

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

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No. 44

“Choose For Yourselves This Day”

David A. Cox

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

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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

“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:14-15).

In Joshua’s farewell address to the children of Israel, he was issuing them a challenge in their service to the Lord. The challenge hinges on making the right choice and then following through with it. Let us consider some things we can learn from this statement made by the leader of God’s people.

Man Must Make A Choice

Each one must make a choice. We can see that Joshua did not say choose if you want to, or if you have to choose, but rather Joshua said, “choose for yourselves this day.” The matter of choice was a necessity for each one of them to make. Joshua could not make it for them, and they could not make it for Joshua. Jesus taught this as well in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 6:24, we read, “No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” In Matthew 12 Christ was accused of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of the devils. Christ taught there that it was ridiculous to say that devils were cast by the power of the devil. God and Satan are not in agreement and cannot live together. Jesus went to say on this occasion, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad” (Matthew 12:30). Jesus clearly is stating that this choice must be made by each one of us.

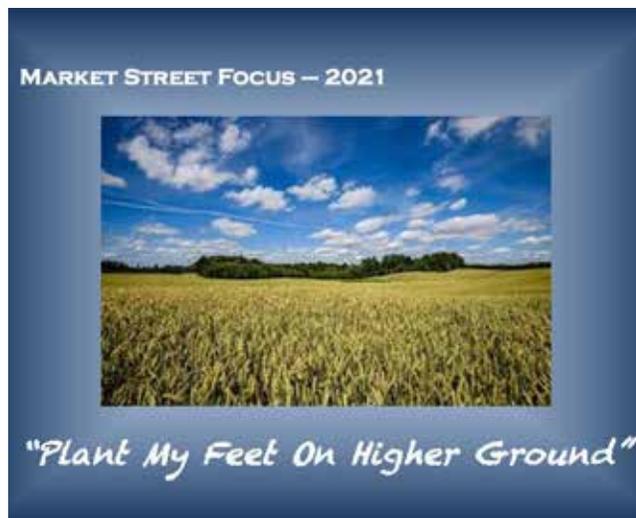
The Choice Is Whom You Will Serve

Joshua told the Israelites to “choose ... whom you will serve.” Were

they going to be righteous and serve God? Or would they look for the convenient way or take the path of least resistance? As we have already noticed, Christ taught that man cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). Paul states this as well, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slave to whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” (Romans 6:16). Clearly, Paul states that men can choose who they will obey. God will not force a man to obey Him, but if one chooses unrighteousness, they are not serving God and will suffer eternal punishment. The service God expects is a constant service, not sporadic, or an occasional one day a week. Instead, our choice to serve God will cause us to devote our lives to God and His will. Paul speaks of the devotion one should have as he says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). As Joshua told the children to choose whom they would serve, Paul warns us about who we serve and encourages Christians to live faithful for the Master.

What Will Be Your Choice?

The choice is for each one of us to make. Will we choose to follow something other than God and His will for us? May we make the choice to follow and serve the Lord in our lives. In doing so, we can have the confidence of Paul at the end of his life. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).



Share The News

Mike Noble

They were four men whose plight no one would envy. Each had the scourge of leprosy and, consequently, had been ostracized from their fellow citizens. Adding to their present misery was the fact that an enemy’s army had surrounded their city and laid siege to it, seeking to starve out the inhabitants. It was a terrible and unloving time – a critical time. Some in the city had even resorted to cannibalism. Meanwhile, here sat these four starving lepers at the city’s entrance.

“Why are we sitting here until we die?” they asked each other. A valid question — and the more they deliberated about the matter, the more nonsensical their inactivity appeared. They reasoned that were they to remain sitting outside the city — or even to enter it — that they would soon starve to death. But wait! There was another option: “Let us surrender to the army... If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.” And so, these four exiles proceeded to “come to the outskirts of the... camp,” and “to their surprise no one was there.” (You see, the Lord had caused the enemy to retreat and ‘run scared.’)

One can only imagine the shocked look on the faces of these men. They were so ecstatic that they gleefully went from tent to tent, collecting and hiding the spoil. (The enemy had withdrawn in such haste that they had left everything.) Oh how quickly the events had turned. In just an hour or two these four went from being the poorest men in Israel to being the richest! How happy they were. Happy, happy, happy — **Until** they came to themselves...

“Then they said to one another, “We are not doing what is right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent... Come, let us go and tell the king’s household.” Their thinking was, ‘How can we keep quiet while our countrymen back in the city are starving?’ They could not -- and thus the good news was shared, the hungering citizens of Samaria were saved, and all became well. (The story is found in God’s word, the Bible, in 2 Kings 7:3-16.)

Even a quick perusal of this account brings one to see many similarities between these men’s story and our own. We, as were they, are in dire straits. Our infirmity is not that of the flesh, however (leprosy and starvation),

but of the spirit (sin) -- a disease which will destroy us eternally if gone unremedied (Romans 6:23). "Why are we sitting here until we die?" should be our question as well. That we must do something is inarguable (James 2:14-24)! If we venture outside the sin-sick camp and look elsewhere for mercy, perhaps we might find it. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

Have you found mercy? "The Lord is very compassionate and merciful" (James 5:11). If you have been mercifully saved from your sins by the blood of Jesus, then certainly you can more than appreciate the joyfulness and merriment of those four men. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

But wait! What have you done with your 'good news'? It has been "the power of God to salvation" for you (Romans 1:16). What of those others who are still in your former condition? The same news can save them as well! Have you 'gone back' and shared the good news of the gospel message with them?

People in this area — right here in this town — are dying daily for lack of someone sharing the 'good news' with them. ARE WE "doing right"? Or, rather, are we selfishly hiding the gospel treasure from others?

Have you been hoarding God's wealth? If so, repent. Make plans now to share the gospel. Teach someone today!

~via *Central Shelby Bulletin*; Shelbyville, Kentucky.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Ruby Dean Ezell	Nancy Hardison
Helen Blankenship	Betty Pepper
Shirley Miller	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Justice Gentry
Diane Kilpatrick	Janice Cagle

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Tommy Burns
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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	Gerry Sandusky

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	

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
 Jimmy Stroud; Valley View, Madison
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton; Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Sandra Locke; Cape Canaveral, Florida
Angela Levy; Maury Regional – Columbia, Tenn.

Updates:

Ruby Dean Ezell went to the doctor this past week and is to return on Monday for an ultrasound... *Nancy Hardison* had outpatient surgery on Friday... *James Adams* went to the doctor this past week to check on the weakness and issues with his leg... *Donna Wright* received a good report on Monday from the doctor that they did not see any sign of the cancer. She is to go to the doctor on Tuesday for CT scan... *Vicki Stringer* will begin her treatment on Monday... *Albert & Brenda Haraway's grandson, Justice Gentry*, received a good report from his doctor's visit in Birmingham last week... *Tommy Burns* is being treated for his cancer... *Priscilla Tucker* continues

to be treated for her cancer ... **Gerry Sandusky** is not well as he is battling cancer. The doctors are managing his pain ... **Mildred Lambert's granddaughter, Angela Levy**, is in the hospital in Columbia, Tennessee with multiple health problems. ... **Ronnie Locke's daughter-in-law, Sandra Locke**, is in the hospital in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a ventilator. She is not doing well and the prognosis is not good. ... **Kerry Lowman's father, Travis Lowman**, had an arteriogram on Friday. Remember our expecting mothers **Casey Curry, Lynsey Adams**, and **Laura Adams**, in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, November 8th, at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. Please join them next Monday 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.

PREACHING AWAY: The Lord willing, I will be with the *Brookhill church* in Killen tonight.

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 **Lynsey Adams** on November 7th at the Deer Trail Clubhouse from 2:00 to 3:30. Landon and Lynsey's baby, Jessie Marie, is registered at:

Amazon — Target — Posh Mommy

WEDDING: There is a wedding invitation posted in the vestibule for the wedding of **Elizabeth Usery & Garrett Mixon**. The wedding will be on November 6th at 3:00 p.m. The wedding will take place at Peaceful River Hideaway. The address is 17374 Lakeside Estates Road, Athens. They are requesting RSVP at:

WWW.THEKNOT.COM/GARRETTANDELIZABETHMIXON

OUT OF TOWN: *The Haraways: Albert & Brenda* are in Kentucky this weekend. ... **Doris Fisher** is in Kentucky this weekend. ... **Ronnie Locke** left Friday to go to Cape Canaveral, Florida. ... *The Broadus': Bob & Phyllis* continue on vacation to New Mexico. ... **Dale Adcock** is in Texas visiting with family.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of October 24th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	113
	Morning Worship	145
	Evening Worship	98
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	83

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 31st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Stephen Lynn
Serving	Keenon Currier Marvin Putman
.....	Clayton Hamm Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	Young Men
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Harold Ash

Other Assignments for the week of October 31st:

Ushers.....	Marvin Putman/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, November 3rd:

Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading	Keenon Currier
.....	(John 5:16-30)
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Invitation	Stephen Lynn
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, November 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Luke Vaughn Matthew Vaughn
.....	Sam Gregory Roger Hammonds
Closing Prayer	Jerry Baker

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Griffin Holt
Prayer.....	Larry Tucker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of November 7th:

Ushers.....	Danny Holt/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews