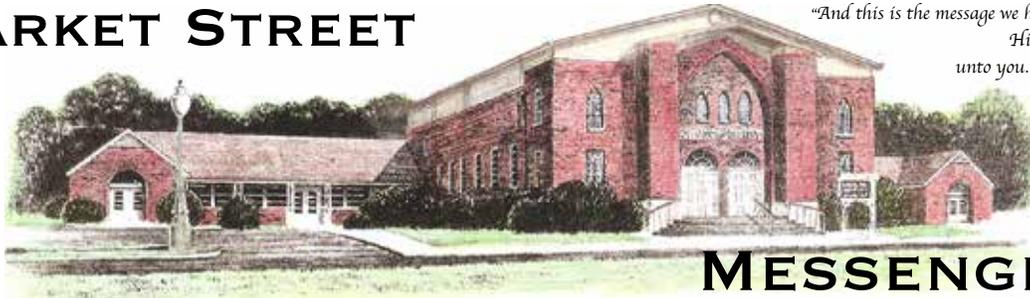


MARKET STREET



"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

August 29, 2021

No. 35

The Growth of the Christian

David A. Cox

"But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" — (2 Peter 2:18).

Peter points out that being a Christian is not just a one-time decision made, and then it is over. Being a Christian involves a lifetime of growth. The Christian is a child of God and a part of the family of God. The family analogy gives us the picture of brothers and sisters, children and parents. God is the Father. As the Father, He provides for us as His children. We are children of God because we have voluntarily submitted ourselves to Him and have been baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27). By being baptized into Christ, we have been "born again" into the family of God or the church (John 3:3-5). The ones that have been "born again" by the word of God (1 Peter 1:23) are new converts or "babes in Christ." Peter continues to speak of the laying aside of old dispositions, attitudes, and actions of sin. Peter then states that we should "as newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow" (1 Peter 2:1-2). As a babe's desire is to grow, the Christian's growth is desired and expected by God.

Passages Stressing How and Why to Grow.

• *The Nurturing for the New Convert.* The newborn babe, if they are not nurtured, will die spiritually. Everyone surely understands the tragedy of a baby that is born in this physical life being left alone, uncared for, and deserted. The nurturing of the disciples is something Jesus is concerned about as He tells the disciples to teach those they baptize to observe all things (Matthew 28:19-20). Disciples, who follow the instruction of Jesus in the great commission, will not let this happen.

• *The Grounding that is Needed.* The teaching of God's word is vital in the grounding of newborn babes/new converts. Speaking to Christians, the Hebrew writer tells them they should have grown. "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the

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

word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to them that are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).

• *The Need to Stand Against the World and its Forces.* Paul writes to the Ephesians about the need to grow. Paul states, “...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ” (Ephesians 4:14-15).

It is apparent in the scriptures that Jesus and the apostles taught that Christians should grow. Without growth and maturity, Christians will wander aimlessly through life and will fall prey to the snares of the devil. As a child of God grows, they will not be tossed about in the world of darkness. The trials and temptations will come to man, but a Christian will endure with a developed and mature faith (2 Timothy 4:8). Jesus came and gave His life to save man. Spiritual growth and development are essential for Christians to not grow weary and fall away. Indeed, we can understand why growing in faith is imperative if we endure to the end.



Man Made To Look Up

Jerral Kay

The Greek word for man, *Anthropos*, means “The Up Looking One.” God made man to look up to Him for guidance and dependability.

The science of “Cognitive Psychology” describes mankind to only have three types of behavior. The famed psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud believed that behavior and personality were derived from the constant and unique interaction of conflicting psychological forces that operate at three different levels of awareness: *the preconscious, conscious, and unconscious*. He missed one that

God describes – The wise and reverent behavior. Jesus shared the gospel using stories and metaphors that even a child could understand, but because of a hardness of heart, many just couldn’t grasp the significance.

Man is the only creature that can look up to a Supreme God for help in those things he cannot control nor supervise. Wisdom is the only source that causes man to “Ask of God” (James 1:5), because: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

The four methods that man uses to rationalize situations, Jesus described in Matthew 13:1-23.

- **Wayside heart** —not serious about what he hears from Bible.
- **Rocky heart**— hears, but won’t allow it to take good root and what little faith they had goes away when they start experiencing pain and resistance. They believed that following Jesus should put them above opposition and unrest, or perhaps it's because they just don’t know how to place their trust in Him.
- **Thorny heart** –allows truth to be choked out because of lusts and magnetism of the world. Their mind is enthusiastic about the gospel, but it’s too easily distracted by what the world has to offer. 1 Corinthians 10:23 –“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not beneficial: all things are lawful for me, but all things do not build-up.”
- **Good heart** – Wise man looks within his subconscious and comes closer to God to produce those fruits within themselves that please their Jesus (Ephesians 5:22-23).

These four are the true way man thinks and behaves. The Bible teaches that few will adopt the good mind (Matthew 7:14).

~via *Bridge City Banner*; Bridge City, Texas.

Monthly Assignments for September

Open Building — Larry Holt
Close Building — Marty Adams
Communion — Joel Hamm

Not Only Bugged, But Recorded

A. J. Rollings

“But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shall be justified and by thy words thou shall be condemned” (Matthew 12:36-37).

Thomas Edison is said to have regarded recording the human voice as the crowning achievement of his life. Our Father’s recorder goes far, far deeper, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the souls and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

How can any of us but shudder to reflect upon the warning from heaven that every work shall be brought into judgement with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil (Ecclesiastes 12:14)?

But don’t despair. God’s amazing grace provides the eraser to all believers: “Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins” (Acts 2:38); “Repent and turn that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).

*O the love that drew salvation’s plan;
O the grace that brought it down to man,
O the mighty gulf that God did span – at Calvary.*

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Ruby Dean Ezell
Sherry Davis	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	Eleese 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

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Mike Ogles; Huntsville Hospital
Mike Townsend; Vanderbilt Hospital – Nashville, Tenn.

Updates:

Margaret Carter had a CT scan done on Friday for a growth in her throat. She is to return to get the results of the CT on Wednesday...**Mike Ogles** has taken a Bridge therapy this past week and is now in Huntsville Hospital to monitor his blood ...**Donna Wright** has had to stop her treatments for a time due to having lost too much weight to continue. She will be trying to gain weight to resume the treatments ...**Sherry Davis** had surgery this past Thursday and is doing well...**Gayle Ball** has begun in-home therapy for her shoulder...**William Thomas** has been moved back to his regular room following his bout with the virus... **Ruby Dean Ezell** was scheduled to go to the doctor on Friday, but it was postponed ... **Joyce McGlocklin** had follow-up appointment with her doctor and the report was that there was no sign of cancer ... **Don Bates** received a good report from the doctor following his recent surgery...**Priscilla Tucker** continues to be treated for her cancer ...**Ewell Smith, Rita Smith’s husband,** had a simulation treatment on

Thursday for his upcoming treatments. The treatments will begin September 8th and continue for 9 weeks ... **Kerry Cox's mother, Fredia Lowman**, is to return to the doctor on Wednesday to get the pathology report following her surgery ... **Shelia Clark's brother-in-law, Mike Townsend**, had heart surgery to replace two valves on Tuesday in Nashville ... Remember our expecting mothers **Heather Cox, Casey Curry, Lynsey Adams**, and **Laura 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 want to do this, please join them in the morning.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class is meeting each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is studying the "*Authority of the Scriptures.*" The class meets in the West Auditorium.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Donna Wright** in the passing of her nephew and his wife, **Bob & Judy Massey**. They passed away last Wednesday in Ohio. May Lord bless Donna and all the family at this time... We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Jo Nell Campbell** in the passing of her grandson-in-law, **Chris King**. He passed away suddenly Friday morning of a massive heart attack. The arrangements will be made on Monday at Limestone Chapel. May Lord bless Jo Nell and all the family at this time.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice over the decision that **Cecily Baker** has made to be a part of the church here at Market Street. Let us extend a warm welcome to Cecily.

BABY SHOWER: The ladies have planned a Baby Shower for **Casey Curry** on Sunday, September 12th. 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

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: **Brenda Haraway** is back home after her trip last weekend to Lexington, Kentucky... **The Stiles: Chuck & Benita** are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... **Opal Conn** is in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of August 22nd:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	115
	Morning Worship	137
	Evening Worship	94
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	77

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 29th:

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.....	A. J. Price
Lord's Supper	Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer	Clayton Hamm

Other Assignments for the week of August 29th:

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

Wednesday, September 1st:

Song Leader	Griffin Holt
Bible Reading	Russ Wulfekuhl
.....	(John 2:13-25)
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Invitation	Dan Reed
Closing Prayer	Frank Melton

Sunday, September 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harold Ash
Assisting	Larry Tucker
Serving	Sam Gregory..... Keenon Currier
.....	Marvin Putman..... Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harold Ash
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of September 5th:

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