

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 22, 2024

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

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

“Do It With All Your Might”

David A. Cox

*“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” —
(Ecclesiastes 9:10).*

An old saying goes, “He’s a Jack of all trades, and a master of none.” The saying describes someone who is good at many things but not excellent at one thing. Perhaps many of us may feel somewhat like this at times. There is no problem with being a Jack of all trades, but Christians should do, whatever they do, to the best they can. Paul emphasizes this to the Colossians, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord” (Colossians 3:23). God expects us to do our very best in all things and especially in our service to Him. If we are going to give our best to God, what should we do?

Be Diligent. The life of the Christian is a life of dedication and distinction. To be the dedicated servant God desires of us and to be the people of distinction, we must be diligent in our lives. The word “diligent” means to “careful and persevering in carrying out tasks or duties.” By being diligent, we will carry out our lives with care and perseverance. A life characterized by a diligent attitude is the opposite of slothful or slacking in our service to God. It is the diligent life that Paul had in mind as he wrote: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

Be Determined. In the world, it is easy to just be Ok. Everyone else seems to be fine with just being Ok. Be determined or resolve to be the best you can be. The children of Israel were God’s people under the law of Moses. God wanted the best for them. But as they came out of bondage, wandered 40 years, and entered the promised land, the temptation was to just be mediocre. Joshua saw the problem that was before them. In his farewell address, he says, “Choose for yourselves this day whom you

will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). Joshua knew that to serve the Lord with their best, they would need to be resolved to do so. In the verses that follow, Joshua made it very clear that half-hearted service, hot today and cold tomorrow, was not going to be acceptable to God.

Develop A Plan To Excel. We must plan a course of action to accomplish any task. The plan might simply be:

- **Set the right priorities.** Some things in life are more important than others. Know what these things are and set them as priorities in your life
- **Read and Study God’s Word.** Here is where we will get the right priorities for our life. Spend time every day reading and studying the scriptures. Make the changes that you learn from your studies.. Remember, our goal is to be the person God wants us to be, not like the others around us.
- **Pray for wisdom and strength.** We need to use the avenue of prayer with God (James 1:5). God wants to hear from us about our lives and the things we need (Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:12). Prayer will strengthen us, and we can be confident in our lives.

God wants us to do everything to the very best of our ability. Mediocrity is not acceptable to God. He knows our abilities and desires us to use them in our life. Let us be diligent, resolving to live a life that excels in all things, but above all in spiritual things.

The Power of God for Salvation

Philip C. Strong

Most Christians know the verse from which our title comes – it is Romans 1:16. Many can even quote it verbatim. Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” But do we really believe/remember that...

When we find our hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6) wanes? The gospel is that “milk” and “meat” that supplies the nutrition of such righteousness, cf. Hebrews 5:13-14. Unfortunately, we, like the Ephesians, leave our “first love” – the love of truth, (Revelation 2:4-5; cp. Acts 19:1-8,10,20) and seek to replace it with “programs” designed to meet our “felt needs” rather than what original brought us to and forth in Jesus Christ: “the word of truth,” James 1:18. This “word of truth” is the gospel.

When we fall into the misguided notion that churches, church members, elderships, or preachers are the “power of God for salvation”? Though all of the above certainly have a part to play in the process, they do so only to the extent that they are conduits of the gospel, as Paul made clear to the Corinthians, “What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each... So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:5,7); and He does so by/through the gospel, for such is His “power for salvation.”

When we say such things as “The/our kids are the future of the church.” I think I know what they mean, but such just isn’t true. No generation- younger, older, or in-betweeners, is the “future of the church.” The “seed which is imperishable... the living and abiding word of God” is, always has been, and always will be (as long as “time” lasts) the “future” of the church, 1 Peter 1:23-25. This “seed/word of God” is the “truth” which not only purifies souls by their obedience to it, but also thereby is and will always be the “future” of the church, 1 Peter 1:22.

When we want to modernize and minimize the time we spend studying the Word. As our collective spiritual palates get more specialized and finicky, and our corporate attention spans get less tolerant, the emphasis



MARKET STREET FOCUS – 2024
Making Disciples...

on spiritual nutrition typically suffers. Meatier “meals” are replaced with “fast food” and sugary “desserts.” To add to the problem, our “away from services” time gets so over-scheduled that little to no time is left for private education and edification from what we know and readily admit is “the power of God for salvation.” As someone once said, “There are few problems we face in life that are helped by less teaching of and less emphasis on the Word of God.” Do yourself a favor and investigate the importance and implications for the word “therefore” in Acts 17:12.

As Paul identified to the Thessalonians, the basic line of demarcation between the saved and the lost will be whether or not we “receive the love of truth so as to be saved,” 2 Thessalonians 2:10. Do we really think we possess such affection for “the power of God for salvation” if we fail to “hunger and thirst” for the “righteous” product of it? If we view churches, church members, elders, and preachers as more important than it? If we believe any generation can supplant it as the “future” of the kingdom? Brethren, our “faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God,” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5. And again, exactly what was that “power of God to salvation”?

~via *Southport Church Bulletin*; Indianapolis, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Bonnie Jean Taylor	Deborah Johnson
Matthew Usery	Gina Werka
Sherry Davis	Barbara Ash
Larry Mitchell	Jewel Dean Kennemer
Sheila Holt	Deborah Slaton
Sue Thomas	Roger Hammonds
Lucas Cox	Cara Blake Gregory
James Adams	Jennifer Threet
Pat Nixon	Carolyn Bates

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Danny Johnson	Doris Lovell
Dan Lovell	Priscilla Tucker
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:

Ann McLemore; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm. 211
Ronnie Locke; Athens-Limestone Hospital, ICU

Updates:

Barbara Ash had a heart cath done in Huntsville on Friday and the results showed no blockages and all the heart and lungs were good...*Bonnie Jean Taylor* was unable to have her surgery on Friday due to a area of concern during the MRI done on Wednesday. They have rescheduled her surgery for Friday, December 27th...*Sherry Davis* has been having stomach issues and they having been doing tests, blood work and x-rays to pin point the issue...*Gina Werka* continues her recovery from her surgery...*Deborah Johnson* was hospitalized for pancreatitis and did not have her planned eye surgery...*Matthew Usery* continues to recover from his surgery to repair his Labrun ...*Jewel Dean Kennemer* received word that the doctors did not believe she would need an infusion for her blood. She is feeling better...*Jo Nell Campbell* is declining rapidly in the Athens Sr. Care....*Sue Thomas* had her 4th surgery on her leg on Monday...*Sheila Holt* is to see a Rheumatologist. She is scheduled to see the doctor in Denver in February ...*Dale Adcock* is to have shots on Monday to treat her Cervical Dystonia.

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

JoNell Campbell, rm. 26 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 2
 Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Brenda Wilson, rm. 38
 Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

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

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 Parks:* Charles, Meredith, Aharon, Harper & Carson are in St. Louis, Missouri for the holidays...*The Bradleys:* Steve & Marilyn are in Texas with family for the holidays...*The Broadus':* Bob & Phyllis are in Georgia this week for the holidays... *Frank Melton* is in Scottsboro today.

NURSING HOME SINGING: The singings on Tuesday evenings at the *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care* at 5:30 p.m. will be on hold until after the first of the year. Make plans to restart the singings on January 7th.

COMMUNION BREAD: The Communion Bread sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for the ladies who would like to make the communion bread for the worship services.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meeting on Tuesday mornings will not meet again until January 7th. They will begin a new study: *Heading for Harvest: A Fruit of the Spirit Study*. If you have thought about joining the study, now would be a good time.

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 Dec. 15th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	120
	Morning Worship	161
	Evening Worship	104
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	90



Communion Preparation for December

Communion Bread — Lisa Wulfekuhl
 Communion Cups — Larry Mitchell

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Albert Haraway
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Larry Snell
Serving	Matthew Usery..... Charles Vaughn
	Matthew Vaughn..... Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Albert Haraway
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Marty R. Adams
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Jerry Baker
Other Assignments for the week of December 22 nd :	
Usher	Sam Gregory/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl

Wednesday, December 25th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading.....	Roger Hammonds
	(Malachi 1:1-14)
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Invitation	Christian Usery
Closing Prayer	Jerry Baker

Sunday, December 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Matthew Usery..... Russ Wulfekuhl
	Ronnie Locke..... Christian Usery
Closing Prayer	Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	John Gibson
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt
Other Assignments for the week of December 29 th :	
Usher	Hayden Pierce/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews