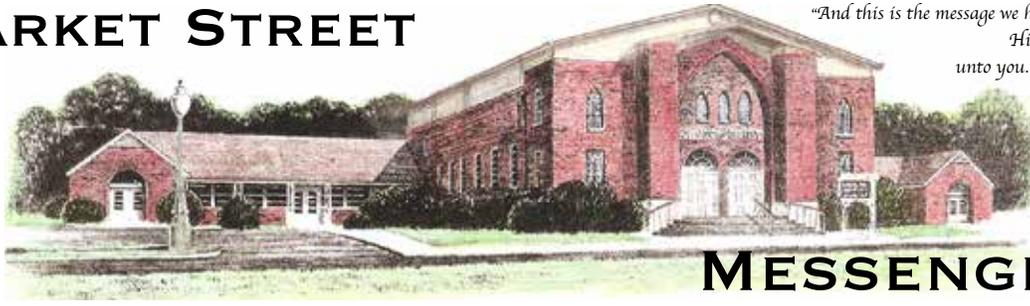


# MARKET STREET



*"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. 34

## *Dealing with the Root of Bitterness*

David A. Cox

*"Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled" — (Hebrews 12:15).*

The Hebrew writer is reminding the Christians of the spiritual life that they enjoy, and they should strive to be at peace and live in holiness. He then warns these Christians of the "root of bitterness" that can come into a person's life and defile them. If bitterness is allowed to take root in our hearts it will cause us to act in sinful and unrighteous ways. With this warning in mind, let us understand what it is and rid ourselves of any bitterness we may have. Why? Because with bitterness present, we will not see the Lord.

### Signs of Bitterness and Dealing with Them.

1. **Anger.** The bitterness that is not removed will take root and cause a person to have outbursts of anger toward others. Perhaps it begins with some minor incident that we allow other things to pile on top of it over time. It can be just a slight sense of being mistreated in some way. We begin to let our passions burn within us until the limit is reached and the anger explodes. When those situations happen, we have two options: forget about them or deal with them. If it is no big deal, then let it go. If you cannot let it go, talk to the person the issue is with and settle the matter. Do not let the "root of bitterness" remain in you.
2. **Unforgiveness.** The issue of not dealing with bitterness can be due to our unwillingness to forgive someone. As people striving to live their lives for God, we should always be willing to forgive everyone at any time (Matthew 6:12). However, there are times when we may find ourselves failing at this point. Failing to forgive will cause one to hold on to the "root of bitterness." As the children of God, we have been forgiven by God for our failures to live as we should. Since we have been the recipients of forgiveness, we

should be willing to forgive others (Ephesians 4:32). Forgiveness is a continual process, and we need to always be displaying a forgiving spirit. As we forgive, we must remember that it involves a restoration of trust and reconciliation. Suppose we remember the fault, allowing it to get our passions aroused and not be willing to treat the person as if nothing ever happened. In that case, our forgiveness is not complete, and bitterness will come.

3. *Hopelessness*. If bitterness is not dealt with and takes root in your life, the view of hope for the future will diminish. Bitterness will erode the most optimistic of people. Bitterness will lead to gossiping to spread misinformation about another; jealousy, contempt, and rage will fill the life of a bitter person. As people of God, we will deal with our bitterness and not allow it to rob us of the joy and hope we should live with.

In overcoming bitterness, there is ultimately one choice we have. It may not be an easy choice, and it may make us very uncomfortable as we deal with it, but it will give us the peace and joy we desire to have in this life.



## *No Middle Ground*

**Tim Smelser**

First it had been the Herodians asking Jesus, “What do you think about paying tribute to Caesar?” Then the Sadducees asked, “What do you think about a woman who was married to seven brothers? In the resurrection whose wife will she be?” A lawyer next asked, “Which do you think is the greatest commandment in the law?” To all of these questions Jesus gave answer (Matthew 2:15-40). Finally it was his turn to ask a question. “What think ye of the Christ? Whose son is he?” (Matthew 22:42).

This was not merely a curious inquiry as to what the rabbis believed. Nor was Jesus wondering how the various sects felt about the Messiah. Rather, this question was directed to the individuals in the audience and it is

a question that must be answered correctly today by all who would be saved.

The Jewish rulers were caught between two ideas: They would readily agree that the Messiah was to be of the seed of David, but they were not willing to confess that he was the divine Son of God. However, the claims and teachings of Jesus left them no middle ground. Either He was truly the Son of the living God, or He was a blaspheming liar. As they had to then, each person must now weigh the evidence and then decide what they think of the Christ.

Jesus appealed to the Old Testament prophecies to prove His deity many times. He told his disciples, “These are my words which I spoke while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me” (Luke 24:44). In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus also said, “Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets, I came not to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17). The apostles and the New Testament writers would often refer to Old Testament prophecies when trying to convince their audiences that everything Jesus did and taught was in direct fulfillment of things written hundreds of years before hand.

The miracles that Jesus performed were enough to convince Nicodemus of Christ’s identity. “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him” (John 3:2). In concluding his account of the life of Christ, the apostle John wrote, “Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30-31). To prove that He had the authority to forgive sins (which only God can do) Jesus healed a crippled man (Matthew 9:5-6).

The final piece of evidence proving Jesus’ identity is his resurrection from the dead. Paul told the Corinthians that his preaching was vain and their faith was vain, if Christ had not been raised (1 Corinthians 15:14-19). Peter concluded the Pentecost Day sermon with this very point. “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses... Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:32-36).

By faith we believe what is written and by faith we

believe in God. The evidence concerning His Son is before us and we must examine it and form our own conclusions. The question then that all wishing to be saved must answer is, "What think you of the Christ?" There is no middle ground. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me" (Matthew 12:30). Where do you stand today?

~via *The Parchment*; Indianapolis, Indiana.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Ruby Dean Ezell
Tena Wells	Vickie Brown
Pat Nixon	Gayle Ball
Shirley Miller	Vickie Brown
JoAnn Gilbert	Doris Lovell
Justice Gentry	Diane Kilpatrick
Janice Cagle	

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

Mike Ogles	Donna Wright
Tommy Burns	Priscilla Tucker
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

### *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	Shelia Barrett, rm.

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
Frances Bowers, rm. 67	Ann Bush, rm. 75
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	Bobby Ogles, rm. 13

### *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  
 Stan Stanford, at home  
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge  
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

### *Updates:*

**Tommy Burns** had surgery Friday morning at Crestwood Hospital for his cancer and the surgery went well... **Mike Ogles** spent several days in Nashville for his Cell collection for the CAR-T treatments. He will return to Nashville for the treatments in about 2-3 weeks ... **Priscilla Tucker** completed her radiation treatments this past Monday ... **Gayle Ball** is to go back to the doctor on Tuesday of this week... **William Thomas** was diagnosed with the virus last week... **Ruby Dean Ezell** is scheduled to go to the doctor on Friday about her back ... **Joyce McGlocklin** is scheduled to have her follow-up doctor appointment following her recent biopsy this week ... **Larry Holt** received a good report from the biopsy he had done last week... **Bonita Dollar** was sick last weekend and is now doing better... **Don Bates** has been having a lot of pain in his lower back. Don is scheduled to have a follow-up appointment on Wednesday for his recent surgery... **Bonnie Sutton** was able to get injections in his back this past Tuesday and seems to be improved ... **Ewell Smith, Rita Smith's husband**, is scheduled to begin treatments on Thursday ... **Kerry Cox's mother, Fredia Lowman**, had surgery for breast cancer on Thursday. The surgery went well and the reports were good ... 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 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. If you want to do this, please join them next Monday morning.

**TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS:** The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class will not be meeting this week and will resume next Tuesday.

**CALL MESSAGES FROM MARKET STREET:** From time to time the church at Market Street uses an automated calling system to inform the members of the information that needs to be disseminated quickly. The phone number of the church for these calls is 256-297-2307. If you receive a call from this number, it will be the Market Street church message system. The message system is voice activated, so this will require you to say something and then the message should follow. There may be a slight delay in the start up of the message.

**SONG SERVICE:** Tonight will be the time for our regular monthly scheduled song service. I hope that everyone will be back this evening at 5:00 to worship God in song.

**JIMMY JOHNSON (1949 — 2021):** We were saddened this past week about passing of *Jimmy Johnson*. Jimmy was a longtime member of the Market Street church. Jimmy was a man that always was happy and brightened life with his demeanor. Jimmy's funeral was Tuesday afternoon at the Spry Funeral Home Chapel. He was laid to rest in the Limestone Memorial Gardens. May the Lord bless *Danny Johnson* and *Wanda Nave*, Jimmy's brother and sister, as well as all his family at this time.

**ADOPTION CELEBRATION:** On Wednesday, afternoon *Kolton Hardison's* adoption will be final. There is a Adoption party scheduled the afternoon of Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00. It is at the *Kid's Dugout Park* at the Athens Sportsplex. Join the *Hardison Family, Nancy, Kolton and the girls*, for this celebration.

**BABY SHOWER:** The ladies have planned a Baby Shower for *Casey Curry* on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Deer Trail Clubhouse from 2:00 to 3:30. Dustin and Casey's baby is registered at:

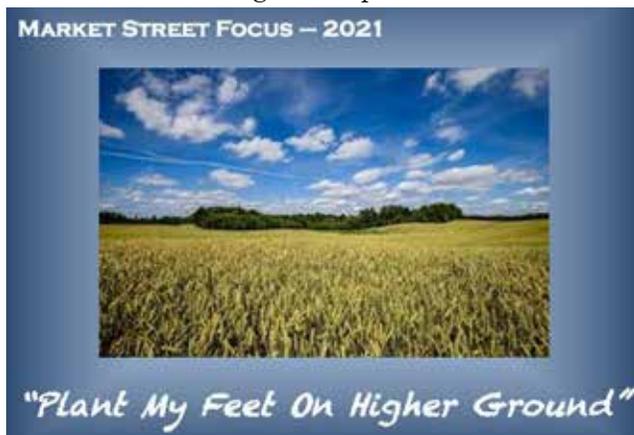
[www.babylist.com/baby-casey-curry](http://www.babylist.com/baby-casey-curry)

**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.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *Kerry Cox* is in Haleyville this weekend helping her mother following her surgery... *The Stiles: Chuck & Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... *Opal Conn* is in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for week of August 15<sup>th</sup>:

Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 113  
 Morning Worship ..... 131  
 Evening Worship ..... 106



**Men Privileged To Serve:**

*Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....Tommy Coblentz  
 Song Leader ..... Stephen Lynn  
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton  
 Preaching..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon  
 Assisting ..... Terry Andrews  
 Serving ..... Roger Hammonds . Charles Vaughn  
 .....Matthew Vaughn... Russ Wulfekuhl  
 Closing Prayer ..... Landon Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....Tommy Coblentz  
 Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle  
 Preaching..... Song Service  
 Lord's Supper ..... Harvey Nixon  
 Closing Prayer ..... Bob Broadus

Other Assignments for the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Ushers.....Hunter Cox/Joel Hamm  
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

*Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>:*

Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
 Bible Reading ..... Landon Adams  
 .....(John 2:1-12)  
 Prayer.....Dan Reed  
 Invitation ..... Nathaniel Adams  
 Closing Prayer ..... Danny Holt

*Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Larry Holt  
 Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
 Prayer..... Larry Tucker  
 Preaching..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding..... Marcus Morris  
 Assisting ..... Hunter Cox  
 Serving ..... Landon Adams..... Sam Gregory  
 .....Matthew Vaughn..... Heath Dollar  
 Closing Prayer ..... Marty R. Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Larry Holt  
 Song Leader ..... Bob Broadus  
 Prayer..... Kenneth Adams  
 Preaching.....  
 Lord's Supper ..... Marcus Morris  
 Closing Prayer ..... Clayton Hamm

Other Assignments for the week of August 29<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers..... Marvin Putman/Larry Mitchell  
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews