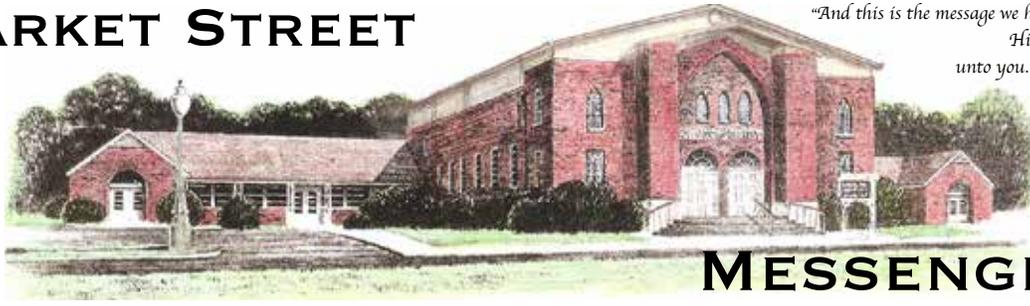


MARKET STREET



“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

Volume XIII

December 5, 2021

No. 49

Learning To Forgive

David A. Cox

“And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors”—(Matthew 6:12).

Jesus, giving an example of prayer for his disciples, reminded them to pray for forgiveness. Jesus follows the model prayer teaching them that God will not forgive them if they do not forgive others (Matthew 5:14-15). Forgiveness does not seem the natural way for a man to react. “I will forgive, but I won’t forget” is the motto that many live. Perhaps it is this reason why Jesus, early in his ministry, dealt with the subject of forgiveness in the “Sermon on the Mount.” The fact is clear, men need to learn to forgive.

What Does It Mean to Forgive?

Too many believe that forgiveness is merely a ceasing of hostile actions toward another. Often there is a willingness to place the one that committed a wrong on probation, but not a full restoration as if nothing ever happened. To truly understand forgiveness, we must see how God does it. When God forgives sin:

1. *He pardons our sin.* He removes the very thought of the transgression from Him (Hebrew 10:17). There is an example in Luke 15. The main character in this parable, the forgiving father, is a picture of God. The father receives the son who had sinned against him and was not worthy of being called his son. The text describes the son’s return, “But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry” (Luke 15:20-24).
2. *He treats us just like the sin never happened.* In Luke 15, the father forgave the son and restored him to his previous position. The best robe

was his to wear; the ring was placed on his finger and shoes on his feet. This son wanted to be a servant, but the father wanted him back as his son; with forgiveness, that is possible. Without a doubt, God is seen receiving us back into his love, favor, and fellowship unconditionally. God greatly loves us and patiently waits for us to repent so He can show us His great mercy.

Having a Heart of Forgiveness

Forgiving is a difficult thing to do, but we must learn to do so. We must develop a heart for forgiveness. When you examine the word “forgive,” you will see the word “give.” That word is vital when it comes to having a heart of forgiveness. We must give before we can forgive.

We must give up pride, the delusion that we are always right, and always having our way. Until we can give up these things, it will be impossible for us to forgive as we should. We may call it forgiveness, but there will always be expectations beyond the contrite heart that we will expect. We must learn that we cannot control the lives of people and all the things around us. We must allow others to make the choices in their lives and for their lives. We must let God control us and let the word work through us and into the lives of those around us. The heart of forgiveness must always possess the willingness to forgive. Remember Jesus taught his disciples not to forgive until “seven times, but up to seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22).

May we work to develop a heart that is tender and genuinely forgives as God forgives.



Cancelled Joy?

Scott Hafer

A new word buzzword that we see popping up these days is “cancel culture.” It’s also known as “call-out culture” and “outrage culture.” You can see it online and in the media. The idea is if you take a stand and speak truth, you may be subject to call-out, outrage, and being canceled by the angry mob. As a result, people have become afraid to step out and stand out. But how much power does

the world really have over Christians, anyway? Sure, they can take-away many things, but can they strip us of that which is most important? I think not. One such thing this world cannot do is cancel Christian joy. That’s because Christian joy is not from this world. According to the Bible, Christian joy comes from our Lord, Jesus the Christ who reigns in heaven.

- **Nehemiah 8:10** — “Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength”
- **Isaiah 61:10** — “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God”
- **Romans 15:13** — “May the God of hope fill you with all joy”
- **Philippians 4:4** — “Rejoice in the Lord”

Why is this important? When your joy comes from Christ and is utterly steadfast through suffering, shame, persecution and loss, the world and its culture lose its power over you. You might take a stand the culture despises, and they might attempt to shame and cancel you, but since your joy comes from Christ, they’ve lost their control. Cancel culture is not a new thing, by the way. Let me give you a 2000-year-old example of an attempt at cultural control through mob outrage, canceling, and shaming that completely failed because it could not conquer Christian joy. It’s found in Acts 5:40–41. The cultural elite were trying to silence the voice of Christians — just like our culture often tries to do. Here’s what happened:

“They beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.”

That’s Christian joy. It’s the only kind that ultimately matters, because it’s the only kind that survives and thrives in spite of difficult circumstances. If our joy comes from the world — worldly comfort, worldly reward and therefore worldly control — we are subject to the world and not free. Christian joy sets people free. Joy in Christ has always been liberating from cultural control. In getting our joy from heaven, we become free on earth. So, no matter how hard the world tries, it cannot cancel your joy in Christ.

~via *Woodland Hills church of Christ*; Marion, Indiana.

**The Market Street
church of Christ Website at:
MarketStreet-church.com**

Prove All Things

Brent Phillips

There is a definite problem in the religious world today and among religious individuals who claim to have the truth, yet refuse to “prove all things” (1 Thesalonians 5:21) – or are afraid to do so. There appear to be too many who will not or cannot “give answer to every man” (1 Peter 3:15) concerning their faith. No one who holds a faith should be afraid to examine that faith in the light of God’s word. A faith that is not allowed to be challenged or examined is one that is not worth having or holding.

Our faith must be based upon the Truth. It would seem that in religion, many base their faith upon selfish and deceitful feelings or upon human wisdom and man-made traditions rather than upon the Word of God. Yet in God’s word, we find that self, tradition, and human wisdom are absolutely condemned as a basis for faith and Truth: See Proverbs 14:26; Jeremiah 10:23; 17:9; Matthew 15:7-14; Mark 7:6-9; I Corinthians 1:18-2:16.

It is from Jesus, the Son of God that we learn what Truth is and where it can be found: “The Word of God is Truth” (John 17:17). In religion, Truth is only found in the Word of God and our faith is to be founded only upon that Word: “Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). It is thus to the inspired Word that we must go for our authority for everything we do or say in religion (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11; 1 Corinthians 4:6), and in doing so we must “handle carefully the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 3:15). It is in our respect, understanding, and obedience to the Scripture that we can be made “wise unto salvation” (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

The Word of God is inspired (2 Peter 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17); perfect (James 1:21-25); complete and “delivered once and for all unto the saints” (Jude 3). The Word, when obeyed, can “purify the soul” (1 Peter 1:22-25); and can make the individual child of God everything God wants him/her to be (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Thus, let us “prove all things and hold fast to that which is good” and make sure that we are God’s people holding to the “one faith” (Ephesians 4:4-6). Truth has nothing to fear from honest investigation. The only thing that will suffer from the honest investigation of God’s Word is error. ~via *Valley Bulletin*; Glendael, Arizona.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

James Adams	Betty Pepper
Lona Jackson	Vickie Brown
Helen Blankenship	Shirley Miller
JoAnn Gilbert	Doris Lovell
Diane Kilpatrick	

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	Jeannie Felker

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:

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

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

Updates:

Jennifer Threet is going to the doctor after monitoring her blood pressure for the past week. The doctor will determine from that what they will do for Jennifer ... **James Adams** is taking some medication and waiting to see a cardiologist ... **Frances Bowers** is not doing as well lately. ... **Harold Ash** is to get the results back on Monday from his PET scan done a couple of weeks ago ... **Vicki**

Stringer received a round of her therapy this week ... *Judy Vaughn's sister-in-law, Jeannie Felker*, received report that her growth appeared to be pre-cancerous and had surgery on Wednesday to remove the growth. She is back home now ... *Helen Blankenship* setup her therapy this week that they will begin for her ... *Tommy Burns* continues being treated for his cancer... Remember our expecting mothers *Lynsey Adams*, and *Laura Adams*, in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, December 12th to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this please join them next Monday morning.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of *Ruby Jo Dunnavant*. She passed away during the night Wednesday night. Visitation and Funeral will be Tuesday at Limestone Chapel... We want to express our deepest sympathy to all the family of *Bud White*. Bud was the preacher for the Northside church and passed away on Thursday morning. May the Lord bless his family at this time.

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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Ashes: Harold and Barb* have been in Indianapolis, Indiana this past week ... *Isabella Perry, Nancy Hardison and the children* are in Madison, Indiana this weekend for the funeral service for Gerry Sandusky ... *Christian Usery* is in Nashville working.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of November 28th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	116
	Morning Worship	155
	Evening Worship	111
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	94



Remember Our Bible Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Larry Tucker
 ServingKeenon Currier..... Marvin Putman
Matthew Vaughn..... Hayden Pierce
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Jerry Baker
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing PrayerDan Reed
 Other Assignments for the week of December 5th:
 Ushers.....Larry Mitchell/Keith Hinkle
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

Wednesday, December 8th:

Song LeaderTommy Burns
 Bible Reading Griffin Holt
(John 6:41-59)
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Sunday, December 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Joel Hamm
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Hunter Cox
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 ServingLandon Adams..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Roger Hammonds ..Keenon Currier
 Closing Prayer Harold Ash

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Hunter Cox
 Closing PrayerClayton Hamm
 Other Assignments for the week of December 12th:
 Ushers..... Tommy Coblentz/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews