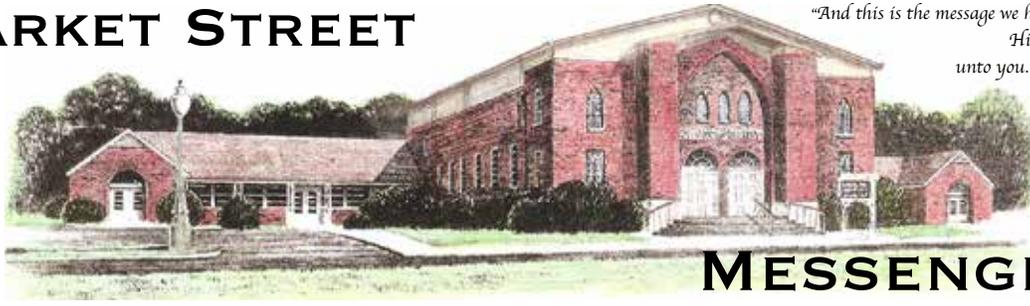


MARKET STREET



"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

December 19, 2021

No. 51

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

Looking Beyond the Grave

David A. Cox

"Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it." — (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

Death is not the end. Many seem to struggle with the thought of death. The scriptures are very clear about death and its certainty (Hebrews 9:27). Many questions are often asked, "What happens after death?" Solomon tells us that the earthly body goes back to the earth and the spirit to God. It is this fact that puts life into perspective. Many things that disturb people in this life fade into profound insignificance when we look at life beyond the grave.

Facing God Beyond The Grave

In Hebrews 9:27, we read, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." In Romans 14:12, "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." In 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." Beyond the grave, the scriptures teach that each one will face God in judgment. In this judgment, man will not be judged on what people thought of him but on how he lived in accordance with the Lord's will. (Matthew 7:21-24). Jesus said a man will be judged by "the word I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

What Does Judgment Mean?

It means that the praise of men one may have or what one's reputation among men really does not matter, and what really matters is how man is viewed by God. Just before Jesus' statement in John 12:48, John spoke of those that believed in Jesus but would not confess Him "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43). As it was then, some today fail to see beyond the grave and the coming judgment because of the praise, prestige, and position of honor that they hold among men.

But what is the fate of such people? The answer to this is best seen when Jesus pictures the judgment scene and says, “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons and in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’” (Matthew 7:22). Jesus tells us some have done many wonderful things in the eyes of men. On this side of the grave, they looked exceptional to men. But notice Jesus’ response, “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:23). We must learn to look beyond the grave and view our lives as God views them.

How would God view your life? Would God be pleased or not? We must understand that it does matter what we do on this side of the grave, and what we do or do not do will determine where we spend eternity on the other side of the grave. May we learn to live life with the view of looking beyond the grave.



They Left Their Nets

Dan Peters

Why does Mark not give me the background story? When I look for context, there is almost none! But I know from John and Luke the fuller story, but not from Mark.

As He Was Going Along

Mark wrote that Jesus was “preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” (Mark 1:14-18). If someone approached you on the street, and they wanted you to follow them, would you? No!

I would not follow them, unless I knew more about that person. The apostles knew Jesus weeks before Mark

1:14-18, but Mark does not tell you this.

The First Calling of the Apostles

“One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is translated Peter)” (John 1:40-42). This is the first calling.

John In Prison — Time Marker

After the first calling of the apostles, John the Baptist is put into prison. It’s like a time stamp in the gospels, and it happens early on in the ministry of Jesus. (Read it in Matthew 4:12, Mark 1:14, and John 3:24).

- “Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee” (Mark 1:14)
- “Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee (Matthew 4:12)

Second Calling - In Galilee

This is when Jesus calls them from their nets (Mark 1:14-18). So they already had been following Jesus and they had seen him turn water into wine. Also note that Luke, the investigator, tells us that Jesus told them to once again cast their nets into the sea. And instead of no fish, like the night before, they fill two boats full of fish with one cast of their net! (Luke 5:1-11).

Why Does Mark Record It Like It’s the First Time?

I’m not sure why Mark doesn’t tell us he is recording the second calling of the apostles. But it might be written this way because Mark wants you to see that they dropped whatever they were doing, and followed him. Mark includes the word “immediately.” Perhaps it is your turn to drop whatever you are doing, and follow Jesus to his church, every time it assembles, to the glory of God. He is there every time.

~via *West Murray Bulletin*; Murray, Kentucky.

Remember Our Bible Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

Are You Focused On Giving or Getting?

Ken Weliever

“I didn’t get anything out of worship today,” is a remark sometimes offered by disappointed church attendees.

These disgruntled “worshippers” soon find themselves relating to anyone who will listen to how awful the sermon was, how the song leader pitched the songs too high, the distractions by noisy children, and the general lack of inspiration they felt from the service.

Joe McKeever said such remarks are “like dry rot in a congregation...Like a termite infestation in the building...Like an epidemic afflicting the people of the Lord.” Unchecked, they will spread like a deadly virus.

Such complaints reflect a lack of understanding about what “going to church” really means. Worship is not about you. And me. Worship is about God. Exalting Him. Honoring Him. Giving Him praise.

While those conducting the service ought to do their very best in leading the minds and hearts of the congregation, it’s ultimately up to us individually to focus our minds upon the Lord and to worship Him. Neither the preacher, nor the pastors, nor the song leader can worship for me. It’s a choice that I make. Even when the service and the circumstances are less than ideal.

Furthermore, worship is a verb. An active verb. Worship is not something that is done to us. It’s something that we do. We are not mere spectators, seeking to be entertained. We come to participate. To be involved. And to be engaged.

If we walk away from a worship service feeling, “I didn’t get anything out of it,” are we feeling the same way about our religion? Are we viewing Christianity as mere membership in a church that offers us material, social, or emotional benefits?

Do we come to worship only to get? Or to give?

Dee Bowman was right when he wrote, “The success of Christianity is not measured by what you get out of it, but by what it gets out of you.”

~via *The Preacher’s Word*; Beverly Hills, Florida.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Jennifer Threet	Mareidith Parks
James Adams	Donna Wright
Lona Jackson	Betty Pepper
JoAnn Gilbert	Shirley Miller
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:

Jennifer Threet went to the doctor this week concerning her blood pressure issues and the path forward...**James Adams** continues to not be doing well and being able to be at services...**Donna Wright** has not been doing well

recently and is at home now after spending a day in the hospital last week for dehydration ...**Frances Bowers** is continuing to decline in her health at the Limestone Health Facility ...**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 27th to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this please join them next Monday morning at 10:30.

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning, **Kenia Adams** came forward to ask for prayers for the forgiveness of sin and for strength for her in her life. We appreciate Kenia and her desire to please God. May the Lord bless her and may we all encourage her as she has and will encourage us.

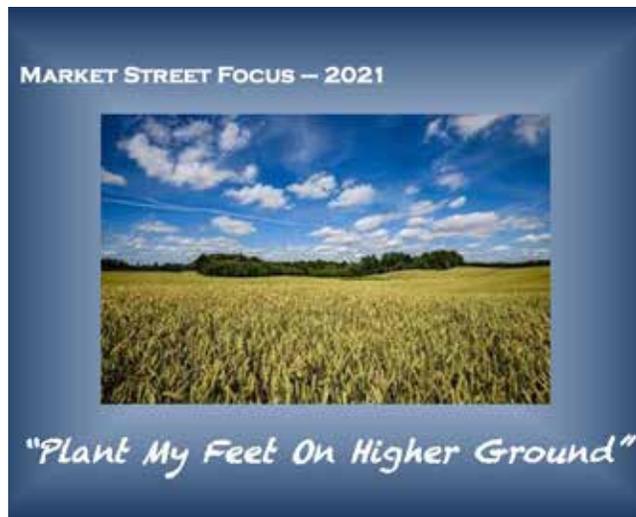
TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class is meeting each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is studying the "*Authority of the Scriptures.*" The class meets in the West Auditorium.

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: **Joe Hinkle** is in Port St. Lucie, Florida visiting with family. **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 12th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	110
	Morning Worship	151
	Evening Worship	105
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	80



Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Usery
	Matthew 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.....	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, December 22nd:

Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading	Landon Adams
	(John 7:1-9)
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Invitation	Albert Haraway
Closing Prayer	Marty Adams

Sunday, December 26th:

Morning Worship

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

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Frank Melton
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Harold Ash
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams
Other Assignments for the week of December 26 th :	
Ushers.....	Tommy Coblentz/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams