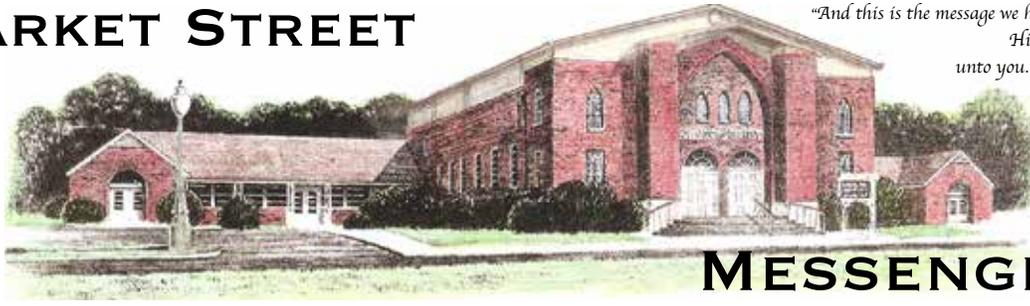


MARKET STREET



"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

June 6, 2021

No. 23

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

You Are Not Alone

David A. Cox

"For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"
(Hebrews 13:5)

When God created man, He saw that the creation that He had made was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Man was created differently from the animals. He was created in the image of God and His likeness. However, after the creation was complete, God saw that man was alone, and He made a helper for man. Someone that man could relate to and share with. God made woman for the man. From the man's intimate relationship with the woman, children could be brought into the world, and families would begin. The church stands as a group, a family of people that are together. Why was that important? Because God said, "It is not good that man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). God does not want one to be alone, and the truth God wants us to know is, we are never alone.

What About Loneliness?

The fact is that sometimes we feel alone. We feel unappreciated, separated, and detached from others. In life, there are many times these feelings may come upon individuals. God created the family relationship and the relationship of Christians in the church to help us overcome these moments. It is a fact in life you may not always have people around you, but your family is there, and the people of God are there. But what about times in life that bring separation from family relationships and the church? Paul could relate to this as we remember from his imprisonment late in his life. Paul said, "no one stood with me, but they all forsook me" (2 Timothy 4:16). How sad that Paul found himself in this situation, but even more disconcerting was that all the individuals around Paul forsook him at this most troublesome moment. The reaction of Paul is essential to see here. Paul said, "May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me" (2 Timothy 4:16b-17a). Yes, indeed, there will be times when we are left alone, but let us remember Paul's attitude on an occasion when that very thing happened to him.

The Lord Is Always With Us

The psalmist said, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Doesn't this sound like what Paul said when he faced a time and the feelings of all his friends and associates forsaking him? Yes, Paul remembered that God is our refuge, strength, and help in times of trouble. What a blessing for the children of God to have the Lord's presence in our lives.

May we ever be mindful at all times in our life that we are not alone. The Lord is always with us. Remember the help and strength that God provides for us. By doing this, we will have the attitude of Paul when he was faced with an incredible time of trial.



God Owns Me

David King

"And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. . . . The God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified." – (Daniel 5:23)

Belshazzar was a typical Mesopotamian king: fabulously wealthy and powerful. Or at least that's how he thought of himself. Even as the Medes and Persians were closing in on his palace (v. 30), the king in his arrogance threw a great party for a thousand of his lords (v. 1). No one could touch him; after all, who else had the resources to put on such a magnificent performance?

But the handwriting was on the wall, and Belshazzar's time was up (v. 5-28). The proud tyrant had only hours to live, and all his wealth and power could not save him. Too late, he learned from Daniel that the God whom he had spurned "owns all your ways," and it was time to answer to his true Master.

God owns me, too. Whatever interests I pursue in my life, there will come a time when I must cash them in and explain to Him why I made the choices I made. However I choose to use my time, that time is borrowed from Him, and someday He will ask me how I spent it.

All my assets, all my talents, all the opportunities and privileges and relationships--even the very air that I breathe--everything belongs to Him, and He can call it in at a time and manner of His choosing.

Once I understand that simple truth about my life, it should awaken a profound humility about who I am and my purpose in life. God has put me here to glorify Him, not my own selfish ego. That awareness will influence every decision I make. Life is not about me. It's about Him, and I must bend my will to His.

God gives each one of us the freedom to use our lives any way we want. But in a sense, none of us are really autonomous. We belong to Him, and someday we will return to Him as naked and helpless as the day we were born. The question is, what are we doing with the precious few days God has given us? Are we using them to accomplish His purpose, or ours?

I can't see it like Belshazzar did, but the handwriting is on the wall for me, too. When the time comes for God to take me away, will I be ready for it?

~via *Wings Newsletter*; Wichita, Kansas.



Gradual Growth

Gary Henry

" . . . till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"
(Ephesians 4:13).

We are an Impatient People, and When Things Need To Be Fixed, We Prefer Them To Be Fixed Quickly. If there are problems, we demand instant solutions, and we have little tolerance for delay in obtaining the results we seek. In our culture, the concept that some plan might take a lifetime to be accomplished is unthinkable. Long before that, we would have concluded that the plan wasn't working — we would have changed plans.

Spiritual growth, of course, does take time, and we need to be more patient than we often are, both with other people and with ourselves. But I suggest that what

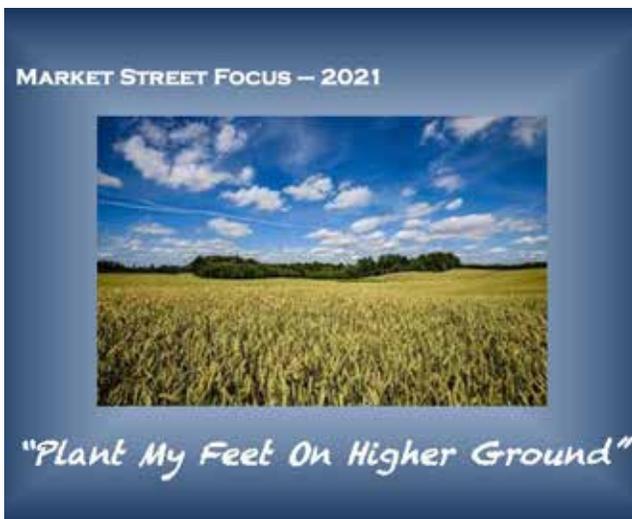
we really need is to be more humble. We must put our pride in its place and be willing, perhaps for quite a long time, to be novices or beginners. Between us and God, there is a long road to be traveled. All who've gone before have had to make the journey. Should we be exempt? If we're expecting God to provide us a shortcut, who do we think we are?

But we also need courage. Our Lord's own journey took Him through painful territory, and He endured all of it patiently, humbly, and courageously. So the Hebrew writer says, "Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:3, 4).

At the present time, none of us is anything more than a work in progress. Our characters are unfinished and not yet ready for direct communion with God. But we're on the way to that goal, if indeed we've obeyed the gospel of Christ and are remaining true to the confession of our faith. Each day God's hammer and chisel are at work on us, chipping away at the sin that has hardened around our hearts. Since we're still alive and able to talk about it, one thing ought to be obvious: God has not given up on us! And neither should we. Eventually, God's methods, however ineffective they may seem right now, will be seen to have been the best. Meanwhile, let's trust the process and give it time — nothing less than a lifetime — to work. It may be slow, but it's very, very sure.

"Knowing God and developing faith is a gradual process. There are no shortcuts to maturity. It takes time to be holy" (Erwin W. Lutzer).

~via *Anderson Bulletin*; Anderson, Indiana.



News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Betty Lovell	Pat Nixon
Shirley Miller	JoAnn Gilbert
Jimmy Johnson	Doris Lovell
Justice Gentry	Diane Kilpatrick
Janice Cagle	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Mike Ogles	Donna Wright
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Lloyd Adams	Phillip Harwell
Cornelia Pepper	Carrie Warner
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Barry DeFoor	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	

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:

Opal Conn, rm. 102	Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
Joy Warner, rm. 14	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
Frances Bowers, rm. 67	Ann Bush, rm. 75
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock, at home
 Nell Barksdale, at home
 Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
 Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter, Traditions
 Unaking Currier, Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
 Irene Inman, at home
 Bobby Ogles, Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Opal Conn continues to be taking rehab is at Limestone Health... *Jennifer Threet* has been able to be back at services following her recent surgery... *Pat Nixon*

continues to deal with blood pressure problems. She is to go to the doctor this week...*Lona Jackson* has been dealing with blood pressure problems...*Frank Melton* is scheduled to have eye surgery on Tuesday in Birmingham ...*Anna Price* has moved to Encompass for rehabilitation...Remember our expecting mothers *Heather Cox* and *Casey Curry* in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet tomorrow morning at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. If you would like to be a part of this, please join them in the morning at 10:30. The group meets in the west auditorium.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Carol Dean and all the family* in the passing of *Connie Pyron*. Connie passed away on Monday and her visitation and funeral were at Limestone Chapel on Friday. May the Lord bless all this family at this time.

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Last Sunday evening, *Sherry Davis* came forward asking for prayers for strength and forgiveness. We appreciate Sherry and the good heart she has to strive to please God. Let us all pray for and encourage Sherry as she has and will encourage us.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are continuing to be made after services. If you need to get your picture made go to room 22 in the east wing.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Somerville Rd. church* in Decatur is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speaker in the meeting will be *Tim Stevens*... The *Pleasant Grove church* in Pleasant Grove is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Sewell Hall* and *Bill Hall* will be the speakers in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Smiths: Kenneth & Peggy* are out of town this week...*Joe Hinkle* is in Florida visiting with family...*The Stiles: Chuck & Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of May 30th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	118
	Morning Worship.....	141
	Evening Worship.....	117
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	87

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, June 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader.....	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting.....	Harvey Nixon
Serving.....	Christian Usery ...Matthew Vaughn
	Marvin Putman Landon Adams
Closing Prayer.....	Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader.....	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Harold Ash
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper.....	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer.....	Marty R. Adams

Other Assignments for the week of June 6th:

Ushers.....	Russ Wulfekuhl/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, June 9th:

Song Leader.....	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Russ Wulfekuhl
	(1 John 5:1-13)
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer.....	Frank Melton

Sunday, June 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader.....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting.....	Marcus Morris
Serving.....	Matthew Usery..... Christian Usery
	Nathaniel Adams..... Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer.....	Keenon Carrier

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader.....	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper.....	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer.....	Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for the week of June 13th:

Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt