

# 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**  
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Athens, Alabama 35612  
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## *No One Lives To Himself*

**David A. Cox**

*"For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself" (Romans 14:7)*

Paul wrote to the Romans about the freedom and brotherly love that ought to exist among the body of Christ. In writing, he states, "for none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself." Paul is quite clear that Christians do not live in a vacuum, and we are not to be isolated from God, brethren, and others in our lives. Let us consider this.

### **Isolation From God**

When speaking of freedom or liberty in Christ, some will proclaim that each one can do as they please. They would suggest that the teachings of God are what they would take them to be for themselves. They would say, "No one has a right to tell them anything different." This is not what Paul is saying in the text. Instead, Paul, in this text, deals with matters of opinion, issues that are indifferent to God. Man cannot exist physically or spiritually isolated from God. Physically, God made man, and He created all things that allow man to live and exist. Paul speaking to the philosophers in Athens about God, said, "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring'" (Acts 17:28). Paul writes to the Ephesians about lives that are spiritually isolated from God and Christ describing them as, "having no hope and without God" (Ephesians 2:12)

### **Isolation From Brethren.**

God knew that man was a social creature from the beginning, and there was a great need for companionship (Genesis 2:18). The Lord also knows how valuable it is for His people to be in groups of people (congregations) as they live and serve Him. During the pandemic and he isolation churches not gathering together people expressed the yearning desire to be able to shake hands, give hugs, see smiles, and hear the voices of their brethren? It should not be surprising to any that God set in place the church for Christians to come together to interact and edify one another. The Hebrew writer speaks of the assemblies, and the encouragement Christians are to give one another as we live to serve the

### **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  
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Christianity and to enhance the work of the  
Market Street church.*

*David A. Cox, Editor*

Lord (Hebrews 10:24-25). Before these instructions, the writer says, “let us draw near...” (Hebrews 10:22). It is true that “draw near” is in a spiritual sense. Still, as the text continues, the drawing near includes drawing to one another. We need one another! God knows we need one another, and He has told us to assemble together.

### **Isolation From Others.**

Jesus told His disciples to go, teach, and make disciples of everyone (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). Without question, we see our lives cannot be lived in isolation from others. If we were isolated from others, how could we teach and influence them to become disciples of Christ? The fact is, it would be impossible. The recent pandemic has done great harm to the work that the body of Christ is to do to teach the lost. The Christian is to live a life that is a light in a world of darkness (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:15). It is impossible to be a light to others when you are isolated from others.

It is evident that Paul’s statement “no one lives to himself, and no one dies to himself” is exactly right. People may try to isolate themselves from others and brethren, but you cannot isolate yourself from God. If we are to please God and go to heaven, we cannot isolate ourselves from others and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us be determined to live our lives and make as full an impact in our lives for God.



## ***Examining Our Motives***

**Joshua Welch**

In Matthew 5:20, Jesus taught the mountain audience their “righteousness” must “exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.” This may have sounded like a tough task since the “scribes and Pharisees” were known for their religiosity. Yet, despite their outward impressions there were problems Jesus saw with their hearts. One of those problems was their desire to perform outward religious acts for the applause of men, rather than being motivated by a truly gracious and giving heart. Jesus says,

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before

other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (Matthew 6:1-4, NKJV).

Over and again, Jesus exposes the hypocritical mindset of the Pharisees (see also Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 23:5). He exposes their outward impression of piety when disjointed from inner purity. He calls upon true disciples to do better. He wants us to give quietly. This means giving to “the needy” but without virtue signaling as we give. Give because it is the right thing to do and not because of the attention or recognition we may gain from our generosity. After all, the only “reward” that truly matters is the one God gives rather than the applause of men.

The “pride of life” is a very real source of temptation. “Pride” is what makes us want to brag, to be recognized, to be honored. Yet, humility recognizes despite the good deeds we may do we are but poor imitators of a perfect God from whom comes “every good and every perfect gift...with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17). God deserves the glory, not us. We would not know about selfless giving if it were not for the selfless God. So, whether there is earthly recognition or not we must still be eager to give to worthy needs as the opportunity arises without thought of self-promotion.

If we only give when for public recognition, we are violating this principle. If we only give accompanied by a social media selfie looking for compliments, we are violating this principle. If we only give to tell stories of our generosity, we are violating this principle. If we only give as an earthly tool to gain in some way here on earth (business marketing, hopes of a return favor, improve community reputation), then we are violating this principle of Jesus. May our hearts be willing to give to those in need because we love God and we love our fellow man, more than we love the attention of others. Examine your motives. Give God the glory and getting the glory will no longer be our motivation.

~via *Collection Reflections*; Anderson, Indiana.

# News & Notes...

## THE SICK:

Judy Vaughn	Sue Thomas
Tony Thomas	Ruby Dean Ezell
Don Bates	Dan Lovell
Mike Wheeler	Brad Brown
Betty Pepper	Shirley Miller
Doris Lovell	JoAnn Gilbert
Betty Lovell	

## 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
Cornelia Pepper	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Matt Bassford
Sadricia Wilson	Leigh Ellen Elliott
Wynell Romine	Elmina McLemore
Anthony Sutton	Charlotte Adams
Charlotte Griffin	

## Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Irene Inman, rm. 121
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77

## Limestone Health Facility:

Bobby Ogles, rm. 113	Ann Bush, rm. 75
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	Marie Nave, rm. 79a

## Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock; at her son's home  
Nell Barksdale; at home  
Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge  
Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
Barbara Carter; Traditions  
Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville  
Stan Stanford; at home  
Jimmy Stroud; Valley View, Madison  
William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison  
Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

## In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

*Kedrick Romine*; Huntsville Hospital; ICU  
*Anthony Sutton*; UAB Hospital, rm. ICU  
*Betty Christopher*; Huntsville Hospital

## Updates:

*Judy Vaughn* has not been feeling well following her surgery last week...*Bonnie Sutton* had the procedure done on his back this past week. It seems to be helping him...*Don Bates* got a good report on his follow-up visit to his doctor following his heart surgery...*Sharon Nave* will have surgery for a biopsy on Tuesday...*Ruby Dean Ezell* is scheduled for injections in her back on August 16<sup>th</sup>...*Dan Lovell* is continuing therapy on his shoulder...*Peggy Pepper* is continuing to recover from her recent fall. She is at home...*Irene Inman* continues in the Athens Health and Restore Rehabilitation for therapy...*Allison Usery's father, Kedrick Romine*, is doing better, but continues in Huntsville Hospital...*Taylor Gregory's grandfather, Lindsay Bates*, had heart catheterization on Thursday...*Keith Holt, the oldest son of Danny and Larry's brother, Mike*, has been diagnosed with a mass they believe is malignant at the head of the pancreas. He will be going to St. Thomas to see the gastro doctor...*Judy Vaughn's cousin, Betty Christopher*, had to return to the hospital due to some bleeding from the surgical incision...*Tena Wells daughter-in-law's father, David Duke*, was involved in a hit and run accident recently in Texas.

**TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS:** The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class will resume meeting this Tuesday morning at 10:30. The class is studying "*The Christian in a Secular Age.*"

**NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES:** We are just two weeks into the new quarter in our Bible Classes. There are classes that meet every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. If you are not coming to our classes, now would be a great time to begin.

**CARD WRITING:** The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, July 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them next Monday morning.

**GOSPEL MEETING/VBS:** The *Westview church* in Hartselle is beginning a meeting today, and it will continue through Friday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Jason Shackelford*... The *Anderson church* will have VBS this week. It will go through Thursday morning... The *Belgreen church* is beginning a gospel meeting today, and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting is *Dan Chaney*... The *Phil Campbell church* is beginning a meeting today, and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting is *Brian Meade*.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPEAKER:** It was good to have brother *Phil Stuckey* and his wife, Beth, from *Edna, Texas*, with us on Wednesday night. He presented a lesson from Luke 17 to the adult class.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Hamms: Joel, Sharma, Clayton & Ragan* have been at Orange Beach this week... *The Userys: Steve & Allison* were in Gulf Shores the first part of last week... *Albert Haraway* has been on the road traveling this week... *The Burns: Tommy & Susan* are in Williamsburg, Virginia this week on vacation... *The Bakers: Wanda, Cecily & Audrey* are in Gulf Shores this week... *The Coxes: Hunter, Heather & Beckett* will be leaving tomorrow for a few days in Charleston, South Carolina... *The Ashes: Harold & Barb* are in Indianapolis, Indiana... *Kenneth Adams* is in Auburn for school... *Keenon Currier* is in Monterey, California, where he is stationed.

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:** We were touched Sunday evening as *Charlotte Griffin* came forward to ask for prayers for forgiveness and to express her desire to be a part of the church here. Charlotte is currently taking cancer treatments which will limit her ability to be at all services. We are thankful for Charlotte and her good heart. May we all welcome her to the church here... *Bonnie Sutton* met with me and wanted to have prayers for anything that he needed forgiveness. Bonnie said that he wanted to go to heaven, and we are encouraged by the attitude of heart that Bonnie has in his desire to please God.

**PICTURES:** Have you had your picture made? We are continuing to make and update pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Please plan to get your picture made in the next few weeks.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of July 10<sup>th</sup>:

Sunday:	Bible Classes .....	114
	Morning Worship .....	142
	Evening Worship .....	109
Wednesday:	Bible Classes .....	90



**Men Privileged To Serve:**

*Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Stephen Lynn
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting .....	Jerry Baker
Serving .....	Charles Vaughn .....
	Luke Vaughn
	Sam Gregory .....
	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer .....	Harold Ash

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader .....	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper .....	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer .....	Clayton Hamm
Other Assignments for the week of July 17 <sup>th</sup> :	
Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Danny Holt
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

*Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>:*

Song Leader .....	Bob Broadus
Bible Reading .....	Tony Thomas
	(John 16:8-15)
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Invitation.....	Christian Usery
Closing Prayer .....	Jerry Baker

*Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader .....	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Albert Haraway
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harold Ash
Assisting .....	Marcus Morris
Serving .....	Sam Gregory .....
	Danny Johnson
Jerry Baker.....	Heath Dollar .....
	Christian Usery
Closing Prayer .....	Dan Reed

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Frank Melton
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper .....	Harold Ash
Closing Prayer .....	Wayne Vaughn
Other Assignments for the week of July 24 <sup>th</sup> :	
Ushers.....	Hayden Pierce/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl