

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

December 18, 2022

No. 51

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

The World Needs Lights

Mark McCrary

Viruses. Racism. Injustice. Riots. Financial upheaval.

It is tempting to think that things have never been worse, yet our field of vision over the course of time is very narrow. The reality is human existence has always been filled with all of the above, along with earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, famines, awful diseases, conquests, pillagings, dominations, food and water shortages, mosquitoes, snakes, lions and tigers, and bears... and the lists go on and on.

Reasons to be upset, scared, anxious, concerned, frustrated and the like are nothing new. They have been the constant companions of the human experience and while we travel this earth, they always will.

Despite these realities, the Bible holds several enticing possibilities before us: we can have hope (Psalm 42:11; 62:5-6; Romans 15:13; 1 Timothy 4:10), joy (Psalm 16:11; John 15:10-12; Galatians 5:22-23) and peace with others (Psalm 34:13-15; Isaiah 32:16-17; Luke 2:13-14; Romans 12:17-18; 1 Corinthians 13:11)—even in this life. It does not give us these things by taking us out of the world, but by giving us tools to use while in this world. What are these tools?

There are numerous passages we could look to, but let's spend a few minutes contemplating Paul's exhortation to the Philippians: "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life..." (Philippians 2:14-16).

Under inspiration, Paul gives us some simple, doable actions we can put into place in our lives. First, he tells us not to complain. All of us complain from time to time. Sometimes, those complaints move from "time to time" to all the time. Spend some time this week paying attention to your speech; look over your social media posts. Be honest. How much do you see yourself complaining? It may be more than you think.

We can post all the Bible verses we like on Facebook or Instagram, but when we complain—especially when people know we are a Christian—we aren't showing the world that we are any different than anyone else. So, check your complaining. Complaints stem from too close a proximity to the world. Paul's attitude (and Christ's for that matter) was radical because he focused on different things: "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

When you make the decision to stop being negative, you must follow that up with an equal decision to being positive—shine as a light. Point people from the chaos of the world to the love and peace of God. You aren't being self-righteous when you decide to model this; people need to see that it really is possible to have the peace that "surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) in the "midst of a crooked and twisted generation." People need to hear that injustices are real, that life stinks sometimes, but when one sets their mind on God in obedience, it really can change one's life and outlook. We need to be living proof of this.

Finally, all of this is made possible because you "hold fast to God's word." Every day we are all tempted to cast aside the Biblical teachings to some degree or another. Don't. Always remember that real freedom comes from following God and His word (Romans 6:15-19). The more we submit to God's wisdom rather than our own, the more peace we will have. Hold on desperately to God and His word.

God needs a hitter this week in this game we call life. Let's step up to the plate.

~via *Growing In Godliness*; Louisville, Kentucky

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Sunday Mornings

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



**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

"Come Before Winter"

Joshua Welch

The first day of winter, for the northern hemisphere, occurs on the "winter solstice." This year, winter solstice occurs on December 21st. Winter is a slower, more restful time for some households. There are no flowers to plant, grass to cut, and leaves to rake. Outdoor sports slow down in the cold. It gets dark early making for earlier evenings. While winter prohibits us from certain actions, it opens the door to other opportunities as well. So, instead of looking at winter with the dread of the bleak cold and darkness we can optimistically consider its value.

Enduring winter reminds us of a comment Paul makes in the final chapter of his last epistle to Timothy, "Do your utmost to come before winter" (2 Timothy 4:21). In fact, if we look at the context of this passage we will find three simple things Paul wanted as he prepared for the winter ahead.

He wanted spiritual companions. Winter can be a depressing time for some. The seasonal "winter blues" can make winter difficult. Facing the holidays is not always enjoyable for those who are grieving, lonely, or who have fractured families. Brothers and sisters in Christ can offer us encouragement during these difficult times. This is why Paul says to Timothy, "Be diligent to come to me quickly" and "Get Mark and bring him with you" in the context (2 Timothy 4:9,11). Paul wanted spiritual encouragers during the winter ahead before travel by sea was impossible. Of course, for Paul, this may have been the last opportunity to see these spiritual helpers (cp. 2 Timothy 4:6-8). Who can you give needed companionship to this winter?

He wanted to be warm. Paul writes to Timothy, "Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come..." (4:13). Paul writes from a cold prison with few luxuries (1:8). So, the basic necessities were needed. As we think of others during this bitter cold of winter may we do what we can to ensure others have their basic needs cared for (cp. Matthew 25:36; James 4:14-17). The "worthy woman" was "not afraid of snow for her household" because she ensured they had proper clothing (Proverbs 31:21). Worthy Christians look out for those who are poor and destitute to ensure they are properly clothed as well.

He wanted to be able to write and study. Paul adds, "Bring...the books, especially the parchments" (2 Timothy

4:13). Winter may slow things down so we have more time to read and write and meditate. Paul planned to use the winter season to do more research and writing as time allowed. May we also use this slower season to spend more time reading about God's Word and using our pen and parchment to journal our thoughts or to encourage others. What can you accomplish during the slow season of winter you fail to accomplish in the busier seasons? Use the slower time to read God's Word and to purposefully write to edify and encourage others. Spring will be here before you know it. In the meantime, use your winter wisely.

~via *Anderson church of Christ*; Anderson, Indiana.



A Place of Hope

Wilson Adams

Is the church a people-place offering help and hope for the wounded or a people-place of more woundedness and heaped-on shame?

It's not about ignoring sinful behavior or declaring the "whole counsel of God." We're on the same Spirit page there. It's about a single statement uttered by an older saint: "I'd like to come away one time and hear that maybe I'm doing something right!"

Hell is real. I believe that. Hope is real. I believe that, too. It's easy to give people hell and fail to give people hope.

Our approach to inspired Scripture must be balanced. Reprove and rebuke? Yes. There's a time for that, but not all the time. Pews are filled with hurting people (not always due to sin) who need hope to journey on through the shadows of their valley. They need hope that they are loved, hope they have worth, hope they are going to make it, and hope that God's strength is theirs to claim.

We must get down into the trenches with people. Encouragement is the core of edification and love is the core of encouragement. Do people know we care? Simple question.

There is a balm in Gilead.

There is hope in the cross.

There is life-giving [amazing] grace.
There is forgiving power in the blood.
There is hope-filled water to refresh your soul.

"Rest of the weary, joy of the sad..." Hope. We must give hope to the hurting. Hope that says... He cares (and so do we).

~via *Good News of Charlestown Road*; New Albany, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Brenda Haraway	Bonnie Sutton
Weston Gregory	Rickey Chaney
Ruby Dean Ezell	Pat Nixon
Harvey Nixon	Dale Adcock
JoAnn Gilbert	Shirley Miller
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

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Steve Stringer; Athens--Limestone Hosp. rm. 205

Updates:

Dale Adcock continues her recovery at home. She is unable to have weight on her ankle for 6-8 weeks...**Ricky Chaney** has continued to battle a kidney infection...**Harvey & Pat Nixon** have been unable to be at services due to the virus ...**Steve Stringer** was admitted to the hospital last Tuesday due to severe weakness...**Albert & Brenda Haraway** have been sick and unable to be at services ...**Ruby Dean Ezell** was sick last week with the flu and unable to be at services... **Sharon Nave's granddaughter, Rheygan Nave**, has been to the lung doctor this week and they are referring her to see another doctor about her condition...**Weston Gregory** was sick last week with the flu and unable to be at services... **Bonnie Sutton** has been sick this week with a cold/flu this past week and has not been doing well. He is doing better now... Remember our expecting mother, **Heather Cox** in your prayers.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meeting on Tuesday morning at 10:30 will not be meeting again until Tuesday, January 3, 2023. They will be studying on "*The Parables of Jesus.*"

OUT OF TOWN: **Joe Hinkle** left Tuesday for Port St. Lucie, Florida.

BIBLE DRILL: Sunday January 8th, We will begin to have a Bible Drill at 4:45 before our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to come and participate in this time of instruction and learning.

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.

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 Dec. 11th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	104
	Morning Worship.....	121
	Evening Worship.....	103
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	77

Remember Our Bible Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle	
Song Leader	Joel Hamm	
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams	
Preaching.....	David Cox	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding.....	Jerry Baker	
Assisting	Harold Ash	
Serving	Heath Dollar	Christian Usery
.....	Matthew Usery.....	Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds	

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Jerry Baker
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt
Other Assignments for the week of December 18 th :	
Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Hunter Cox
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, December 21st:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading.....	Clayton Hamm
.....	(Acts 2:1-13)
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Invitation.....	Tommy Coblenz
Closing Prayer	Keith Hinkle

Sunday, December 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Holt	
Song Leader	Albert Haraway	
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris	
Preaching.....	David Cox	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon	
Assisting	Keith Hinkle	
Serving	Roger Hammonds	Luke Vaughn
.....	Matthew Vaughn.....	Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	Bob Broadus	

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Holt
Song Leader	Griffin Holt
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Hayden Pierce
Other Assignments for the week of December 25 th :	
Ushers.....	Tommy Coblenz/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl