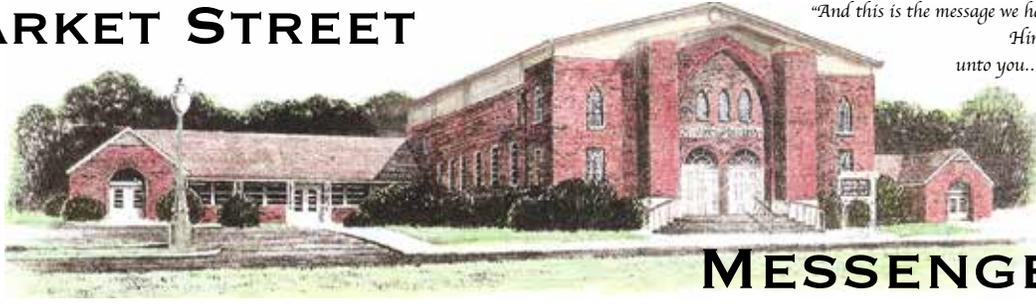


MARKET STREET



"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 XIV

July 24, 2022

No. 30

Life, Death... What is Important?

David A. Cox

"Hear this, all peoples; Give ear, all inhabitants of the world, Both low and high, Rich and poor together. My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall give understanding." (Psalm 49:1-3)

The Psalmist long ago wrote, calling for all to listen to the words of wisdom he would give. Wisdom is something everyone needs to know. The Psalmist declares a message about life and death, giving us lessons on what is really important in life. Let us focus on the lessons that the Psalmist gives us.

Lessons on Wealth

Physical life is not for eternity. In verses 6-9, the Psalmist reminds us that there is not a fountain of youth. Life is not something that will last forever. Riches cannot buy anyone eternal life. We all want to live, and we strive to live as long as we can, which is good. God gave us the desire to want to live, but we must not fall prey to the mindset that money or things give us any guarantee of life. Remember the wealthy farmer in Luke 12. He was blessed abundantly and lived his life as though he had a lock on the future, saying, "soul you have many goods laid up for many years" (Luke 12:19). God called the wealthy farmer a "Fool." Why was he a fool? He lived without respect for eternity. The Psalmist speaks of this attitude says, "This is the way of those who are foolish, and of their posterity who approve their saying, like sheep they are laid in the grave" (Psalm 49:13-14). The Psalmist continues to point out that when a man dies, he takes nothing with him (Psalm 49:17-20).

We need to remember true wealth is with God. The Psalmist says, "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me" (Psalm 49:15). The true wealth being a child of God is seeing the great hope of the resurrection from the dead and to living eternally with God. Let us remember the true wealth.

Don't Be Afraid.

The Psalmist reminds us that we should not be afraid. "Why should

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

I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity at my heels surrounds me?” (Psalm 49:5). All that is in this life is connected with loss and decay. Tomorrow is something that is out of our reach. The past is gone and cannot be reclaimed. But with trust in God, He gives us hope of what we can be and what we can look forward to having. Therefore, we should not fret and fear about this life. We need to not let our lives focus on the petty things but keep in our minds the spiritual things. The spiritual life is where we find our hope. It is where we find our victory. Do not be afraid.

What great reminders the Psalmist gives us in Psalm 49. The things of life are just that, things. Life will throw many hurtles at us, but do not fear those things, stay focused on the spiritual things.



Assurance of Salvation

Lawrence Kelley

There is such a thing as a well grounded assurance of salvation and there is also such a thing as ill founded presumption. One of the primary goals of the Apostle John in the letter of 1John is to instill confidence in genuine believers that they are right with God and need not fear His judgment. Consider some of the signs of life given to us in 1 John that help answer the question of “Where do I stand with God?”

The first sign of life is that we are walking in the light – 1 John 1:6-7. Light & Darkness are typically used in scripture with reference to moral uprightness or perverseness respectively. The faithful walk (their general manner of life) in light. They habitually prefer the pure to the impure; clean to dirty. The presumptuous may speak of a commitment, but they love the darkness. You regularly find them skulking about in dark alleys.

Second, is an awareness of sin – 1 John 1:8,10. The more time spent communing with God, the more glaring our sin becomes to us. The real believer knows that if sin were blue, everything he did, thought or said would be

in some way shaded blue. By contrast the falsely assured become increasingly convinced that their sins are actually virtues. “I’m not gossiping, I’m just concerned about how sister molly is doing with her alcohol problem.”

Third is obedience – 1 John 2:3-5; 3:7-8,10. True assurance knows that salvation is by grace through faith, but that it is a faith that is revealed in specific acts of obedience. False assurance says that it is legalistic to worry about obedience. Obedience grows in the faithful. Excuses grow in the presumptuous.

Next is a genuine longing to see the Lord – 1 John 3:2-3. Do you love theology and the discussion of issues? Nothing wrong with this, but it is possible to imagine we love the Lord, when we are actually in love with ideas and doctrines. Do you ache to see His face, hear His voice, touch His hand? Do you long for the day when you will be perfected and never have another sinful thought or action? If so you will be striving in the present to become what you are destined to be in eternity.

Last is love for the brethren – 1 John 3:14; 4:12-5:3. This is the proof John is most adamant about. The problem with the test of love is that, everyone thinks they are a loving person, but John reminds us that love is not “whatever I define it to be,” but love is seen in God’s sending His Son to take away our sins. In other words, love is actively seeking the best interests of others. Love is not just a pleasant attitude or empty words, but involves emptying ourselves in order to fill others. Love calls for the sacrifice of time, energy and money. In order for our love to give us confidence and assurance in the most frightening place imaginable - before the judgment seat of God - our love must parallel His love. So the question is clear. Do you love others? Are you sure? What deeds and actions are there to prove it?

This kind of evaluation always reveals shortcomings to the genuine soul searcher. Interestingly, the more you are troubled over your lack of holiness, the greater your assurance will be. This is because the one who finds himself regularly in need of the blood of Christ is the one who is daily pursuing Christ. If you find nothing in this article that convicts you or if your shortcomings do not bother you, then you have a deadly serious problem. The characteristic of the falsely assured are three: they are smugly confident that they are lacking in nothing, or they are angry that someone has pointed out their fault, or worst of all they see their errors, but don’t care.

So, let me exhort you to be a confident Christian.

As the Apostle said, These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:13). Do you believe in the name of the Son of God? Are you trusting in Him alone to save you from your sins? Have you been joined to Him in Baptism? Are you striving to show your love for Him by the obedience of your faith? Then stop doubting and rejoice that your sins are forgiven and your name is written in His book.

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Martha Pyron	Sue Thomas
Ruby Dean Ezell	Don Bates
Dan Lovell	Brad Brown
Betty Pepper	Shirley Miller
Betty Lovell	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	James Adams
Anthony Sutton	

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
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
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Alice Roberson, rm. 49	Marie Nave, rm. 79a
Betty Christopher, rm.	

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

Updates:

Priscilla Tucker received a good report on the scans she had done on Thursday of this past week ... **Don Bates** will go Monday for a cardio rehabilitation assessment... **Sharon Nave** received word from the biopsy that the mass was malignant. She is scheduled for surgery on August 11th ... **Ruby Dean Ezell** continues to deal with back issues as she awaits the injections on August 16th... **Dan Lovell** is continuing therapy on his shoulder ... **Peggy Pepper** is continuing to recover from her recent fall. She is at home... **Allison Uesery's father, Kedrick Romine**, was able to come home on Tuesday from the hospital. He is still very weak but is improving... **Roger & Wendy Hammonds niece, Brooklyn Berthiaume**, has been diagnosed with lymphoma and it is extensive. She will be determining the path forward in treatments ... **Keith Holt, the oldest son of Danny and Larry's brother, Mike**, had tests done at St. Thomas in Nashville and they showed that the tumor was cancerous. He will have a very lengthy surgery to remove it... **Judy Vaughn's cousin, Betty Christopher**, was able to make enough progress that they released her Friday to go to rehab at Limestone Health Facility.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Brenda Jones** in the passing of her cousin, **Frances Waddell**. She passed away this past Wednesday. Her visitation was on Friday morning at Spry Funeral Home. There was a graveside service Friday afternoon at the Higgins Cemetery... We also extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Cornelia Pepper**. Cornelia and her husband, Buddy, came to Market Street 8-9 years ago. Buddy passed away about 7 years ago and as Cornelia's health declined she began attending with her son, Mike, when she was able to go. Her funeral was Friday afternoon at McConnell Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Athens Memory Gardens. May

the Lord bless her family at this time.

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

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

GOSPEL MEETING/VBS: The *New Hope church* at Cross Key is beginning a meeting today, and it will continue through Friday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Greg Chandler*. . . The *Oakland church* is beginning a meeting today and this will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Larry Rouse*.

SINGING: The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee will be having their Annual Singing on Friday night. The singing will begin at 7:00 p.m.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Burns: Tommy & Susan* have been in Williamsburg, Virginia this past week on vacation. . . *The Bakers: Wanda, Cecily & Audrey* are back home after being in Kentucky last week. . . *The Coxes: Hunter, Heather & Beckett* have been in South Carolina this week. . . *The Ashes: Harold & Barb* are back home after being in Indianapolis, Indiana for a couple of weeks. . . *Kenneth Adams* is in Auburn for school. . . *Keenon Currier* is in Monterey, California, where he is stationed.

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 17th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	101
	Morning Worship	136
	Evening Worship	107
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	93



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 24th:

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 th :	
Ushers.....	Hayden Pierce/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl

Wednesday, July 27th:

Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Bible Reading	Danny Johnson
	(John 16:16-24)
Prayer.....	Hayden Pierce
Invitation.....	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, July 31th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris	
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn	
Prayer.....	Bonnie Sutton	
Preaching.....	David Cox	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm	
Assisting	Hunter Cox	
Serving	Charles Vaughn	Luke Vaughn
Jerry Baker.....	Jonathan Traylor	Harold Davis
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds	

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt
Other Assignments for the week of July 31 st :	
Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt