

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 XV

December 10, 2023

No. 50

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..... 6:30 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

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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 Raising of Lazarus

David A. Cox

"Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth!' And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Loose him, and him go.'" — (John 11:43-44).

Jesus came to Bethany to see the grave of His dear friend, Lazarus. He was in sorrow as He saw the people mourning over the passing of this good man. Jesus asked where Lazarus' grave was. He comes to the grave, and at this point, the scriptures tell us that "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). Jesus asked that the stone be taken away from the grave so that Lazarus could walk out of the grave as Jesus brought him back to life. The raising of Lazarus at Bethany gives us a couple of things we need to remember.

God Wants Us To Be Saved.

Jesus came to this earth so we could live eternally. Although Jesus brings Lazarus back from the dead to a physical life, Jesus will bring His people from the dead to life where there is no death (John 11:23-25). When Jesus brings His people back to life, they will have eternal life and be free from all the sicknesses, sorrows, disappointments, failures, etc. of our physical life (Revelation 21:3-4). The eternal life offered to men is available due to the forgiveness of sin that we can have because of the blood of Christ. As the children of God, we are raised to walk in the newness of life, walking in the commands and examples we are given in the scriptures (Romans 6:3-6). God wants man to be saved so much that He "sent His only begotten Son" to be the sacrifice for our sins (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2). As we look at the raising of Lazarus, do not overlook God's desire to save us.

God Is Always In Control.

The incident of Lazarus' sickness and death speaks powerfully about the ability of God to do all things. In life, bad things often occur. Often, they affect people who do not deserve to experience difficult times. Certainly, Lazarus gives a picture of a family, Lazarus and his sisters,

Mary and Martha, who were good people and desired to please God. However, they experienced a tragic event in the passing of Lazarus. Jesus knew what a challenging experience this was for them. He wept with them and showed intense compassion for the family. When Jesus was with His disciples and heard the bad news of Lazarus' sickness and impending death, He declared this event was for the glory of God (John 11:4). It reminds us that life, every day and every hour, is to be used for the glory of God. Yes, even in the storms of life, we can come through them and glorify God. We need to remember that God is in control. We must place our faith and trust in Him. Paul wrote, "All things work together for good, to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Notice Paul does not say "all things are good," but "all things work together for good." We must put our trust in God and let Him work in us and through us to accomplish His will. Remember, God is in control.

In this world, we will face trouble and difficulties, but let us keep these two lessons from the raising of Lazarus in the forefront of our minds.



Corinth: The Measure of a Good Church

Clay Gentry

As we survey the New Testament, we encounter all kinds of great churches: Jerusalem, Antioch, Philippi, Rome, Thessalonica, Berea, Smyrna, Philadelphia, and especially Corinth.

That last one probably surprised you didn't it? A few weeks ago I was listening to a sermon where the preacher threw Corinth under the bus as an example of a bad church, in a, "God I thank you that we're not like Corinth..." kind of way. That's sad because Corinth is one of the great churches of the New Testament. Let's explore why.

To start, let's take a familiar saying and apply it to our purposes, "The measure of a good church is not how it stands in moments of comfort... But how it stands in times of challenge." No doubt, Corinth had its problems,

but the church rose to the challenge of those problems — this is the true measure of faith.

Note the good things Paul said about Corinth at the beginning of his first epistle to them. Despite their problems, the apostle identified them as a "Church of God... those sanctified in Christ Jesus... and called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Furthermore, Paul thanked God for the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:4), noting their "fellowship" with Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9). Later, when Paul sent Titus to the church, the apostle "boasted" about the Corinthians' heart for doing right (2 Corinthians 7:14). Lastly, we should note Paul expressed his love for the Corinthians — something he only did for one other church (1 Corinthians 16:24; 2 Corinthians 2:4; 8:7; 11:11; 12:15). This hardly sounds like a church Paul threw under the bus so we shouldn't either.

So what made Corinth the measure of a good church?

First, the Corinthians were willing to **Admit Their Problems**. Unlike the church in Laodicea (cf. Revelation 3:15-18), the Corinthians were willing to admit they had a plethora of problems. A superficial survey of 1 Corinthians will reveal that the church was divided, immorality was openly accepted, people were indulging in idolatry, issues of marriage, head coverings, and spiritual gifts were plaguing the church. These problems weren't covered up or ignored. Rather, the Corinthians sought help to resolve these issues.

Second, the Corinthians were willing to **Seek Apostolic Help**. Some problems were brought to Paul's attention by members of the church (1 Corinthians 1:11; 5:1), while other issues were communicated to the apostle via a letter from the church (1 Corinthians 7:1). The Corinthians are to be commended for seeking inspired teaching, rebuke, and advice for dealing with their problems.

Third, the Corinthians were willing to **Listen To Paul's Words and Repent**. Even though Paul had bragged on the Corinthians to Titus, he was anxious to hear how his reply to their questions was received (2 Corinthians 7:5-16). The apostle was not disappointed, for the Corinthians had indeed listened to his words, "I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us" (1 Corinthians 7:9).

The Corinthians were willing to admit their problems, seek apostolic help, and listen to Paul's words.

Therefore, they changed for the good. “The measure of a good church is not how it stands in moments of comfort... But how it stands in times of challenge.” Of all the churches mentioned in the New Testament, Corinth was one of the best.

What was true of the church at Corinth is also true of Christians. “The measure of a good Christian is not how he stands in moments of comfort... But how he stands in times of challenge.” Are you struggling? There’s hope by following the Corinthians’ example. Admit your problems, seek apostolic advice, listen to them and repent.

~via *Jackson Heights church of Christ*; Columbia, Tennessee.



News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Margaret Carter	Mitzi Carruth
Maggie Tucker	Jerry Baker
Wanda Baker	Shelby Kirkland
Pat Nixon	Jeanette Weir
Shirley Miller	Wayne Faulk

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Danny Johnson	Paul Adcock
Doris Lovell	Priscilla Tucker
Sharon Nave	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Anita Wheeler
Nikki Ogles	Wynell Romine
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir

Lloyd Adams	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Al Pollard
Wynell Romine	Anthony Sutton
Jerry Lawrence	Henry Fusch
Liz Fusch	Kimberly Pressnell
Tim McGuire	Monica Nelson
Mary Cox	Larsen Plyer

Updates:

Sherry Davis went to the doctor on Monday and was told that she would need heart surgery and perhaps an arteriogram to determine the blockages she might have. She is waiting to see her heart surgeon to schedule a date for the surgery... **Lisa Wulfekuhl** went to the doctor this week and they were unable to biopsy her thyroid. She will have surgery in January or February to remove her thyroid... **Sherry Hasting** is making improvements in her bout with shingles... **Charles & Angela Vaughn** were able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick the last few weeks... **Kewyn Currier** was able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend... **Jennifer Threet** has been able to be back at services this past week... Remember our expectant mother, **Lynsey Adams**, in your prayers.

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Brenda Wilson, rm. 38
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 2	Janice Moody, rm. 99
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Betty Howard, rm. 109	

Limestone Health Facility:

Marie Nave, rm. 84a	Ann Bush, rm. 75
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Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Limestone Lodge
 Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
 Irene Inman; at home
 Lona Jackson; Vitality Living Upland Park, Huntsville
 Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Stan Stanford; Goldton at Athens
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

OUT OF TOWN: The Coblentz’s: *Tommy & Marcella* are in Birmingham today with their daughter and her family... **The Adams:** *Nathaniel & Laura* have been in Florida this past week... **Doris Fisher & Brenda Haraway** have been in Gainesville, Florida, this past week.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Ronnie Locke and all the family** in the passing of Ronnie’s sister, **Jimmie Gayle Coggin**. She passed away

on Tuesday, and the visitation and funeral service were Saturday morning at Spry Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. May the Lord bless this family at this time.

CARD WRITING: There is a card writing group that meets regularly to write and mail cards to people for appreciation and encouragement. The group will meet on Monday morning at 10:30. If you want to participate, join them in the morning.

BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS: The new quarter will begin the first Sunday in January, and teaching schedules need to be completed. If you are interested in teaching a class, or helping in teaching a class in our teacher's rotation in the Bible classes, please see **Danny Holt**, who schedules our teachers, and let him know of your desire to teach.

BAPTISM: We are rejoicing over **Sonny Williams'** decision Wednesday to be baptized into Christ. Sonny was baptized following our Bible study on Wednesday night. May we all encourage Sonny as he has each of us in his decision. May the Lord bless Sonny with many years to faithfully serve Him.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: Remember, the Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30 in the West Auditorium. They are beginning a new study on *"Heading for Heaven."* All ladies who are able to come are invited to be a part of this class.

NURSING HOME SINGING: The singing on Tuesday evening at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care has been suspended temporarily. The plan is to resume the singings on December 19th.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible Drill this afternoon at 4:45 before our evening service. I hope all our children can come and participate in this time of instruction and learning.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of December 3rd:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	124
	Morning Worship	151
	Evening Worship	113
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	98



Communion Preparation for December

Communion Bread — Mary Cecile Keenon
 Communion Cups — Russ Wulfekuhl

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Prayer.....	Albert Haraway
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harold Ash
Assisting	Larry Holt
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Sam Gregory
	Landon Adams.....
	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harold Ash
Closing Prayer	Marty R. Adams
Other Assignments for the week of December 10 th :	
Usher	Larry Snell/Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, December 13th:

Song Leader	Larry Holt
Bible Reading.....	Harvey Nixon
	(Acts 20:17-38)
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Jerry Baker

Sunday, December 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Snell
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Clayton Hamm
Assisting	Tommy Coblentz
Serving	Marvin Putman
	Tommy Burns
	Charles Vaughn
	Danny Holt
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Snell
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Christian Usery
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris
Other Assignments for the week of December 17 th :	
Usher	Matthew Usery/Stephen Lynn
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt