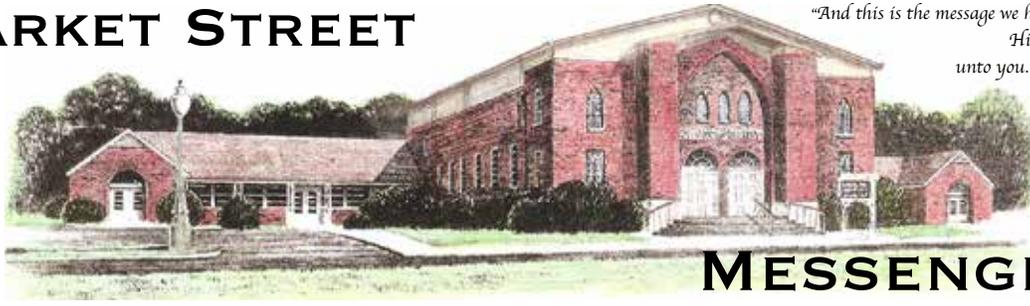


MARKET STREET



"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

November 14, 2021

No. 46

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
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

A Focus in Life That Looks Ahead

David A. Cox

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

It is without question that Paul lived a life strictly focused on pleasing God and going to heaven. Paul gives us a good picture of what it takes to live this kind of life. Let us consider what Paul teaches us.

Putting the Past Behind Us.

Paul, before he was converted, was Saul of Tarsus. In his life before becoming a Christian, he had persecuted the church and God's people. Acts 7 mentions Saul as consenting to the death of Stephen. Looking back at his life, Paul could have allowed this and other similar events to cripple his ability to function in a positive way for the cause of Christ. Paul could look at his life and see himself as the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). However, Paul did not dwell on the failures of the past.

Furthermore, Paul did not dwell on the beatings, imprisonments, and sufferings he endured for his work in the gospel. As a Christian, Paul suffered greatly (2 Corinthians 11:23-28), and these sufferings could have brought about much discouragement and disappointment. Paul did not consume his life with these demoralizing events and allow them to cloud his mind and service to the Lord.

Reaching Toward the Things Ahead

By forgetting the things behind him, Paul was able to focus on what was ahead. There is far more in front of the child of God than what is behind him. The focus of the Christian should be changed with a life that views things from a different perspective. Paul gives some insight into the thinking of the Christian in the life they live. Paul writes, "Whatever things are true, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things"

(Philippians 4:8). Paul is not saying that nothing bad or evil will ever be around those who serve the Lord, but that the attitude of heart should focus on the good and not the bad. Doing so will help us forget the failures and disappointments in life and focus on what we have ahead of us.

Fixed His Eyes on the Goal

Paul said, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). Clearly, Paul had fixed his eyes on the goal. The Hebrew writer gives a similar encouragement as he writes about the Christian running the race of life. “...Let us run with endurance the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2-3). Christians should always have in the forefront of their mind the salvation that God has made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus. The Hebrew writer tells us we need to focus our minds on the goal. Paul lived his life pressing, focusing on the goal that was before him.

God expects His people to focus on what is ahead. It is a godly focus that does not just see the problems and mistakes of the past. Rather it is a life that sees the hope and assurances of the future. May we ever strive to check our focus on the heavenly prize that awaits us.



Being Better Than the Pharisees

John Pollard

In Matthew 5:20, Jesus said, “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Ponder with me for a second. How do you think the Jews felt about that statement? Maybe some would expect their response to be something along the lines of, “We completely understand where you are coming from Jesus and we’ll do it.” But that would probably be extremely hopeful at best.

The truth is, they were probably stunned by those words. To the Jews, the Scribes and the Pharisees were the best in terms of keeping the law and doing what it says. They had the law, the scrolls and they were the teachers of the law. How could they (and we) possibly be more righteous than themselves? And so their response would have likely been something along the lines of, “There is just no way! This is such a high standard. Very difficult, impossible even!” But the problem the Jews had was their misconception of their religious leaders. They were in fact not really spiritual pillars and leaders at all.

The Pharisees, especially so, had a righteousness that consisted in outward observances of the ceremonial and traditional law. They offered sacrifices, fasted often, prayed much, were very punctual and rigorous about tithes and the ceremonies of religion, but they neglected justice, truth, purity, and holiness of heart (cf. Matthew 23:1-33). Their righteousness, to put it bluntly, was fake. It was truly counterfeit. Jesus spoke concerning their habit of always saying but never doing what they said (Matthew 23:1-4). Every opportunity that they got, they sought to glorify themselves among men (Matthew 6:1-5; 23:5-15, 27-30). And these two things combined demonstrated their uncanny ability to be relentlessly blind in heart (Matthew 15:1-9; John 9:40-41).

So, at the end of the gospel story when the Jews could take all these things into consideration (and us as well), the realization would be that Jesus’ statement about being better than the Pharisees in Matthew 5:20 wasn’t such an uphill task as one thought it to be before. When Jesus got done with His criticism of these so-called religious leaders, they were nothing more than sons of the devil and blind guides leading the masses astray. It was most certainly not impossible for the Jews to be better than that and it is most certainly possible for us to be better than them as well. So, how can we be better than the Pharisees?

We can start by actually “practicing what we preach.” This is simply another way of saying we need to take God’s word seriously and be doers of it and not merely hearers lest we delude ourselves (James 1:22-25). We also need to bring the glory to God and not to ourselves (Matthew 5:16). It is of utmost importance that we live in such a way that people who do not know God will come to know Him because we are being doers and looking to glorify Him every opportunity we get. Our lights shouldn’t be shining so people can see us,

but rather so that they can see the One who lives in us. Finally, we need to be willing to open the eyes of our heart and obey Jesus (Jn. 9:39; 15:14-15). Unless we are willing to swallow our pride and come to Jesus in humble submission, we will all likewise perish being outside of the kingdom.

When Jesus declared that we all needed to be better than the Pharisees, He meant that unless we have a genuine character of holiness that is pure, loving, forgiving rooted in the fear of God then we are in the same boat as they. May we all strive to look to Jesus, the greatest example of what it means to be better, and may we strive to be better than the Pharisees.

~via *Zanesville church of Christ*; Zanesville, Ohio.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Don Bates	James Adams
Bonnie Sutton	Kolton Hardison
Betty Pepper	Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson	Mareidith 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	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Barry DeFoor	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Gerry Sandusky

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B
Bobbie Adcock, rm.	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77

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:

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:

Deanie Britton Huntsville Hospital – Huntsville

Updates:

Don Bates has continue to not be feeling well this week. He had a EKG done on Friday ... *James Adams* has learned that his weak spells may be caused by afib. The doctors gave him some medication and he is trying to get in to see a cardiologist ... *Nikki Ogles* has been sick and has not been able to be out ... *Ruby Dean Ezell* went to the doctor this past Monday for an ultrasound and has not heard back from it ... *Judy Vaughn* is recovering from her surgery last week. She is awaiting word from the test results on the tissue that was sent off for testing ... *Mareidith Parks* is recovering at home from her surgery ... *Theresa Tucker* had a spell on Wednesday and spent the night in hospital for observation. She was released Thursday ... *Helen Blankenship* has a double ear infection which is causing much pain. She is taking medication for the infection. She has been through a series of tests and will be having more ... *Vicki Stringer* finished her treatment last weekend ... *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 *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. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, November 20th at 2:00 p.m., at the Salem Springs Baptist church.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, November 22nd at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. Please join them next Monday morning.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Wednesday evening, *Mary Stroud* came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness. We are thankful for Mary and her good heart and desire to please the Lord. May we all encourage Mary as she has encouraged us in our service to the Lord. May the Lord bless Mary.

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.

NEWBABY: We want to congratulate *Dustin & Casey Curry* on the birth of their daughter, *Catilyn Bexley*, last Friday afternoon. Catilyn weighed 7 lbs 11 ozs and was 20 inches long. She is now at home with her parents and her big brother, *Sam*.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Ashes: Harold & Barb* are away at the Gulf... *Christian Usery* is in Nashville working.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of November 7th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	111
	Morning Worship	144
	Evening Worship	104
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	79



Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Coblentz
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

Wednesday, November 17th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading	Stephen Lynn
	(John 6:1-14)
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Invitation	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Frank Melton

Sunday, November 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Bob Broadus
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting	Jerry Baker
Serving	Nathaniel Adams....
	Matthew Usery
	Clayton Hamm
	Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Stephen Lynn
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	David Barnett
Other Assignments for the week of November 21 st :	
Ushers.....	Keenon Currier/Hunter Cox
Work Sound System.....	Marty R. Adams