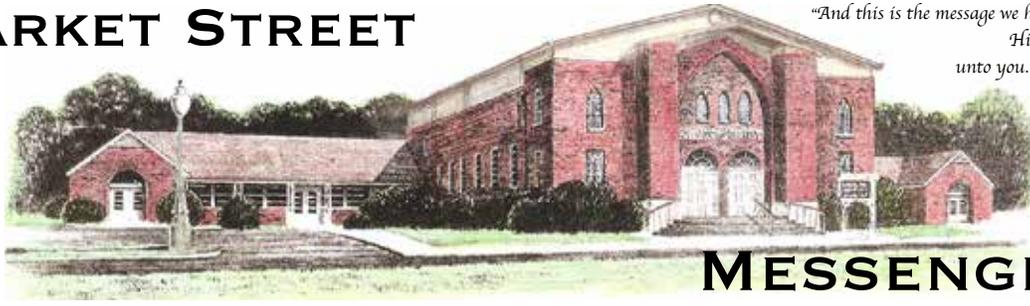


MARKET STREET



"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. 45

Crucified with Christ

David A. Cox

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

This statement from Paul is most interesting. How is it that Paul could say that Christ now lives in him? How did this happen? It was because Paul had molded himself into the image of Christ.

Paul began this process when he went to Damascus, and Ananias told him to "Arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins" (Acts 22:16). Paul had lived in the flesh as a Jew and as a Jew could glory in who he was (Philippians 3:7-14). But at Paul's conversion, that changed. He no longer lived doing what he previously thought was right or would give him a lofty reputation among the religious and political leaders. He crucified himself to live for Christ.

Putting off the Old Man

Paul wrote to the Romans concerning the crucifying of the old man. "Do you not know that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life. . . . Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin" (Romans 6:3-4,6). Notice Paul said Christians are buried in baptism and rise to walk a new life. Why? Because the old man of sin had been crucified, he had put to death the affections and lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:24).

The Focus of Our Life

Our new life will focus on the things above and not on things on the earth. We will have our minds set on Christ, for He is now our life (Colossians 3:1-4). Yes, we continue to live in the flesh, but now that Christ is enthroned in our lives, our actions will be pleasing to Him. Our lives

will be lives of faith. Trusting Him and looking to His word to find the direction for our lives (Romans 10:17; Proverbs 3:5).

The Motivation of Our Life

What is the motive of the Christian's life? One motive may be heaven, the prepared home for the faithful, which is an excellent motive. But another motive Paul mentions here is the sacrifice of Christ for us upon the cross, "He loved me and gave himself for me." As we walk in life thinking of how much Christ valued us by giving His life for us, we should be motivated to live to please Him and to do the work He has left for us to do.

May God help us to be "crucified with Christ," and to mold our life into the image of His dear Son. May our hearts and minds say as the song says:

*"Mold me, make me, as you'd have me be,
Take me, use me, that the lost may see,
Guard me, guide me, thru this pilgrim land,
Make me as clay in the potter's hand."*



Where is God in His Justice?

Brent Kercheville

We have been looking at God's answer about how He runs the world from the book of Job over the course of this year. Job returns to his cry of desiring to be in a courtroom with God so a just verdict would be rendered to resolve his suffering. But it is not possible to do so (23:1-4). If Job could, he is ready with arguments for God to set this situation straight (23:4-5). God would listen to Job's arguments and Job would be found in the right because God would welcome the arguments from an upright person (23:6-7). Then God would alleviate Job's suffering. But Job cannot find God or enter his plea with him (23:8-9).

Even in the face of all of this suffering, Job has not rejected God or walked away from Him (23:11-12). Job points out the sovereignty of God (23:13-14). God does as He pleases. Whatever His will is, He will accomplish that will. God is all-powerful and exercises control. But the sovereignty of God is fearful to Job because

this means to Job that this trial will never stop or never change. God will not change this! God has decided to destroy me and there is nothing I can do about it. This is what Job feels and it brings him to despair. We may feel like Job in trials but this is an inaccurate feeling. We can approach God and change God's mind. This is a stunning fact we see in the life of Abraham who speaks to God about Sodom and Gomorrah. God does relent. God does listen to His children. This means for us that the sovereignty of God is not fearful but comforting and amazing. This gives the people of God peace during times of suffering. God rules. God sees. God knows. God is in control. God will accomplish His will. So we can talk to God about His purposes and pray for certain outcomes by the will of God to help us through our suffering. In fact, God calls for us to pray to Him and have these discussions with Him.

Why Doesn't God Do Something?

In chapter 24 Job moves to describing the evil acts of the wicked. The first verse of chapter 24 asks the question that is often on the minds of the righteous: Why doesn't God do something? Why doesn't God bring the wicked into judgment? Why do the wicked continue on in their days? Please consider that what Job is saying is a direct rebuttal of what his friends have said. His friends have said that the wicked get what they deserve. Yet Job says that he looks around and he does not see that. "From out of the city the dying groan, and the soul of the wounded cries for help; yet God charges no one with wrong" (Job 24:12 ESV).

Why doesn't God bring the wicked into judgment? We ask this question and feel this pain. We often do not see the righteous judgments of God. We want God to do something now. So we should not struggle with Job expressing a disconnect in his understanding of God. How often do we feel the same disconnect? We know the truth of God's character from His word but it does not feel that way. Why doesn't God bring His judgment? Why doesn't God do something against the wicked? Yet now Job affirms his belief that God will do something. God will judge the wicked. They will not get off without punishment because Job knows that God is just. He still has faith in God and still believes in God's justice even in the midst of all his suffering and loss (24:24).

Hope In Justice

We also continue to hope in God's justice. Job wants justice on the wicked now. While this often sounds good to the righteous, the righteous must understand even

they are deserving of God's judgment. It is only because of God's patience and mercy have we been granted the time to receive the grace of God and be forgiven. Instant justice would be disastrous for all human beings. Jesus did not come to judge the world but to save it. God could easily and quickly judge all people for we are all deserving of judgment. But God desires to save all people from their sins. His goal is not to destroy us for our sins. God patiently desires all to return to him.

So how can God continue to be just? There must be a final judgment because God is just yet what happens in this world is not just. God will take care of the wicked. God will hold the wicked in account. But justice cannot come now. God does not run the world by righting all of the world's wrongs now, shortly, in our lifetimes, or ever in this physical life. Our hope is not right now. God made a promise: "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord" (Romans 12:19). Just as our vindication does not come in this life so also God's judgment on the wicked does not come in this life from our actions. We do not give justice. If we believe that God is just, then we must believe in a final judgment. God will deal with evil. God will give justice. But we must wait for it.

~via *Focus Magazine*; December 2020.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Lona Jackson	Meredith Parks
Judy Vaughn	Ruby Dean Ezell
Nancy Hardison	Vickie Brown
Helen Blankenship	Betty Pepper
Shirley Miller	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Justice Gentry
Diane Kilpatrick	Janice Cagle

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

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
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	Bobbie Adcock, rm.
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	Bobby Ogles, rm. 13
Ann Bush, rm. 75	

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

Updates:

Ruby Dean Ezell went to the doctor this past Monday for an ultrasound and has not heard back from it ... **Judy Vaughn** had surgery on Friday...**Meredith Parks** had surgery on Wednesday and it went well...**Nancy Hardison** is recovering from her recent surgery...**Lona Jackson** suffered a fall last Sunday afternoon but did not suffer any broken bones ...**Vickie Brown** spent a few days in the Madison Hospital due to blood clots, but is now at home ...**James Adams** went to the doctor this past week to check on the weakness and issues with his leg...**Vicki Stringer** has taken her treatment this 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 ...Remember our expecting mothers **Casey Curry**, **Lynsey Adams**, and

Laura Adams, in your prayers.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Ronnie Locke**, in the passing of his daughter-in-law, **Sandra Locke**. Sandra passed away on Monday in Cape Canaveral, Florida from complications of the virus. The arrangements for a memorial for Sandra are incomplete at this time ... We also express our deepest sympathy to **Brenda Eden**, in the passing of her mother-in-law, **Jean Eden**, on Tuesday afternoon. She lived in Avon, Indiana. Her funeral was Friday afternoon in Avon. The burial will be this afternoon in Portland, Tennessee... We also want to express our sympathy to **Mildred Lambert**, in the passing of her granddaughter, **Angela Leyva**. She passed away on Wednesday afternoon in Columbia, Tennessee. Angela's funeral was Saturday morning in Columbia. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery in Athens Saturday afternoon. May the Lord bless the Locke, Eden, and Lambert-Leyva families at this time.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet tomorrow morning at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. 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.

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** this afternoon 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

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate **Elizabeth Usery & Garrett Mixon** on their marriage yesterday afternoon. We wish Garrett and Elizabeth a long and happy life together. May their life be filled with many blessings in their life together.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Ashes:** *Harold & Barb* are away at the Gulf... **Brenda Eden** is in Tennessee today for the burial of her mother-in-law... **The Broadus:** *Bob & Phyllis* are back home safely after their lengthy trip out west.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of October 31st:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	103
	Morning Worship	140
	Evening Worship	100
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	77

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblenz
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Christian Usery ... 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 Coblenz
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of November 7th:

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

Wednesday, November 10th:

Song Leader	Griffin Holt
Bible Reading	Heath Dollar
.....	(John 5:31-47)
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Marty R. Adams

Sunday, November 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Albert Haraway
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harold Ash
Assisting	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Luke Vaughn Kenneth Adams
.....	Sam Gregory Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Albert Haraway
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblenz
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harold Ash
Closing Prayer	Larry Tucker

Other Assignments for the week of November 14th:

Ushers.....	Russ Wulfekuhl/ Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams