

MARKET STREET



"And this 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

Albert Bowers (256) 233-4847
Jerry McGlocklin (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith (256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty Adams (256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand (256) 233-7343
Tim Craig (256) 233-4597
Joel Hamm (256) 230-6223
Bobby McGuire (256) 232-7887
Frank Noblitt (256) 777-0725
Stuart Wilson (256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass (256) 233-6086

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.org

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

Volume I

April 12, 2009

No. 15

Trench Warfare

Steven Cuffle

There is nothing worse than thinking one thing and finding out that in reality is altogether different. For hundreds of thousands of soldiers in WWI, the fanciful, boyhood vision of warfare was utterly destroyed by the reality of the trenches. All images and pretense of glory were wiped away by weeks on end in muddy pits, chlorine, mustard and phosgene gasses, and charges en masse into machine gun fire. The world learned very quickly that there was nothing lovely about war.

When you hear the word "Christian" what images come to mind? Because we live in a country like the United States, our perceptions about what a Christian is or what a Christian does are likely to be very different than the reality experienced by first century Christians. Modern American Christianity exists in brightly lit buildings with vaulted ceilings. Finely dressed men and women sit on padded pews in air conditioned comfort. In some places you will even find rock bands, movies, musicals, theatrics, donuts and coffee, bowling alleys, flashy speakers and feel good messages. These are the modern American "boyhood visions" of Christianity.

In James 1:26-27, the Lord's brother brings the reality of Christianity home. The word "religious" in v. 26 refers to outward signs of religious ceremony without inward devotion. This is the only time the word appears in the New Testament, and it appears to warn people that pretended piety isn't enough. Singing without mechanical instruments, listening to a sermon, or even taking the Lord's Supper on the right day of the week are not enough to please God in and of themselves. This is because, as James is emphatically telling Christians in the first century, Christianity is not a religion; it is a way of life. Christianity is not about believing the right things; it is about doing the right things because of what one believes. The reality that we must all come to accept and to live by is that Christianity is not a clean religion; it is a very dirty religion.

It exists in the trenches because Christians are locked in mortal combat with sin. Christians are those people who have been transferred out of the domain of darkness into the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). They have made their citizenship in heaven rather than

here on earth (Philippians 3:20). Because of this, the devil prowls like a roaring lion seeking to devour them (1 Peter 5:8). External rites are of little use in a battle for the people's souls. Inward transformation must take place and service that is offered to God must be service that is truly spiritual (John 4:24). Daily, our minds must be renewed; daily, our lives must be offered as living sacrifices to God; daily, we must think of things that are above, or else we will fall away from the God who loves us and saves us (Romans 12:1,2; Colossians 3:2). If we ignore the battle that rages inside us between the Spirit and the flesh, then surely we will lose the war.

Christianity exists in the trenches because it is a life of self sacrifice and service. James goes on to say that pure and undefiled religion is one that ministers to other people. It serves and cares for others who are unable to care for themselves (James 1:27). What good is it if we know that someone has a need but we are unwilling to meet it (James 2:16)? A faith that refuses to help other people is a dead faith (James 2:17).

Christianity exists in the trenches because it exists in the world (John 17:15). Those who give themselves to God do so amidst a wicked and perverse generation, a generation that loves darkness rather than light (John 3:19). It is the job of the Christian to preach and teach the gospel of Christ to all mankind without becoming stained by the world (James 1:27). It is the job of the Christian to teach and preach because they love mankind, **all** of mankind, despite the hatred and reviling they receive in return.

Being a Christian is not an easy task, but the Lord did not call us to "easy". The Lord has called us to an eternal glory which is received after a life of faithful services in the trenches.

-via *The Stonegate Standard*; Port Arthur, Texas.

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN – 770AM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

“Does God Love Me?”

Lee Wildman

There may be times when things go so badly for us in this life, things such as sickness, financial troubles, or the death of loved ones, that we are tempted to ask, “Does God love me?” When bad things happen, we may say that we do not “feel” His loving presence. It is as if He has abandoned us to suffer alone. In this, we may make the mistake of wanting to constantly “feel” that He loves us rather than knowing that He does.

Solomon wrote that “People know neither love nor hatred by anything that is before them” and that “one event happens to the righteous and the wicked” (Ecclesiastes 9:1-2). In other words, bad things do happen to good people. (Just ask Job!) To try and determine whether or not God loves us on the basis of the bad things that happen to us may leave us discouraged, confused, or worse, even faithless. We must look to other means to know the love of God.

While it is true that we cannot assume that God does not love us because of the bad things that may happen to us, it is equally true that we cannot know that He loves us and is pleased with us on account of the good things that may come our way. Simply put, as the same passage in Ecclesiastes noted earlier affirms, good things can happen to bad people.

Surely, we would like to think, the Lord has blessed us with all of the material things we have. (It may be debatable whether they are blessings or curses!) There is an ever present danger that we can be deceived by our good fortune to the point of being blind to our own spiritual deficiencies. We need to remember what Jesus said to His people in Laodicea, a city known for its wealth, that while they were rich with this world's goods, they were poor in His sight (Revelation 3:14-22). Are we rich in this world? Then let us believe and obey the Lord in spite of this, recognize the inherent dangers of wealth, and use what we have to please Him in helping others and contributing to His cause (1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17-19).

Jesus told a story of a farmer who had such an especially good year that he built bigger barns to store all of his crops and his goods. His error was not in having and enjoying a good harvest but that his retirement plans did not include God. He was told by the

Lord that he was a fool because he would soon die a spiritually poor man (Luke 12:16-21). If we assumed that God loved him because things went so well for him that year, he was tragically mistaken! Let's not make the same mistake. And surely, we can see these things taught as well in the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:25). Again, we are left to look to other means to know the love of God.

So, how can we know that God loves us? By going to the cross where He demonstrates His love in the sending of His only Son into the world and allowing Him to be offered up for the forgiveness of our sins (1 John 4:9-10; Romans 5:8). It is at this point that we need to remember, when worldly things go bad or good for us, the love shown at Calvary is still our greatest need and our greatest hope. This demonstration of His love He need not repeat, as once was more than enough. And it is in this love that we can truly find peace with Him, contentment in this life and the hope for wonderful things to come.

Does God really love us? Perhaps more than we can ever know (Ephesians 3:19)! When we read the wonderful gospel story, we can know and be sure that it is so. Truly, it is as the children's song says, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

-via *What Does The Bible Say?*; Florence, Alabama.



Have You Counted The Cost?

David A. Cox

Often people view Christianity and the life that is to be lived as too restrictive and confining. They want to enjoy all the seeming "pleasures" of this life which are not possible to those that have Christ living in them. What about this? Is the Christian's life too restrictive?

There is an old song we sing that asked the question, "Have you counted the cost if your soul should be lost?" What is the cost if one is lost? (1) His soul is cast into hell (Matthew 25:41; 10:28). (2) A loss of great joy; life has frustrations but to be saved will give us

the greatest joy (2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 8:18). (3) No hope of heaven as our eternal home. As we live as Christians doing the Lord's will we look with hope to a better and eternal day (Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 6:18-20). But for the soul that is lost in eternally this hope is lost (Luke 16:19-31).

Let us all count the cost should our soul be lost. Then, understanding the great cost of our soul being lost, let each determine to seek after the Lord with all of our heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37). Truly giving ourselves as a living sacrifice.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Peggy Taylor; Athens - Limestone Hospital – ICU
Catherine Roberts; Athens - Limestone Hosp. – ICU
Glen Keenon; Huntsville Hospital – rm. 251

At Home:

Martin Casteel	June Dawson
Yvonne Sherbert	Brandon Craig
Kennedy Pepper	Benton Hardy
Jeff Waddell	Angela Green
Matt Poff	Tim Melson
Jamie Harbin	Mary Davis

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Mary Smith, rm 85
Rosella Pugh, rm. 33	J.D. Clanton, 11E
Sarah (Jennie) Green	Lorene Bradford, rm.117

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
 Jimmy Killen, at home
 Reba Adams, at home
 Mauvis Phillips, at home
 Majorie Lambert, at home
 Fred Varnell, at home
 Ellis Dunnavant, at home

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are away serving in the military for our country. Those among us that are serving away from home:

Cody Brown; Iraq

BIBLE CLASSES: A new quarter has started in our Bible classes this past week. I want to express my appreciation to all the teachers for their dedication in preparing and teaching our Bible classes. We have great Bible classes. If you are not attending Bible class, why not begin now?

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Harold Hays and all the family* in the passing of Harold's nephew, *Norman Wayne McMeans* this past Monday. His funeral was Wednesday morning.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Pettusville church* in Pettusville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. There will be different speakers in this meeting as follows: Sunday morning – *Loren Stephens*; Sunday evening – *Warren Glass*; Monday – *George Harris*; Tuesday – *Alton Bailey*; Wednesday – *Kasey Harbin* ... The *Cartwright church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. There will be different speakers in this meeting as follows: Sunday morning – *Jeremiah McElyea*; Sunday evening – *Collier Raley*; Monday – *David Deason*; Tuesday – *Bob Watson*; Wednesday – *Greg Tucker* ... The *Hanceville church* in Hanceville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Joseph Casimier* preaching.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of April 5th

Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 127
 Morning Worship 150
 Evening Worship..... 116

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 102

Vacation Bible School

June 8 -11, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
 514 West Market Street
 Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
 Prayer Marty Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Albert Bowers
 Assisting Steven Bradley
 Serving David Terry Tommy Burns
 Landon Adams Hunter Cox
 Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
 Prayer Rusty Brand
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Albert Bowers
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday April 12th:

Usher Joel Hamm
 Work Sound System Tim Craig

Wednesday, April 15th:

Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Bible Reading (Proverbs 11:16-31)
 Marty Adams
 Prayer Tim Craig
 Invitation Rusty Brand
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, April 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
 Serving Marion Pepper Tim Craig
 Tyler Cox Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer Curtis Glass

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Preaching Marty Adams
 Lord's Supper Albert Bowers
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday April 19th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
 Work Sound System Cory Nelson