

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 XVI

December 1, 2024

No. 47

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 Coblantz..... (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
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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 Message of Repentance and Peace

David A. Cox

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” — (Luke 24:47).

Jesus’ mission in coming into the world was to call sinners to repentance. “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance” (Luke 5:32). The call of repentance was to go out to all men because all men were sinners and needed their sins forgiven. It is for this reason Jesus would say, “I tell you, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5). As Jesus makes His farewell comments to His disciples, He tells them “that repentance, and remission of sins should be preached in His name in Jerusalem.” Jesus commands them to spread this message. What is the message of repentance?

What Does Repentance Really Mean?

Often, we may see the word repent and think of it as simply “a turning from sin.” It is true that regretting sin and turning from it is part of repentance. However, Biblical repentance goes beyond sorrow, remorse, and regret about one’s sin. True repentance is more than turning away from sin; it is changing one’s mind about sin. Paul declared to those he preached to “that they should repent, turn to God and do works befitting repentance” (Acts 26:20). We see then that Biblical repentance includes sorrow with a change of mind, which results in a transformative change of action. This transformation, this power to change, makes repentance a beacon of hope and inspiration for all of us.

Repentance recognizes that thoughts and actions have not been what they should have been in the past. The repentant will embrace a change in disposition and a new way of thinking. Their thoughts will stem from what is true, holy, righteous, and godly. A life guided by this thought process will process the actions that will please God, making repentance a deeply personal and introspective journey. It’s a journey that requires us to look within, to be introspective, and to be deeply aware of our own thoughts and actions.

Repentance and Salvation.

The question is sometimes asked, “What is the connection between repentance and salvation?” Peter is preaching on the Day of Pentecost to many Jews and perhaps many who had even witnessed the trial of Jesus and the demand of the Jews that Jesus be executed on the cross. Just fifty days earlier, the masses did not accept Jesus as “Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). Now, as the massive crowd hears Peter, they cry out in deep sorrow for what they have done and ask Peter, “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). Peter says, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Notice Peter tells them to “repent” even in their sorrow to turn to God and to obey Him. John the Baptist had prepared the people for the coming of Jesus and preached to people about repentance, calling on them “to bear fruits worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:8). As one repents coming to Jesus, then he will be showing in his life that Jesus is Lord by doing the things that Jesus has taught us to do. Indeed, a changed life will be evidence of one’s repentance.

The Peace That Follows Repentance.

Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. Each one needs a full recognition of what sin will cost the soul of man, and it is not just everybody else’s sin, but it is also what my sin cost me? Often, we look at sin in the third person, and maybe we look at forgiveness the same way. The Bible teaches that all sinners who will repent will be saved. The story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector who cheated, stole, and lived a high life on his stolen, ill-gotten gains. One day, a radical change occurred when he encountered Jesus in Jericho. Many things we may not know about, but after Zacchaeus’ encounter with Jesus at his house, things were different. Jesus came to Zacchaeus’ house, and during the visit, Zacchaeus said, “Look, Lord, I give my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” What a change in a man and his past life. He experienced joy with Jesus in his house, even as he proclaimed the changes he was making. There, we see repentance at its fullness. Jesus proclaims, “Today salvation has come to his house” (Luke 19:8-9). Zacchaeus’ story illustrates the connection between repentance and forgiveness. When we repent, turn away from our sins, and turn to God, we are forgiven and saved. There are four things Zacchaeus knew:

1. His sins were offensive to God.
2. True repentance involves turning to God.

3. Repentance meant a change of action and attitude regarding his sin.
4. Repentance results in peace with God.

Let us find the true peace that only God can give as we repent and let the Lord rule and reign in our lives. Without letting the Lord take control of your life, you will never be able to find the lasting peace offered by God through repentance.



“A Worthy Man”

Adam Litmer

Naomi and Ruth made their way to Bethlehem. More than 10 years had passed since Naomi, her husband, and her sons had left for Moab. Her return caused a stir, especially among the women. She told them of her heartbreaking losses and introduced them to Ruth. It was the beginning of the barley harvest when they returned and settled in (Ruth 1:19-22).

How were Naomi and Ruth supposed to survive? They owned no fields for crops and had no money to purchase them. As Jesus would say centuries later, “The poor you always have with you.” (John 12:8a) God knew this would be the case and built provision for helping them into the Mosaic Law. Leviticus 19:9-10 says, “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after the harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.”

Boaz, a relative of Elimelech (Naomi’s husband), enters the narrative at this point. He is described as “a worthy man.” The word for “worthy” can speak of moral worth, valiancy, or material wealth. Boaz will show himself to be a man of means and influence. He will also prove to be a good and decent man. I believe moral goodness is the best understanding of “worthy” in this passage. He uses the same word to describe Ruth and in the same way in Ruth 3:11.

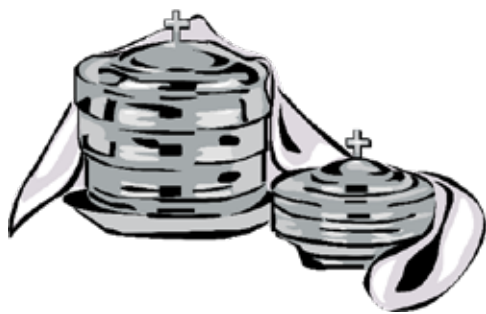
The first words we see from Boaz give an indication of his character. He greeted the reapers of his field with a hearty, "The Lord be with you!" (Ruth 2:4). Though the period of the judges was a very dark time in Israel's history, Boaz reminds us that good and godly people can exist even in the worst times. Indeed, that is often when they seem to shine the brightest.

Boaz did not recognize Ruth and asked questions about her. He was told that she was the Moabite woman who had returned with Naomi. This would connect her to his family. He was impressed to learn that she had asked permission before entering the field and had been hard at work with only a brief rest (Ruth 2:5-7)

Though God had made provision for the poor, that doesn't mean that his people would be happy about it or even obey his instruction. Boaz approached Ruth and said, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn" (Ruth 2:8-9). Boaz was very graciously offering both provision and protection. He intended to give her more than she needed and from the best he had available (Ruth 2:15-16).

Boaz was a worthy man, indeed. What a blessing to have a relative like this! Let us strive to emulate his kindness and generosity within our families.

~via *University Heights The Messenger* Lexington, Kentucky.



Communion Preparation for December

Communion Bread — Lisa Wulfekuhl
Communion Cups — Larry Mitchell

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Peggy Mitchell	Betty Bolton
Judy Vaughn	Sheila Holt
Sue Thomas	Kenia Adams
James Adams	Jennifer Threet
Pat Nixon	Carolyn Bates

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Danny Johnson	Doris Lovell
Dan Lovell	Priscilla Tucker
Ronnie Locke	Judy Vaughn
Peggy Pepper	Phillip Vaughn
Vicki Stringer	Jeanette Weir
Anita Wheeler	Charles Burns
Larsen Plyler	Cindy Walker
Al Pollard	Jerry Lawrence
Tim McGuire	Monica Nelson
Connie Solomon	Nicole Lewter

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Randle Dotson; Vanderbilt Hospital

Updates:

Sue Thomas had her surgery on her right leg on Monday and it went well...*Mary Cecile Keenon* is scheduled to have surgery on Monday at Huntsville Women's & Children's Hospital. The issue is serious but private in nature. She request your prayers...*Sheila Holt* is to have a online consultation with a doctor in Denver, Colorado, on December 13th, concerning her condition with Eagle Syndrome ...*Dale Adcock* has been diagnosed with Cervical Dystonia, and is scheduled for shots December 23rd and will repeat it every three months ...*Larry Mitchell* hurt his back this past week and was unable to be at Bible study...*Sue Thomas' cousin, Randle Dotson*, was involved in a serious auto accident Tuesday night. Randle's nephew, *Josh Lugg*, in the car with him was killed, and Randle was life-flighted to Vanderbilt Hospital.

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

JoNell Campbell, rm. 118	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 2
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Brenda Wilson, rm. 38
Connie Brock, rm. 62	

Limestone Health Facility:

Phillip Vaughn, rm. 103	Kathleen Wales, rm. 75B
Wanda Taylor, rm. 40A	Allan Springer, rm. 86
Ann Bush, rm. 75	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home

Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Limestone Lodge
 Lona Jackson; Vitality Living, Huntsville
 Marion Mitchell; Decatur Health & Rehab
 Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Stan Stanford; Goldton at Athens
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison

LADIES' LUNCHEON: The Ladies' Luncheon at the *Deer Trail Clubhouse* will be next Wednesday, December 11th. Come as early as 10:30 am. and bring your favorite finger foods. All the ladies are welcome.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Debra Holt* and all the family in the passing of her cousin, *Steve Sutton*. He passed away last Saturday and his visitation was on Monday at Spry Funeral Home. There was a graveside service at the Johnson Cemetery in Ardmore.

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 Monday at 10:30 a.m. If you want to participate, join them in the morning.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Ashes:* Harold & Barbara are in Indianapolis, Indiana this week... *The Farris':* Larry & Courtney are in Nashville, Tennessee this weekend for the holidays... *Bella Perry* has been on a cruise this week... *The Hardisons:* Nancy, Jaclyn, Sandra Jayne & Benjamin have been on a cruise this week... *The Pierces:* Hayden & Macy are back after being on a trip out west.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the West Auditorium. All ladies who can come are invited to participate in this class.

PICTURES: If you have not had your picture taken recently, we would like to have it updated. We want to ensure that everyone is included in our church's pictorial directory which is very helpful for new people that join us. Please plan to do it soon. Your updated picture will be a valuable addition to our church records.

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 Nov. 17th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	121
	Morning Worship	152
	Evening Worship	103
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	102

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Stephen Lynn
 Assisting..... Marcus Morris
 ServingHarold Davis Marvin Putman
Sam Gregory Matthew Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Stephen Lynn
 Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm
 Other Assignments for the week of December 1st:
 Usher Larry Mitchell/Tommy Coblentz
 Work Sound System..... Russ Wulfekuhl

Wednesday, December 4th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading..... Frank Melton
(Hosea 12:1-14)
 Prayer..... Tony Thomas
 Invitation..... Larry Tucker
 Closing Prayer Larry Holt

Sunday, December 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Jerry Baker
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Marty Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Larry Holt
 Assisting..... Harold Ash
 ServingGriffin Holt Tommy Burns
Matthew Usery Heath Dollar
 Closing Prayer Charles Parks

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Jerry Baker
 Song Leader Clayton Hamm
 Prayer..... Marcus Morris
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Larry Holt
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed
 Other Assignments for the week of December 8th:
 Usher Sam Gregory/Tommy Coblentz
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews