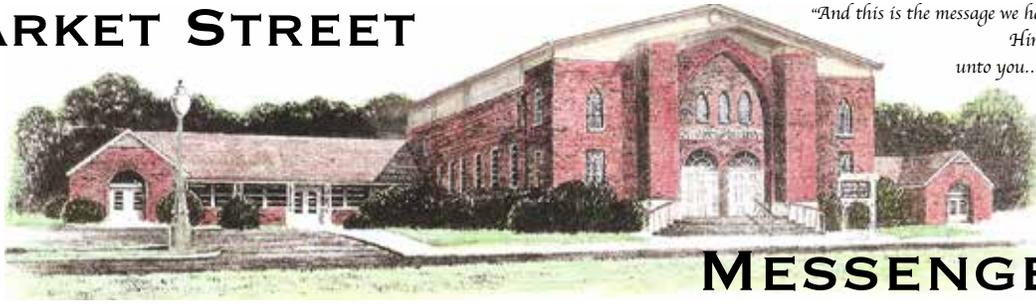


MARKET STREET



“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 XIV

February 20, 2022

No. 8

“Rejoice in the Lord Always”

David A. Cox

“Rejoice in the Lord always, Again I will say, rejoice!” – Philippians 4:4

Who does not want joy in their life? Everyone wants joy in life. When we read this exhortation from Paul, it would seem to be something that would be simple to obey. But when you start living life and looking at life, there are many pitfalls to obeying this command. Many questions will begin to be asked: Is it possible to rejoice always? What is meant by the word “rejoice?” Is this a thought of an optimist, but the reality is that it is not possible? It could be that the reading of this verse in Philippians 4 might cause some people to be depressed and despairing of being able to do it. Let us consider what Paul is commanding and how we can obey this command to please God.

Does It Mean We Will Never Be Sad?

Obviously, to rejoice always does not mean never being sad. In John 11:35, Jesus came to the grave where His friend Lazarus was buried, and we are told, “Jesus wept.” Jesus did not sin by being sad, and He was not violating any scripture by being sad. Remember, Paul told the Romans to “weep with those that weep” (Romans 12:15). Jesus could weep and be sad and still have the fulness of joy, even as He faced the cross (John 15:11). The scriptures are clear that godly people can both be those who mourn (Matthew 5:4; James 4:9; 5:1) and still have unspeakable joy (1 Peter 1:8).

We misapply this passage to mean that a Christian should never feel sadness or grief. The Psalms are filled with passages that speak of the overwhelming sadness and despair at times in this life. The Psalmist acknowledges these feelings to God, but he cries out to God for help. The Lord is great and wondrous in His love and mercy to us, and the Psalmist reminds us to put our focus on God. So, to rejoice in the Lord always doesn’t mean that we must deny our feelings as we endure the pain and trials of this life.

Rejoicing in the Lord is Primarily About Obedience.

Paul states this command, not just once, but twice. Paul emphasizes

this command so we will not just pass it by as nothing important. This command is one about our attitude. We must make the deliberate choice to obey this command, especially in times of trial and difficult circumstances in life. The command has to do with our mental focus. When the hard times come, where does our focus lie? At the time Paul is writing this letter, he is a prisoner. Notice the attitude of Paul as he writes about his circumstances.

“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear” (Philippians 1:12-14).

Paul gives a great example of rejoicing in the Lord when difficult circumstances surround you. Paul was a Christian, and his life was the Lord’s to use in His service. Life in Christ is why we can always rejoice.

It is An Attitude of Contentment and Hope.

Though our lives may be filled with the heaviness of sorrow and grief because of trials on every hand, we can still rejoice through contentment and hope. Paul gives us this picture as he writes:

“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body of the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body... Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal”

(2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 16-18).

We see the focus on the hope in Christ and the contentment in serving the Lord to help Paul rejoice in the difficult times of life.

Let us learn to find the joy in serving the Lord, recognizing that times of sorrow, distress, and despair will come, but remember the focus of rejoicing in the Lord.

Remember Our Service at 5:00.

“What Shall I Do with Jesus?”

Jeff Himmel

When Jesus was brought before Pilate, the governor found no guilt in him. Hoping to get the problem off his hands, Pilate invoked his Passover custom of releasing a prisoner of the Jews’ choosing. He offered them either Jesus or Barabbas, a rebel and murderer. The people demanded the release of Barabbas. Pilate said, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” We all know the rest of the story.

Ever since, people have had to ask themselves the same question. Jesus’ teaching is profound, his claims are astounding, his historical reality is undeniable. So “What shall I do with Jesus?”

Try to be neutral? That’s what Pilate did. Seeing that the crowd would riot if Jesus was not executed, Pilate “took water and washed his hands in front of the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to that yourselves’” (Matthew 27:24). Even today we speak of “washing our hands” of something, meaning we refuse to have any responsibility in the matter. But there really is no neutrality when it comes to Jesus. “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters” (Matthew 12:30).

Put him off? That’s what Felix did. Paul appeared before this governor and spoke about his faith in Christ. “And as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, ‘Go away for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you’” (Acts 24:25). The gospel moved Felix enough to know he must do something, but all he did was procrastinate. Countless people have been lost by responding as he did.

Forsake him? That’s what some disciples in Capernaum did. Jesus taught some things which they perceived as very difficult. “As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore” (v. 66). Like them, many today turn away from Jesus because they think his teaching is too demanding.

Deny him? That’s what Peter did. As Jesus stood on trial before the high priest Caiaphas, several people noticed Peter sitting in the courtyard and asked if he was one of Jesus’ companions. Three times he denied it: “I do not know the man!” (cf. Matthew 26:70,72,74).

Many have followed Peter's example of that night, following Jesus in fair weather, only to turn their backs on him when the going gets tough.

Sell him out? That's what Judas did. For a measly thirty pieces of silver one of Jesus' own apostles agreed to hand him over to those who sought his life (Matthew 26:14-16). Whatever keeps you from serving Jesus is, in effect, the price for which you're willing to sell him out. For most people the price is remarkably low.

Crucify him again? That's what happens when a Christian returns to a life of sin. "For in the case of those who have once been enlightened...and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6).

Obey him. The apostles preached Christ to the crowd of Jews assembled at Pentecost. "Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins'" (Acts 2:37-38). Three thousand of them did (v. 41).

The question is: What will you do with Jesus?

~via *The Plant City Planter*; Plant City, Florida.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Bonita Dollar	Marci Bassett
Shirley Miller	Heath Dollar
James Adams	Betty Pepper
Bonnie Sutton	Doris Lovell
JoAnn Gilbert	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
Doris Reid	Lloyd Adams
Phillip Harwell	Cornelia Pepper
Charles Burns	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard

Matt Bassford

Sadricia Wilson

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77 Connie Brock, rm. 62
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7

Limestone Health Facility:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
Alice Roberson, rm. 49 Bobby Ogles, rm. 113
Ann Bush, rm. 75

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:

Jay Baker; Spain Rehabilitation – Birmingham
Sadricia Wilson; Seattle, Washington

Updates:

Jay Baker is in the Spain Rehabilitation in Birmingham for rehab ...**Ruby Dean Ezell** has received her third in the series of injections in her back this week... **Jennifer Threet's daughter-in-law, Nancy Threet**, is having difficulties breathing after being diagnosed with the virus... **Albert & Brenda Haraway's grandson, Justice Gentry**, is scheduled to have surgery in Birmingham on Tuesday to have the hardware removed from the surgery he had last year ...**Marci Bassett** continues not doing well...**Betty Lovell** has been not doing well due to a flair up of her arthritis...**Jewel Dean Kennemer's granddaughter, Leigh Ellen Elliott**, has taken two or three first round of treatments and has needed blood following this treatment.

RELEASE BARKSDALE — (1923-2022): We want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of **Ellease Barksdale**. Ellease passed away this past Thursday evening at Athens Health & Rehab. Sister Barksdale has been a member of the Market Street church since 2017 when she moved to town. We have missed Ellease's presence in the last couple of years as her health did not allow her to be out. We have all been blessed to have known Ellease and see her love for the Lord. The visitation will be Saturday, February 26th at 12:00 noon followed by the

funeral at 2:00 at Limestone Chapel. She will be laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. May the Lord bless *Jennifer Threet and all her family* at this time.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Oakland church* is beginning a gospel meeting this morning and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Greg Gwin of Columbia, Tennessee*. The *Pepper Road church* is engaged in a gospel meeting that will continue through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Larry Rouse from Charlottesville, Virginia*.

OUT OF TOWN: *Shelia Holt* has been out of town with her work this week.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Marcia Thomas* in the passing of her father, *Bobby McGuire*. Bobby passed away on Friday night at the Limestone Health Facility. The funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. May the Lord bless Marcia and all the family at this time..

ANNUAL SINGING: The *10th Annual Singing* will be Friday night at 7:00. Let David know if you are able to help with parking, seating, etc.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet Monday morning to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them in the morning at 10:30.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class meets each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is studying the *"The Christian in a Secular Age."*

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of February 13th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	102
	Morning Worship	135
	Evening Worship	98
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	70

Tenth Annual Singing

February 25, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Wiley Deason & Johnny Felker



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Jerry Baker
Assisting	Hunter Cox
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Heath Dollar
	Hayden Pierce
	Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Jerry Baker
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell
Other Assignments for the week of February 20 th :	
Ushers.....	Keith Hinkle/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, February 23rd:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading.....	Tommy Coblentz
	(John 9:1-12)
Prayer.....	Bob Broadus
Invitation.....	Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer	Clayton Hamm

Sunday, February 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Roger Hammonds
	Heath Dollar
	Keenon Currier.....
	Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer	Harvey Nixon

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Christian Usery
Other Assignments for the week of February 27 th :	
Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt