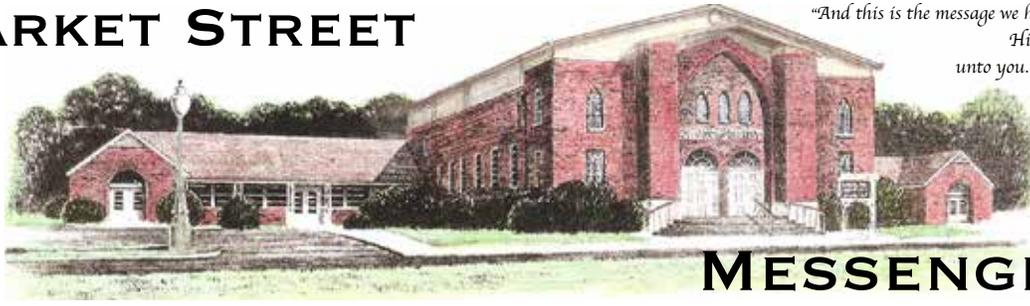


# MARKET STREET

*"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

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No. 33

### *Trust and Faith in Hard Times*

**Mark McCrary**

#### 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 Coblentz..... (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*

Hardships and problems come our way in life, and sometimes they are very severe hardships and problems—the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job or health, financial problems. They are most confusing to us as Christians when we are trying to do everything we are supposed to do like serving God and others. Then we begin to ask that oft asked question, “Why?”

The Psalmist struggled with the same question in Psalm 44. In the first eight verses, he speaks of how he had been taught about God and His mighty power, how he saw God as his King and ruler, and how he trusted in Yahweh to deliver him in battle.

But, beginning in verse 9, the psalm takes a very dark turn. The psalmist startles us with these words, “But You have cast us off and put us to shame, and You do not go out with our armies. You make us turn back from the enemy, and those who hate us have taken spoil for themselves. You have given us up like sheep intended for food, and have scattered us among the nations. You sell Your people for next to nothing, and are not enriched by selling them. You make us a reproach to our neighbors, a scorn and a derision to those all around us. You make us a byword among the nation, a shaking of the head among the peoples. My dishonor is continually before me, and the shame of my face has covered me, because of the voice of him who reproaches and reviles, because of the enemy and the avenger” (Psalm 44:9-16). “Why” is not stated, but it is certainly implied. And, he states very matter-of-factly that he and his people had been faithful to God. “All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten You, nor have we dealt falsely with your covenant. Our hearts have not turned back, nor have our steps departed from Your way... If we had forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a foreign god, would not God search this out?” (Psalm 44:17-18, 20-21).

Have you ever felt that way in hard times? Have you ever thought, “If I wasn’t obeying God, these problems would be understandable.” What is the answer? What is remarkable about this psalm is that there is no

answer given as to why God was not there... because in the end no answer would satisfy. What answer could be given to the person eaten up with cancer as to why they are suffering that would cause them to say, "Oh, I get it! Now I understand! Everything is alright now"? There is no answer that immediately removes the pain of a heart broken by the loss of a loved one or a broken or troubled marriage.

There is no answer. There is only trust and faith.

Though overcome with questions and doubts, the psalmist persevered with these words of power, "Arise for our help, and redeem us for your mercies sake" (44:26). Our comfort in hard times does not come from an "answer," but from continued confidence in our God we have believed in and submitted to. It comes from having faith that "farther along we'll know all about it, farther along we'll understand why. Cheer up my brother, live in the sunshine; we'll understand it all by and by." Then we will know that, though we didn't understand our problems at the moment, God got us through—and that will be enough.

~via *Growing in Godliness*; Louisville, Kentucky



## *Convinced We Are Right, But...*

Mark W. White

There are many things we know with certainty (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3) and the Lord does not intend for us to go through life unsure of what to truly believe. On the other hand, there is the possibility we feel certain about some things about which we could be wrong. It is not necessary to be unsure about everything, but it is also foolish to convince ourselves we are always right about everything. We want to be right, but we can be wrong. Humility and reality demands that we be willing to listen to another viewpoint at times, and decide whether to reaffirm what we believe, or to make a change in belief where honesty leads us. It's hard to do.

But someone says, "Isn't this attitude unsettling? Why must I constantly reexamine my thinking and validate my convictions?" Because faith is a growth

process. It is living, not dead. The apostle Peter said we should always be ready to make a defense of the hope that is in us, "with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15, NASB). Our convictions will be challenged and we must know how to answer.

One of the most sobering passages in the Bible is found at the end of Matthew 7. Jesus pleaded with His disciples to "Enter by the narrow gate," because "many" will miss it and "go in" the wide gate "by" the broad way to destruction (7:13). Jesus used that same word—"many" nine verses later to reveal what would happen at the judgment: "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (7:22-23). These people, convinced they were right, marched right into eternity without the Lord! We must realize that we too could be in that crowd so convinced they were right, but just as wrong as could be! When Dr. Luke wrote his books, he depended on expert testimony from eyewitnesses and the Holy Spirit's guidance to word his position. He didn't just hope he was right on his own. "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 14:12)

~via *Family News & Notes of Cy-Fair*; Cypress, Texas.



## *Don't Be That Guy!*

Ben May

Story: "Our flight was about to take off when the passenger behind me immediately launched into a loud and annoying conference call on his cell phone. "Sally, get the customer lists. Charlie, pull all the data together we have on... Bob, can you bring us up to date..." and on and on."

"As the flight attendant began the preflight safety instructions, the executive's voice was drowned out by the PA system. While the safety speech continued, I heard him mutter into the phone, "Hold on a second. Some people just like to hear themselves talk." (G. Borman via *Laughter is the Best Medicine*)

We've all been there haven't we (hopefully not being the guilty party!)? Several Bible principles come to mind which I'll list below. Perhaps you will think of others.

1. Treat others like you would want to be treated. Matthew 7:12 – “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Most of us don't appreciate those who use speaker phones in a restaurant or who talk loudly over others.
2. There is a time and place for everything, and this wasn't the time or the place to loudly conduct business. Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven.”
3. It's easier to see everyone else's faults instead of your own. Matthew 7:3 – “And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”
4. There are those who love to hear themselves talk. The Bible teaches that this is a recipe for disaster! Ecclesiastes 5:2 – “Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore, let your words be few.”
5. On the other hand, using your time wisely (emphasis on wisely!), is taught and encouraged in the scriptures. This is especially true when it comes to sharing the gospel. “Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.” (Colossians 4:5 NLT)

So, don't be that guy that is inconsiderate of others are does right things at inappropriate times. The scriptures guide us in every area of life if we will just listen.

~via *Stanley Avenue Bulletin*; Andalusia, Alabama.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Dale Adcock	Sharon Nave
Margaret Carter	Ann McLemore
Ruby Dean Ezell	Taylor Gregory
Don Bates	James Adams
Steve Stringer	Dan Lovell
Brad Brown	Shirley Miller
Betty Lovell	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Joe Brooks

### *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
Anthony Sutton	

### *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:*

Marie Nave, rm. 79a	Bobby Ogles, rm. 113
Ann Bush, rm. 75	Betty Christopher, rm. 109
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	

### *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:*

*Linda Meeker*; Huntsville Hospital – rm. 1852  
*Keith Holt*; St. Thomas Hospital; Nashville; ICU  
*Howard Morris*; North Alabama Med. Ctr. – Florence

### *Updates:*

*Taylor Gregory* is dealing with a ruptured disc and has not been able to be at services ... *Dale Adcock* is doing better as she recovers from her surgery last week ... *Don Bates* is to begin his rehab this Monday. He was delayed in being able to start it last week... *Sharon Nave* had surgery on Thursday for her breast cancer. The surgery went well and she will begin treatments in about a month... *Jackie Cox's brother, Howard Morris*, is making progress in his recovery from his open heart surgery last week. They looking at rehabilitation when he leaves the hospital... *Harold Davis's sister, Linda Meeker*, is in

the Huntsville Hospital following a stroke... **Roger & Wendy Hammonds' niece, Brooklyn Berthiaume**, is back home after a round of treatment... **Keith Holt, the oldest son of Danny and Larry's brother, Mike**, had surgery on Monday to remove the tumor from the pancreas, to remove the gall bladder and a part of his stomach. The reports were cancer free. He is not been doing well and is on the ventilator. They hope to wean him of out the vent today.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Dwaine Alfrey** in the passing of his brother, **George (Butch) Alfrey**, this past Tuesday. The visitation was on Friday evening at the McConnell Funeral Home. There was a graveside service on Saturday morning at the Prospect Cemetery in Prospect, Tennessee... Also we want to express our deepest sympathy to **Larry Tucker, and all the family**, in the passing of Larry's cousin, **Belinda Motter** on Thursday. The visitation and funeral will be on Tuesday at Limestone Chapel. May the Lord bless these families at this time of sorrow.

**TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS:** The Ladies' Bible class will not meet this coming Tuesday morning. The class is will resume meeting next Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CARD WRITING:** The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them next Monday morning.

**AWAY FROM US:** **Kenneth Adams** is in Auburn for school... **Keenon Currier** is in Monterey, California, where he is stationed. Keenon and Kenneth's addresses are on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

**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 August 7<sup>th</sup>:*  
 Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 126  
           Morning Worship ..... 150  
           Evening Worship ..... 100  
 Wednesday: Bible Classes ..... 97

**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*

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Marcus Morris  
 Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
 Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz  
 Preaching..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding..... Larry Holt  
 Assisting ..... Stephen Lynn  
 Serving ..... Hayden Pierce ..... Matthew Usery  
 ..... Charles Vaughn ..... Clayton Hamm  
 Closing Prayer ..... Bob Broadus

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Marcus Morris  
 Song Leader ..... Albert Haraway  
 Prayer..... Landon Adams  
 Preaching..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper ..... Larry Holt  
 Closing Prayer ..... Keith Hinkle  
 Other Assignments for the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>:  
 Ushers..... Marvin Putman/Heath Dollar  
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

**Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>:**

Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
 Bible Reading ..... Stephen Lynn  
 ..... (John 17:6-19)  
 Prayer..... Hunter Cox  
 Invitation ..... Harvey Nixon  
 Closing Prayer ..... Larry Holt

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**Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Larry Tucker  
 Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle  
 Preaching..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding..... Hunter Cox  
 Assisting ..... Terry Andrews  
 Serving ..... Sam Gregory ..... Hayden Pierce  
 ..... Jonathan Traylor ..... Matthew Usery  
 Closing Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Larry Tucker  
 Song Leader ..... Larry Holt  
 Prayer..... Harold Ash  
 Preaching..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper ..... Hunter Cox  
 Closing Prayer ..... Clayton Hamm  
 Other Assignments for the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>:  
 Ushers..... Marcus Morris/Marvin Putman  
 Work Sound System..... Russ Wulfekuhl