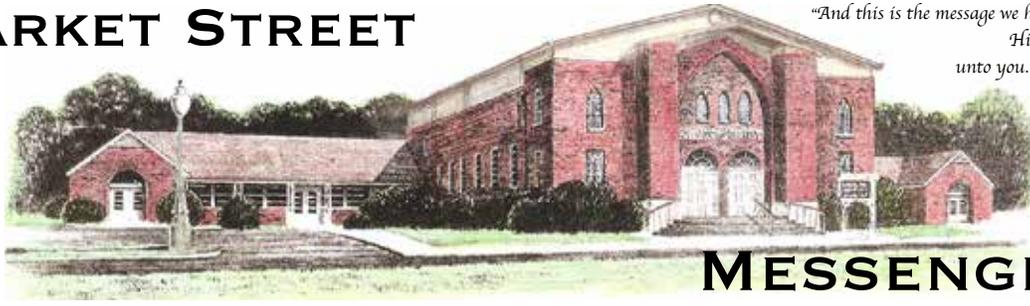


MARKET STREET



"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

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 50

How To Be Strong in Faith

David A. Cox

"And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God." (Romans 4:19-20)

Paul mentions the faith of Abraham as not being weak in faith but having a faith that did not waver. Abraham's strong faith caused him not to stagger at the promise of God. Instead, he was fully persuaded or convinced at what God promised. Let us consider how Abraham developed this kind of faith.

By Giving Glory to God.

Paul tells us that he strengthened his faith by "giving glory to God." (Romans 4:20). In living life, Abraham was not focused on the glory for himself, but giving thanks and praising God for the promises and blessings that were his to enjoy. This is one area that is often forgotten by too many. Life is from God, and we cannot make life ourselves. We should praise and exalt His name for the promises and blessings God bestows on us. Giving thanks to God for the salvation, His providential care for us, and His promise to never leave us or forsake us. Indeed, we should give glory to God for many things, and doing so will strengthen our faith as it did Abraham's.

By Putting His Faith to Action.

Paul stressed that Abraham's justification was by having a working faith. The idea of Abraham being justified by works is set forth by James in James 2. James writes, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he had offered Isaac, his son upon the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith made perfect?" (James 2:21-22). James shows that Abraham put his faith into action and did not simply state, "I have faith." Abraham did what God told him to do. We see this in Genesis 12 as God tells him to leave Ur and go to a land I will give to you. Abraham took his family and did what God said

to do. After Isaac had been born, God told Abraham to offer his son Isaac on the altar. Again, Abraham precisely did what God told him to do.

By Believing in the Power of God.

The promises God made to Abraham came when the situation was very bleak. God promises to make his descendants a great nation. The only problem was that he and Sarah were well past the child-bearing years. Abraham did not take time to ponder and create doubt in what God had promised him. Abraham was a great man of faith, and that was the result of the fact that he believed in the awesome power of God. Abraham knew that God was the Creator of the world and all things. If God can bring everything Abraham saw, then God can bring anything He desires to pass. Abraham's faith was founded on the fact that God is.

May each one of us develop a strong faith as Abraham possessed. May we heed the teachings of the word of God, obeying them without delay and without applying our personal thoughts. Simply do what God teaches in His word and give glory to God for all that He has done for us.



Evacuation Order

Jared Hagan

Do you ever wonder about the people who won't leave? It always seems to happen. A natural disaster is occurring and mandatory evacuations are sent out, but some people just won't leave. They hold out hope that the hurricane won't be as bad as the experts warn. They think that maybe they can protect their house from the oncoming fire. Whatever their thinking, they are often wrong. Lives are lost as a result, not to mention rescuers risking their own lives to save those people.

Why wouldn't they just leave and be safe? I suppose they don't believe the warnings. I suppose they are attached to their stuff and unwilling to risk losing it (not that they can really protect their homes and stuff in a large natural disaster). I suppose that they don't want the hassle of evacuation. After all, the roads quickly

get overwhelmed and escape is tediously slow. Why bother, right?

But after the disaster is over, I have heard many people, after being rescued, comment that they shouldn't have stayed.

I don't know about you, but I always find myself nodding along with them. "Yep. You should have left." And I confess to thinking the people a bit foolish. They were warned. They should have known better.

Do you agree?

If so, perhaps you should consider the warning that John gives us about this world. "The world is passing away" (1 John 2:17). This world is doomed. We've been warned by the foremost expert: God. He isn't guessing.

The world is doomed. All of the material things of this world will be destroyed. But not just that. John adds, "And also its lusts" (1 John 2:17). All of the worldly desires are doomed too.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10).

This world is facing a disaster unlike anything it has ever seen before. It will truly be the end. It could happen at any moment. And God has—in a way—sent out an evacuation order. Flee from the lusts of the world (1 Peter 2:11). Dedicate yourself to spiritual holy conduct which will last rather than focusing on worldly things that won't (2 Peter 3:11-13).

Have you obeyed the order? Or do you find yourself making the same mistakes as those people we spoke about earlier? Do you act like the world is doomed or have you attached yourself and your heart to everything the world has to offer? Maybe we don't think the end will really come, so we go on living a life focused on physical things and following worldly lusts. Maybe we don't want to give up the things of this world. Maybe we think that doing so would be too painful and too much of a hassle.

It is so easy to sit in judgment of those on television who've had to be rescued because of their stubborn foolishness. But maybe they are just a reflection of ourselves. In their case, at least some of them survived. Those who don't heed God's warning won't be so fortunate.

~via *Northside church of Christ*; Colorado Springs, Colorado.

When Your World Collapses

Doug Seaton

What do you do when your enemies seem to be in control? What do you do when your problems and fears multiply? When you are overwhelmed you might consider King Jehoshaphat.

King Jehoshaphat is an obscure king in a historical book of the Bible written about three thousand years ago. He was a king during the divided Kingdom. He faced massive armies coming to destroy him and his kingdom. What did he do?

“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord... Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord...and said, ‘O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule in heaven, and all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to stand against You?’ (2 Chronicles 20:3-6).

God sent His prophet Jahaziel with the following message, “Listen all of Judah...Thus says the Lord to you: Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude for the battle is not yours but God’s” (2 Chronicles 20:15). They responded by rising early and praising God “with voices loud and high.’ They believed in the Lord. They praised the Lord and in the battle, the enemy “was defeated” (2 Chronicles 20:20-22).

As Christians we are surrounded by atheists, agnostics, and gross immorality from many of our business, political, and even religious leaders. What are we to do against such a massive army? We are to seek the Lord, pray fervently, worship God faithfully, and confidently proclaim the righteousness of our God without fear. We also need to realize our God is mighty and powerful. The battle is God’s and He will win. If we seek Him with our whole hearts we will win as well. “Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever.”

~via *West Fayette Bulletin*; Edas, Tennessee.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

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	Janice Moody, rm. 93

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:

Danny Holt had a heart cath done on Friday and it was determined that no stents were needed... **Jennifer Threet** went to the doctor this week concerning her blood pressure issues and the path forward... **James Adams** continues to not have the strength and energy to be about as he would like... **Frances Bowers** is declining in her health. She continues at Limestone Health ...

Harold Ash received a great report concerning his PET scan. There was no cancer that was seen from the scan ... *Vicki Stringer* is doing better after her treatment last week ... *Jewel Dean Kennemer* has been sick and unable to be at services ... *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 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this please join them tomorrow morning at 10:30.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Kenneth Smith and all the family*, in the passing of Kenneth's sister, *Dorothy Blaackburn*, this past Wednesday.. The graveside service was Saturday afternoon in the Sardis Spring Cemetery... We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Brenda Jones* in the passing of her aunt, *Edith Waddell*, last Sunday. The funeral was Wednesday at Spry Funeral Home and she was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. passed away during the night Wednesday night.

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 Nixons: Harvey & Pat* were in Arkansas visiting with family last week ... *Leah Richardson* is in Lakeland, Florida with her family during the holidays ... *Christian Usery* is in Nashville working.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of December 5th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	109
	Morning Worship	150
	Evening Worship	112
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	77



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 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
Serving	Landon 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 Prayer	Clayton Hamm
Other Assignments for the week of December 12 th :	
Ushers.....	Tommy Coblenz/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, December 15th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading	Hayden Pierce
.....	(John 6:60-71)
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Invitation	Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Sunday, December 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Stephen Lynn
Serving	Marvin Putman Russ Wulfekuhl
.....	Christian UseryMatthew Usery
Closing Prayer	Jerry Baker

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Stephen Lynn
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds
Other Assignments for the week of December 19 th :	
Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Marcus Morris
Work Sound System.....	Roger Hammonds