:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Barbara Ash | Mike Ogles |
| Betty Lovell | Pat Nixon |
| Shirley Miller | Ruby Dean Ezell |
| Betty Pepper | Tony Thomas |
| JoAnn Gilbert | Jimmy Johnson |
| Doris Lovell | Justice Gentry |
| Diane Kilpatrick | |

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 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 |
| Carrie Warner | Cindy Walker |
| Kenneth Fisher | Barry DeFoor |
| Al Pollard | Charles Burns |
| David Collier | Phillip Harwell |

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. 106 |
| Frances Bowers, rm. 67 | Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38 |
| Ann Bush, rm. 75 | Alice Roberson, rm. 49 |

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
 Una King Currier, Riverside – Decatur
 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

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 16th:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Marcus Morris |
| Song Leader | Joel Hamm |
| Prayer..... | Nathaniel Adams |
| Preaching..... | Lance Taylor |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding..... | Marty R. Adams |
| Assisting | Stephen Lynn |
| Serving | Matthew Usery..... Marvin Putman |
| | Charles Vaughn Clayton Hamm |
| Closing Prayer | Toimmy Burns |

Evening Worship

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Announcements..... | Marcus Morris |
| Song Leader | Hunter Cox |
| Prayer..... | Larry Holt |
| Preaching..... | A. J. Price |
| Lord's Supper | Stephen Lynn |
| Closing Prayer | Roger Hammonds |

Other Assignments for the week of May 16th:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ushers..... | Heath Dollar/Keenon Currier |
| Work Sound System..... | Terry Andrews |

Wednesday, May 19th:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Song Leader | David Barnett |
| Bible Reading | Larry Tucker |
| | (1 John 3:10-24) |
| Prayer..... | Terry Andrews |
| Invitation | Bob Broadus |
| Closing Prayer | Wayne Vaughn |

Sunday, May 23rd:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Marty R. Adams |
| Song Leader | Hunter Cox |
| Prayer..... | Harvey Nixon |
| Preaching..... | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding..... | Larry Tucker |
| Assisting | Mike Ogles |
| Serving | Heath Dollar Sam Gregory |
| | Matthew Usery..... Charles Vaughn |
| Closing Prayer | David Barnett |

Evening Worship

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Announcements..... | Marty R. Adams |
| Song Leader | Joel Hamm |
| Prayer..... | Frank Melton |
| Preaching..... | Song Service |
| Lord's Supper | Larry Holt |
| Closing Prayer | Bob Broadus |

Other Assignments for the week of May 23rd:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ushers..... | Larry Michell/Heath Dollar |
| Work Sound System..... | Nathaniel Adams |