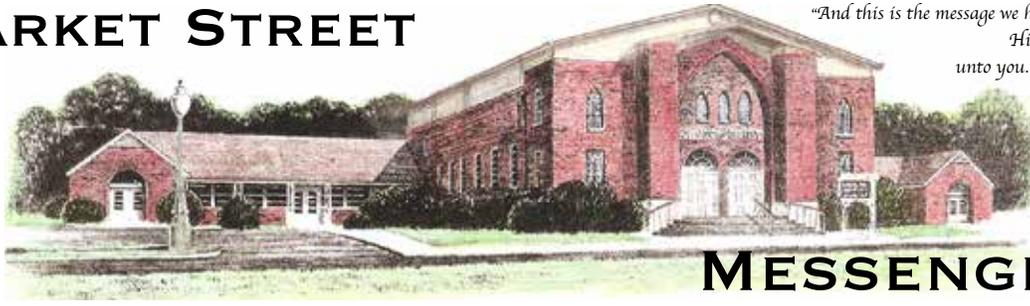


MARKET STREET



"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

Volume XIII

July 18, 2021

No. 29

The Comfort of the Scriptures

Sean Cavender

God's word is full of wonderful stories, encouraging examples, and comforting words. However, is the Bible merely a good book of stories, but lacking any authority or power? Many would argue that the Bible is just full of good anecdotal messages, but is not given from an omnipotent God. Others might feign faith in God, but treat His word as a tool to only excuse their sinful behavior, ignoring passages that expressly condemn false worship and immorality.

Sure, the Bible is a good book. It certainly is an encouraging one. The Bible is a comforting book that is able to touch our hearts, minds, and souls. The Bible claims to be all of these things: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4, KJV

However, the Scriptures are so much more! The word of God is something truly remarkable, authoritative, encouraging, and comforting. Consider what makes the word of God so comforting to us.

God's Word Is Truth. The Lord Jesus identified the word of God as truth (John 17:17). It is based upon that fundamental aspect that we must understand Paul's statement about how the Scriptures are to be understood and used in 2 Timothy 3:16. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." (2 Timothy 3:16). The term inspiration means "God breathed." The Scriptures are the very words breathed and mouthed by God. It is how He has communicated to us today. Thus, the statement that Jesus made about God's word: "thy word is truth" (John 17:17) is an apt description of the Scriptures. The Bible ought to be a source of comfort because we read what is right and true. No falsehood is contained in the Scriptures. There is no lie that we will ever read in the word of God. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). So His words cannot be anything but true.

It is refreshing that we have a book that we can open, read, and

understand. A book that will not deceive us, nor cause us to stumble. So we may trust the words that we read, the glorious word of truth that leads to salvation (Ephesians 1:13). Some treat the word of God as if it does not hold any truth, though. Some will make statements such as “God’s word has just spoken to you one way, and to me another way.” Consider such a foolish statement. What would you say about me if I told you that my favorite single topping pizza was sausage pizza, but then told someone else my favorite single topping pizza was pepperoni? You would think that I was lying to one (or both) of the persons I spoke to. Why would we treat the application of God’s word as a lie, rather than the truth that He intended for us to believe and practice?

God’s Word Teaches Us Not To Sin. The psalmist stated that he had hidden the word of God in his heart so that he may not sin against God (Psalm 119:11). Perhaps this is the greatest cause for comfort to be found in the Scriptures. When we search the Scriptures and examine our lives, we may know what is acceptable unto God (Ephesians 5:10-12). Sin is not to be in the life of a Christian and it should be abstained from. We do not have to guess as to what is acceptable before God’s sight, thankfully. We have His revealed word to teach us and guide us. We may know that fornication and covetousness are wrong (Ephesians 5:3). We may also know that evil speaking is sinful (Ephesians 4:31). Drinking is sinful, too (Ephesians 5:18). All of these things are evil and displeasing to God. They are contrary to walking wisely (Ephesians 5:15). True wisdom comes from God’s word.

God’s Word Reveals God’s Character. We learn about how God is love (1 John 4:8). We learn how God is just (Romans 3:26). We also learn of how God is gracious (1 Peter 5:10). All of these characteristics play a part in how God deals with people. When we listen to the words that someone speaks, then we learn a great deal about their character. The same is true when we listen to God’s words – we learn about God! We begin to understand how He interacts with people and how He treats them. Through a study of the Bible, we begin to know God. His word teaches us that the God of heaven deals justly with His creation. For those who are disobedient to His word, judgment and punishment are promised. Those who are faithful to His commands can rest assured of receiving the goodness of God (Romans 11:22).

How does comfort come from God’s word? It comes through a better understanding of God Himself. When

we understand that His word is truth, how we should please Him, and how He will judge His people, then we will learn the true comfort that is found in God’s word. We should heed His commands and His words. They are the very source of spiritual comfort, success, and happiness. “This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me” (Psalm 119:50). Praise God that we have His word to comfort us!

~via *Armor of Light*; Wichita, Kansas.



Respect for the Name of God

Gary Henry

“And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:12)

One Evidence of How Little Regard We Have For God is the Flippant Way in Which We Sometimes Use His Name. It is possible, no doubt, to be scrupulous in the use of God’s name and still not have any reverence for Him in our hearts. But in today’s meditation, we want to focus on the inside-out problem: the problem of the person who has no inward respect for God and that lack of respect shows up in the person’s outward speech. There are basically three ways we may disrespect God and His name.

Swearing. To swear is to invoke God as the guarantee that we’re going to do as we say. For instance, the person who says, “This is what I’m going to do, by God” is swearing. But Jesus taught that our statements ought not to require any oath to back them up. “Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:37).

Profanity. Profane speech is that which makes common or crude use of words that should be held as sacred and used only with great reverence. It’s not uncommon anymore to hear the words God and Jesus Christ thrown around so casually one wonders if the

speakers even realize whose names they are using.

Cursing. When a person curses, he calls down God's wrath upon someone, verbally wishing them harm. "Damn you" is shorthand for "I hope God will damn your soul to hell." Even thinking this about someone is serious, but speaking it out loud — using God's name to vent our anger on others — is a monstrous evil. It is no light matter to wish the loss of someone's soul.

Why are these things so serious? Might we not consider them harmless foibles, less dangerous than sins that actually hurt other people? Well, the problem has to do with the heart. Crude words, and certainly irreverent ones, are almost always symptomatic of a heart that is turned away from God. So Jesus said, "By your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:37). So the next time you feel like "cussing," check your heart. Where is your spiritual father, above or below? Does your speech show that you're a humble worshiper of God?

"To curse is to pray to the devil" (German Proverb)

~via *The Reminder*; Bellaire, Texas.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Sunday Mornings

on WVNN 770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m.

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

MARKET STREET FOCUS – 2021



"Plant My Feet On Higher Ground"

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Peggy Mitchell
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	Matt Bassford
Jason Pressnell	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elese Barksdale, rm. 23B
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Shelia Barrett, rm.
Flossie Smith, rm. 103	

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
Joy Warner, rm. 14	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

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Mike Ogles; Huntsville Hospital

Updates:

Peggy Mitchell is to get shots in her knees this week...

Betty Pepper had the stitches removed from her knee this week... **Justice Gentry** will be going to the doctor in Birmingham on Monday for follow-up and tests ... **Priscilla Tucker** had a biopsy done this past week on the spots on her spine ... **Donna Wright** had a treatment this past Thursday... **Pat Nixon** will be having some heart tests done on July 28th ... **Mike Ogles** began his 2nd RICE treatment on Thursday. He should complete it today... Remember our expecting mothers **Heather Cox, Casey Curry,** and **Lynsey Adams,** in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet Monday 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.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class will resume meeting on Tuesday morning. The class will be meeting in the West Auditorium. The class will study the "Authority of the Scriptures." **Scottie Reed** is coordinating this class.

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.

BABY SHOWER: The ladies have planned a Baby Shower for **Beckett Daniel Cox** on Sunday, August 1st. It will be at the Deer Trail Clubhouse from 2:00 to 3:30. Beckett is the son of **Hunter and Heather Cox.** Beckett is registered at: babylist.com/beckettcox

GOSPEL MEETING: The **New Hope church** in Cross Key is beginning a meeting today, and it will continue through Friday evening. **Don Miller** will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Coxes:** **David & Kerry** are in St. George's, Grenada today. They are with the **Archibald Avenue church** in a VBS and Church Leadership studies... **The Gregorys:** **Sam, Taylor, Cara Blake & Weston** were at the Gulf last weekend... **The Holts:** **Danny & Debra** were on vacation in the mountains... **The Stiles:** **Chuck & Benita** are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... **Opal Conn** is in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of July 11th:
 Sunday: Bible Classes 116
 Morning Worship 143
 Evening Worship 105

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, July 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Stephen Lynn
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... Nathaniel Adams
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 Serving Roger Hammonds .. Danny Johnson
 Sam Gregory Landon Adams
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Larry Tucker
 Preaching..... Kevin Harbin
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm

Other Assignments for the week of July 18th:
 Ushers..... Christian Usery/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

Wednesday, July 21st:

Song Leader David Barnett
 Bible Reading Dan Reed
 (John 1: 1-13)
 Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
 Invitation Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Marty R. Adams

Sunday, July 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... Larry Tucker
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Larry Holt
 Serving Keenon Currier..... Marvin Putman
 Nathaniel Adams..... Heath Dollar
 Closing Prayer Frank Melton

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Stephen Lynn
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for the week of July 25th:
 Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews