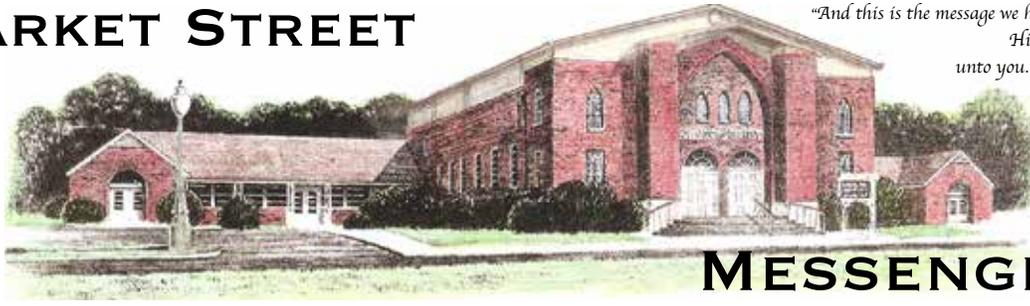


MARKET STREET



“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. 30

Modern Day “Nehushtans”

David Osteen

Everyone knows John 3:16, but what is much less known (in the world and religious community) is the context of John 3:16. In John 3:14 a comparison is made, not between Moses and Jesus, but what Moses lifted up and what God lifted up.

In Numbers 21:4-9 we have the historical account of the Israelite people in which they became impatient with God and rebelled against Him. As a result, God sent “fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.” (Numbers 21:6) The people confessed their sin and repented of it before Moses and so God commanded Moses to “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he shall live.” (Numbers 21:8) We see from the corresponding verses that the serpent which Moses made was a bronze serpent, and the Lord, true to His promise, healed all those who were bitten and looked upon the bronze serpent that Moses had lifted up.

Likewise, we see in John 3 that “...the Son of Man” was to “be lifted up” (v.14). The teaching of the passage as it relates to Israel is that healing would be found in Christ. Not physical healing like in the case of Israel, but the spiritual healing of the soul from sin and death “... that whoever believes in Him (Jesus Christ) may in Him have eternal life.” (v.15) “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” It’s a message of truth and hope that unfortunately (like in the time of the Israelites) has been disgracefully turned into an opportunity for blasphemous idol worship.

The Israelites were given the command to have no gods before God, and not to worship any idols (Exodus 20:3-4). However, in 2 Kings 18:4 we learn that the bronze serpent Moses had made in Numbers 4:9 had been turned into an idol of worship called “Nehushtan”, and that the Israelites offered incense to this manmade object. They had turned to

serve the bronze rather than the bronze-creator. King Hezekiah is praised by the Holy Spirit in 2 Kings 18:4 for destroying this idol that God's people had vainly worshiped for centuries. But so it is today, that man has chosen to serve the visible insignificant over the supreme almighty God who is the Creator of all.

Jesus Christ was raised up on a cross, but rather than turning entirely to worship Christ today; instead, millions will turn to worship the "cross" on which He hung as an idol. In all types of churches, from Catholic to nondenominational mega-churches, millions will bow down and offer incense (prayers) to the image of a cross on which Jesus hung, instead of bowing to serve God according to His will. People wear crosses around their necks and place crosses in their homes, which can (and unfortunately often does) amount to idolatry - the way they worship the cross. There are millions more who will bow down to the statue of a "virgin Mary" rather than bow their hearts down before the Savior that came from her womb. And every December 25th there will be still millions more who worship a depiction of a manger, rather than worship the birth of salvation through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. These modern day idols, like the idols of old, are adored by man, but hated by God.

These are the modern day "Nehushtan"(s), and they deserve nothing more than the treatment of Hezekiah, to be broken into pieces and destroyed; and exchanged for true and undefiled worship, to a true and undefiled God. (John 4:23-24) Let us not be deceived into worshiping these idols of men, but rather, let us dedicate ourselves to serving the true God of heaven, in the manner and likeness in which He has chosen.

~via *O'Conner Road church of Christ*; San Antonio, Texas.



Turning Tragedy into Triumph

Wilson Adams

If you're a fan of college basketball, then undoubtedly you saw/heard about the University of Louisville basketball game versus Duke and the horrific injury to Louisville player Kevin Ware. He leaped to block a shot, landed at an odd angle and snapped his leg. The injury was so gruesome that CBS stopped the replays. Players on both teams were weeping as play was halted so the medical staff could render aid. A strange hush descended upon the floor as the once noisy arena became eerily silent. At least two lessons were learned that day...

1. It takes courage to continue. When the referee blew the whistle to resume play, it almost seemed out of place. And yet it was essential for the players to refocus and get back to the business at hand. There was nothing they could do for their teammate. He was in good hands and on the way to the hospital and surgery. As hard as it was, they had to move on. And so do we.

I think of the period of mourning God gave His people following the death of Moses (Deut.34:5, 8). They mourned for thirty days and then God announced it was time to cross the Jordan and move on (Joshua 1:1-2). Was that easy for them? No. Was it necessary for them? Yes. Sometimes, and as hard as it is, life must move forward. In reality, that is part of God's healing process. One of the saddest scenes is when someone faces tragedy and after a reasonable amount of time, they refuse to move on. It's like they become stuck in mental quicksand (Ps.40:2—"the mud of the mire") and become trapped in time. God will lift you from the pit of despair, but only if you are willing. It's not healthy to stay stuck. It takes courage (and faith!) to move on.

2. It takes unselfishness to encourage others when you are struggling. As Kevin Ware was carried from the court, he called his teammates to his side. Rather than feeling sorry for himself, he told them, "Win the game! Just win the game!" No pity party. No playing the victim card. In a moment of personal struggle, he became the cheerleader for others. What a picture of unselfishness! One of the best ways to lift yourself when you are down is to lift up someone else (you can always find someone in worse shape than you are). Question: Have you ever visited someone in the hospital with the intention of

cheering them up only to come away realizing that they cheered you up?

That seems backwards. However, it is a picture of Christ-likeness.

Yes, tragedy can turn to triumph, but only if...we are available to learn the lessons. And rest assured; there are always lessons to be learned...

~via *Veterans Parkway church of Christ*; Murfreesboro, Tenn.



He Just Talked Right Back

Phil Roberts

Most of you readers will be familiar with the story of Balaam and his donkey (Numbers 22:22-35). The prophet Balaam was on his way to Balaak, the king of Moab, who had hired him to pronounce a curse on the Israelites. But as he was going along, the angel of the Lord appeared in the way. Now when the donkey saw the angel she balked and turned off the road. Balaam, who did not see the angel, beat his donkey and got her back on the road.

The angel appeared again and the donkey swerved aside again, this time crushing Balaam's foot against the wall. Balaam, his anger rising, beat her again. The angel appeared a third time and donkey just sat down in the middle of the road. Balaam was so incensed that he began to beat her with his staff. If was just then that the Lord "opened the mouth" of the donkey and she began to talk back to Balaam: "What have I done unto thee, that thou has smitten me these me these three times?"

Now what would you do if you had a donkey that started talking back to you? I believe most of you would just stand there with your mouth hanging open. But what did Balaam do? He was so blinded by his anger and his sinful ambition that he just talked back to the thing! I can't help it. I get ticked off every time I read this story. But there is an important warning here for us. A person is never so liable to play the fool as when that are blinded by their anger and sinful ambition as was Balaam.

~via *The Exhorter*, Athens, Alabama.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

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	Elise 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

Updates:

Donna Wright is taking immunotherapy treatments ...**Pat Nixon** is scheduled to have heart tests done on Wednesday...**Priscilla Tucker** continues to be treated for his Lymphoma...**Mike Ogles** received his RICE

treatment last weekend...Remember our expecting mothers *Heather Cox, Casey Curry, and Lynsey Adams*, in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, August 2nd, 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.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible class began meeting last Tuesday morning. The class is studying the *“Authority of the Scriptures”* and meets in the West Auditorium on Tuesday mornings at 10:30. *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* next 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 MEETINGS: The *Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today, and it will continue through Friday night. The speaker in this meeting will be *Ben May of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee...* The *Pleasant Valley church* is beginning a meeting today, and it will continue through Friday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Lowell Sallee*.

SINGING: The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee, will be having their annual singing this Friday night, July 30th at 7:00p.m.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coxes: David & Kerry* are in Mt. Granby, St. John's Grenada. David is beginning a meeting today with the *Mt. Granby church...* *The Stiles: Chuck & Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... *Opal Conn* is in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: *Average Attendance for the month June:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	122
	Morning Worship	155
	Evening Worship	104
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	88



**Remember Our Bible Study
Wednesday Evening at 7:00.**

Men Privileged To Serve:

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

Wednesday, July 28th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading	Roger Hammonds
.....	(John 1: 14-28)
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Invitation	Tommy Coblenz
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Sunday, August 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblenz
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Larry Holt
Serving	Matthew Usery..... Clayton Hamm
.....	Landon Adams..... Marty R. Adams
Closing Prayer	Frank Melton

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for the week of August 1st:

Ushers.....	Marvin Putman/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams