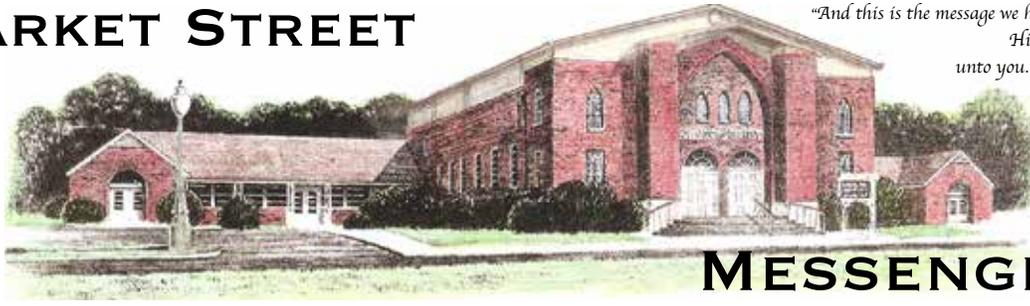


MARKET STREET



"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 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

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No. 24

"Things Were Written Before"

David A. Cox

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4)

It is no doubt that when Paul mentions the things "written before," he is referring to the Old Testament. Some have attempted to justify the authority of the Old Testament scriptures by using this verse.

Is the Old Testament Still Binding?

If Paul intends that the Old Testament is still in force today (in the Dispensation of Christ), this verse would directly contradict other passages of Scripture. It is clear as Paul writes concerning Christ and the Old Testament and the Old Testament is not still the law. Notice what Paul says, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross" (Colossians 2:14). Paul stated the purpose of the old law was "our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24). Paul continues in verse 25, "But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor." There can be no doubt that Paul was speaking of the old law being brought to an end which is in keeping with what Christ said about the old law as he lived on this earth (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44). Paul's statement, in Romans 15:4, was never intended to be used to justify the practices of some, based on the authority of the Old Testament.

What We Should Gain From Paul Statement.

The question now is: What exactly did Paul say about the use of the Old Testament? He said it was for our learning so that those who suffer for righteousness will have hope. Notice what Paul says to Felix, "But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and Prophets. I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust" (Acts 24:14-15). Notice that Paul said he believed all that

was “written in the Law and Prophets.” Paul stated he had hope as those before him had. Those before him as Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, etc., looked by faith to the coming promise of God, so did Paul. In Romans 15:4, Paul is saying, so should we! Think of Job and Daniel suffering because of their trust and faith in God. These examples should admonish (comfort) us to live lives that will be acceptable to God, our Father. Thinking of the promises given to Abraham and the faithfulness of God in fulfilling them should help us to recognize that God “is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness, but is longsuffering” (2 Peter 3:9). Men may say the world has not ended yet, and that they desire to enjoy the pleasures of sin. However, Paul is reminding us that the lessons written of the days beforehand are invaluable to us as we live our lives by faith, trusting in the promises of God.

There are many lessons we can gain from the Old Testament that can give us comfort and hope. But Romans 15:4 should never be used to try to give authority to the Old Testament Scriptures for today.



Flee and Pursue

John M. Duvall

In his first letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul wrote, “But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:11-12, NASB).

Before a person can faithfully serve the Lord, he must be willing to flee, to run away from the sin and temptations in his life. In the immediate context of 1 Timothy 6, Paul referred to those who do not agree with sound words (vs 3-5) and to those who desire to be rich (vs 6-10). Paul told Timothy to flee from these temptations and to focus his efforts in a different direction. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul also wrote, “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22, ESV). To the church in Corinth, Paul admonished the brethren to

“flee from sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18) and to flee from “idolatry” (1 Corinthians 10:14). There is nothing shameful in fleeing or running away from sin. To save their physical lives, most people will run away from dangerous or threatening situations. To run away from sin and temptations is to save one’s soul.

To make running away from sin effective, we must run to the Lord and to those things He desires for us. The Lord is our safety; He is our refuge. Running to the Lord means we embrace the directions and safety found within His teachings. Consider again Paul’s words in 1 Timothy 6:11-12. Paul told Timothy to “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.” Pursuing the things of Christ requires us to put forth great effort. We must not be distracted by the things of this world. We must not be slowed by the hindrances of this world. Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness will only be found by pursuing a life of service to our Lord and Savior. A person who calls upon the “Lord from a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22) will actively pursue that which will make him right with the Lord.

Not only must we be willing to pursue righteousness, godliness, etc., we must also be willing to “fight the good fight of faith.” In so doing, we “take hold of the eternal life to which” we were called and to which we “made the good confession” (1 Timothy 6:12, NASB). Fighting the good fight of faith requires us to believe in that for which we are fighting. A mercenary may be hired to engage in a battle or conflict. But it is a true soldier who believes in the cause for which he is fighting. We sing a song which says, “Soldiers of Christ arise and put your armor on.” As soldiers of Christ, we wear the armor of God. With this armor, we are able to “be strong in the Lord in the strength of His might.” We are able to “stand firm against the schemes of the devil,” we are able to “resist in the evil day” and to “stand firm” (Ephesians 6:10-17, NASB).

Lest we think fleeing something is a sign of weakness, consider the following: “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you . . .” (James 4:7-8a). Walking in sin makes a person an enemy of God. However, turning away from sin (fleeing from sin) demands we submit unto God’s leadership. By making this choice, we boldly resist the devil and draw near to the Lord. Fleeing from sin and resisting the devil takes great strength and courage. It is a strength and courage

which only comes by trusting in the Lord and Savior.

Consider your life. Is your life filled with sin? Are you spending your life following after the behavior and desires of the world? If so, then it is time to flee, to run away to the Lord and pursue His wonderful word. Choose to believe in the Lord. Choose to trust in the Lord. As you ponder these thoughts, please think on the following words of king David, a man after God's own heart. "Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright. Save, Lord! May the King answer us when we call." (Psalm 20:6-9, NKJV)

~via *In Remembrance*; Edmund, Oklahoma.



Dwell On These Things

Jonathan Banning

In the world today, we are forced to make many (as we would call them) judgment calls. There are issues, especially of a moral nature, that many think we can't be sure whether they are absolutely right or wrong.

When it comes to modesty we consider it a judgment call. We ask ourselves is this "Ok?" We are forced to make a judgment on where the line should be.

When it comes to the places we go we consider it a judgment call. We ask is it really "Ok" for me to go here and there?

When it comes to the music we listen to, the movies we go see and the TV programming we watch we consider those judgment calls. Is it "Ok" for me to see, hear or watch this?

Do you find yourself making judgment calls like these on a daily basis? If so, how do we usually determine whether or not it is right or wrong? If we are using anything other than the Word of God we are doing something wrong. Philippians 4:8 gives us the perfect remedy to the gray areas in life. Whenever we face something "questionable" we can look to Philippians 4:8 to determine which judgment I should make.

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

That is the criteria! When we face a judgment call, before we do anything else, we need to figure out if it matches up with Philippians 4:8. What we will come to find is that almost all of the time these questionable decisions aren't so questionable, they are just flat out wrong. As we go out today, for every "judgment call," let's make sure we consider the word of God and Philippians 4:8 to help us do what is right in the sight of the Lord.

~via *East End Bulletin*; Lexington, Kentucky.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Margaret Vaughn
Pat Nixon
JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell
Diane Kilpatrick

Betty Lovell
Shirley Miller
Jimmy Johnson
Justice Gentry
Janice Cagle

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Mike Ogles
Peggy Pepper
Freddie Mae Elmore
Anita Wheeler
Judy Vaughn
Lloyd Adams
Cornelia Pepper
Cindy Walker
Barry DeFoor
Charles Burns

Donna Wright
Vicki Stringer
Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson
Jeanette Weir
Phillip Harwell
Carrie Warner
Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Connie Brock, rm. 62

Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Limestone Health Facility:

Opal Conn, rm. 102
Joy Warner, rm. 14
Frances Bowers, rm. 67
Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
Ann Bush, rm. 75

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:

Gina Werka had back surgery on Monday and it seems to have gone very well ... **Jennifer Threet** had a stress test done this past Wednesday... **Pat Nixon** went to the doctor this week with her blood pressure swings. The doctor has scheduled Pat to have tests done to help pin point the problem... **Frank Melton** had his eye surgery on Tuesday in Birmingham and is now at home ... **Mike Ogles** received his second treatment on Monday and continues to rest at home with extreme fatigue... Remember our expecting mothers **Heather Cox** and **Casey Curry** in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, June 21 at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. If you would like to be a part of this, please join them next Monday morning at 10:30.

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 **Hickory Heights church** in Lewisburg, Tennessee is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Thursday evening. The speakers will be: *Sunday morning – Jeff Curtis; Sunday evening – Daniel Curtis; Monday – Nathan Haggood; Tuesday – Josh McCord; Wednesday – Randal Jones; Thursday – Zach Ford.*

OUT OF TOWN: **The Adams:** Landon & Lynsey are at the Gulf coast this week... **Joe Hinkle** is in Florida... **The Stiles:** Chuck & Benita are in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of June 6th:

Sunday: Bible Classes 122
Morning Worship 154
Evening Worship 95
Wednesday: Bible Classes 79

Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Currier

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

Wednesday, June 16th:

Song Leader Bob Broadus
Bible Reading Clayton Hamm
..... (1 John 5:14-21)
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
Invitation Stephen Lynn
Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Sunday, June 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Larry Holt
Prayer..... Joel Hamm
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Larry Tucker
Assisting Mike Ogles
Serving Charles Vaughn Keenon Currier
..... Kenneth Adams... Matthew Vaughn
Closing Prayer Stephen Lynn

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... Marcus Morris
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of June 20th:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews