

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

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No. 49

The Lord Keeps His Promises

David A. Cox

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." — (2 Peter 3:9)

There were scoffers casting doubt and insinuating that the promise of the Lord's return was in vain. They made this charge by saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation (2 Peter 3:4). Peter answers their false charge by reminding them that the Lord does not fail to keep His promises. Let us consider the faithfulness of God and His promises.

Examples of God Keeping His Promises

Abraham was promised to have a son, and that from that son (Genesis 12:12:1-3). The promise had a condition attached that Abraham must leave his homeland and family to go to the land to be given to him. Abraham was 75 years old when the promise was made. It was 25 years later that the promised son was born. Against all the odds, Abraham received the promised son. As a matter of fact, all the promises made to Abraham were fulfilled in the next 1900 years. When God makes a promise, it is not forgotten. As Peter said, "the Lord is not slack concerning His promise." Even if the promise seems impossible, God will fulfill it as promised. The promises made to Abraham show us that.

The Promises of God

There are many, many, many promises of God in the Scriptures. The promises of God pledge that something will or will not be done, given, or come to pass. The promises are not just God saying something He does not plan to fulfill or do. The promises of God are unequivocal, commitments that God will be brought to reality. We can see this in the promises of God in the Old Testament, but there are promises God has made in the New Testament that we can have and live with their assurance of them. Let us notice a few:

- God promises peace to His people (John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7).
- The love that God has for us (1 John 4:9-10).
- The care that God provides for us (Matthew 6:31-33).
- God's promise to listen to our prayers and petitions to Him (1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 5:14).
- The forgiveness of sins that He promises to those who walk in His ways and follow after Him (1 John 1:9).
- The strength we receive from the Lord in living this life (Isaiah 40:31).
- The rest promise to those who come to God and serve Him (Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 14:13).

God Wants Us To Be Faithful.

God is faithful to His plans and promises and wants us to be faithful like Him. This requires that we are faithful in our relationship with people in this life. We should always strive to ensure that we are diligent in keeping our promises to others. God wants to tell each one, "Well done, good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:23).

Let us not be of the number that would scoff at the promises of God as though too much time and past and He will not fulfill His promises. We must look to the ultimate promise when Jesus comes again to take the faithful to heaven. Let us be faithful in looking and preparing for that day.



Making Our Minds Up

Mark W. White

There have been many sermons, classes, articles and other exhortations on the subject of "giving." If you have been a member of the church for some length of time, it is likely you have heard instruction on this important, but sometimes unappreciated, theme. Because giving is a Bible subject, and an expectation God has of His children, it is good to hear what the Lord has to say and to practice what He has taught, as we set aside a portion of our income for the weekly collection taken for the Lord's work. However, we must emphasize that

the decision as to how generous one is with such contributions is purely a personal one. No one can regulate, nor require of you a certain amount to be given. It is a matter of each of us making up our own minds to be good givers, aiming to please the Lord with our offerings.

Second Corinthians 9:7 weighs in directly on this question— "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (NKJV) The word "purposes" is an important word. According to BAG Greek-English Lexicon, it means "as he has made up his mind, 2 Corinthians 9:7" (p. 709). Do you see the point? If we are going to be the type of giver who pleases God and blesses the church, we are going to have to once and for all make up our minds to give. Many non-giving Christians fail in their giving right at this starting point. They either *never give*, or *give sporadically*, because they have not fully decided to make this a budgetary priority. Preachers, teachers, elders and even parents need to keep on teaching about this subject. But, until we each make a personal decision to be generous givers, we will be ignoring or working against those good Bible lessons we are hearing on the subject.

What Can Help Me Make Up My Mind?

Keep in mind that Christians have been purchased with something far more valuable than silver and gold. Christians have been redeemed by something far greater than animal sacrifices. "It is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins" ((Heb. 10:4). "You know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain way of life ... but with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Remember also that our giving is a true indicator of just how much of ourselves we are willing to give away to the Lord. "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord..." (2 Corinthians 8:5). Are we aware that the word "gave," according to Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon means: "...I give myself up as it were; an hyperbole for disregarding entirely my private interest, I give as much as ever I can" (p. 146). This means that Paul was saying of those in Macedonia (8:1) that they were completely and entirely giving themselves over to the Lord. Leaving personal desires behind, they mostly wanted to please the Lord! They made up their minds to acknowledge that they belonged to God.

God is concerned with what we give of course, but He is equally concerned with the attitude behind our

giving. An appreciative person is a generous giver, but even a generous contribution from a stingy heart is of no eternal value to the giver. It would do us all good to think about our giving.

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

News & Notes...

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We Really Live

Scott Beyer

“for now, we really live if you stand firm in the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 3:8)

It is hard to read these words and not see the connection Paul had with those he taught. Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians practically drips with his affection and earnest concern for the people of Thessalonica. He speaks of barely being able to endure waiting to hear of their well-being (3:1), of giving thanks for them always in his prayers (1:2), and rejoicing that they had turned to God from idols (1:9). Would it surprise you that Paul had known these people for little more than a month? Read Acts 18, and you will see that Paul was driven out of Thessalonica very quickly.

Paul’s affection for them wasn’t created by quantity of time but by the quality of his heart and the shared connection they had through Jesus. When Christians meet, they are instantly family – the common bond of the Savior can knit strong bonds quite quickly. What a gift! God is very good to His people. There is much to rejoice over in the family He has sanctified through His Son.

~via *AEastladrn Bible Bites* ; Louisville, Kentucky.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Sunday Mornings

8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m.



THE SICK:

JoAnn Gilbert	Shirley Miller
Bonnie Sutton	James Adams
Betty Lovell	Doris Lovell
Keith Holt	Preston Howard

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Sharon Nave	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
Wynell Romine	Anthony Sutton
Tim McGuire	Barbara Piper
Henry Fusch	Liz Fusch

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Dan Lovell; rm. 110
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Marie Nave, rm. 84a	Bobby Ogles, rm. 113
Ann Bush, rm. 75	Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Goldton at Athens
 Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
 Irene Inman; at home
 Stan Stanford; at home
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

Updates:

Dale Adcock is schedule to have surgery on her broken ankle on Monday in Hiuntsville...**Dan Lovell** wsa in the hosptial a coupel of days this week and was moved to Restore Rehabilitation on Friday...**Peggy Pepper** is at home recovering following her recent hsopitalization...**Mary Stroud** has been sick and unable to be at services recently... **Clayton Hamm** has been sick and unable to be at services this week... **Bonnie Sutton** is dealing with fluid collection and hinders his ability to be out as

he would like... *Jewel Dean Kennemer* was able to be at services last Sunday due to back issues.... Remember our expecting mother, *Heather Cox* in your prayers.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30. They are studying on "*The Parables of Jesus.*"

BAPTISMS: We are rejoicing over the baptism of *Jared & Jennifer Smith* this past Sunday afternoon. We appreciate these two good hearts that desire to please God. May the Lord bless them and their three young sons, *Wyatt, Owen & Henry.* May each one of us express our joy to them.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Brenda Jones* in the passing of her uncle, *Talmadge Waddell.* He passed away on Wednesday and his funeral is on Monday at Spruy Fuenrla Home a 1:00 p.m. He will be laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. My the Lord bless this family at this time.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Ashes: Harold & Barb* have been in Gulf Shores and are returning tomorrow... *The Nixons: Harvey & Pat* are in Arkansas this weekend for a family reunion... *Shelia Holt* has been in Blatimore this week with her work.

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Q&A: For the next several Wednesday nights, I will be doing Question & Answer sessions. If you have questions that you would like for me to deal with, please write the question or topic you are interested in hearing about, and I will deal with them.

AWAY FROM US: Some of our people are away from home. Keep them in your prayers.

Kenneth Adams is in Auburn for school.
Keenon Currier is stationed in Monterey, California.
Addison Holt is in Birmingham for school.
Christian Usery is in Birmingham for work.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Nov 27th:

Sunday: Bible Classes 116
Morning Worship 143
Evening Worship 117

Wednesday:
Bible Classes 91

Remember Our 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, December 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Sam Gregory Matthew Vaughn
..... Roger Hammonds Luke Vaughn
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer..... Clayton Hamm
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm
Other Assignments for the week of December 4th:
Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System..... Russ Wulfekuhl

Wednesday, December 7th:

Song Leader Lsrry Holt
Bible Reading Danny Johnson
..... (Acts 1:1-14)
Prayer..... Christian Usery
Invitation..... Bob Broadus
Closing Prayer Albert Haraway

Sunday, December 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
Song Leader Kenneth Smith
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Stephen Luynn
Assisting Jerry Bakerl
Serving Hayden Pierce Matthew Usery
..... Nathaniel Adams... Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
Song Leader Albert Haraway
Prayer..... Marcus Morris
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Stephen Luynn
Closing Prayer Landon Adams
Other Assignments for the week of December 11^h:
Ushers..... Keith Hinkle/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System..... Larry Holt