

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

July 5, 2009

No. 27

Amazing Race

Bubba Garner

Sports are not a recent phenomenon. Man has long been interested and engaged in athletic contests. Their influence is even reflected in the language of the Scriptures, particularly Paul's writings. *"I press on to the goal"* (Philippians 3:4). *"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"* (Hebrews 12:1-2). *"I have finished the course"* (2 Timothy 4:7).

In 2 Corinthians 9, the apostle devoted an entire paragraph to the comparison of the Christian life with "the games." The Isthmian Games were held every two years at the Isthmus of Corinth, eight miles outside the city. They were modeled after the Olympic Games and included events such as footraces, boxing, wrestling, and chariot races. In such an environment, Paul's Corinthian audience would have had little trouble making the jump from the physical games to their own spiritual contest.

All Christians are involved in a race. It is not a sprint or a dash, but a marathon to be "run with endurance." It is a race that has hurdles and twists and turns and one that must be conducted according to the rules. And unlike sports seasons and games held every two or four years, this is a race that is ongoing.

What does it take to be successful in the race of life?

You have to finish what you've started. "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win" (1 Corinthians 9:24). Running is not the same as winning. Just because you got out of the starting blocks does not mean that you have crossed the finish line. Just because you have run for a little while does not mean that you have gone far enough. In this race, you win when you finish what you've started.

In the next chapter, Paul used the Israelites as an illustration of this point. They all left the bondage of Egypt. They all passed through Red Sea. But they did not all make it to the Promised Land. Because of their disobedience along the way, most of them "were laid low in the wilderness" (1 Corinthians 10:5).

The Christian race involves determination to complete the journey you have begun. Otherwise, you lose.

You must see the need for discipline. “Everyone who competes in the games exercises self control in all things” (1 Corinthians 9:25). There were specific requirements for the athletes who entered the Isthmian Games. They had to prove that they were of pure Greek blood. They had to show that they had not forfeited their citizenship through misconduct or improper behavior. And they had to demonstrate that they had submitted themselves to ten weeks of training, willingly foregoing things that would interfere with their goals of competition. Otherwise, they were disqualified.

In our culture of convenience, everything must be obtained immediately. We want quick fixes, overnight success, and ten minute abs. But the Christian race is not run this way. It takes time, effort, energy, and deep concentration. It takes a willingness to bring your heart, soul, strength, and mind into subjection to a new Master. It takes a decision to follow the guidelines specified in the Word of God. To run without discipline, as even Paul admitted, is to run the risk of disqualification.

You have to keep your concentration on the prize. “They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable” (1 Corinthians 9:25). The reason an athlete subjects his body to exercise and training is the reward that awaits him. When Craig Biggio was interviewed near the close of his career, he was asked if he would rather be elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame or win the World Series. He didn’t skip a beat when he answered, “I want that ring.”

In the Isthmian Games, the winner of the contest received a crown made out of olive branches and, in later years, pine leaves. And that was well worth it to them. How much more, then, our “crown of life” (Revelation 2:10) and our “unfading crown of glory” (1 Peter 5:4)? It’s the reason we started running in the first place. How tragic to forfeit the prize for something of far less value. Don’t take your eye off of where you’re going. When you do, you start running in the wrong direction.

We have all overcome obstacles to get this far down the road. There are likely other trials that await us up ahead. But let’s not stop until we get home. This is a race to the finish.

via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas

Christ’s Kingdom Is Here Already

Edwin L. Crozier

Many Christians are scared of Revelation. Admittedly, it is a different kind of book. We aren’t used to its apocalyptic genre. It employs figures we aren’t readily familiar with. It uses a style that is not common to us. However, I fear that many Christians are afraid because they know “we” are supposed to believe Christ’s kingdom is already here, but they think Revelation may actually teach what the Premillennialists say about it. They are afraid that if they really study the book, it will cause them to believe we are still waiting for the kingdom.

No doubt, we could spend weeks and weeks studying all of Revelation to defuse the Premillennial interpretation. However, despite some of the more difficult, complex, and symbolic passages that the Premillennialists use to defend their doctrine, the book actually begins with some very clear-cut statements that lay a foundation for the whole book. They lay a foundation that should mold our interpretation of the rest of the book.

Revelation 1:5-6 says, “...Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Just as Jesus is already the firstborn of the dead, He is already the ruler of kings on earth. He is already king. Not only that, but He has already made us into a kingdom. We are not waiting for the kingdom, we are already in the kingdom if we have been set free from our sins by Christ. As Paul said in Colossians 1:13, we are not waiting for Christ’s kingdom, we have already been transferred into it.

Then Revelation 1:9 says, “I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus...”

John was not writing about some future tribulation. He was already in it, partnering in it alongside his readers. He was not writing about some future kingdom. He was already in it, partnering in it alongside his readers. Back in Mark 9:1, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there are

some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.” John was there that day. His words in Revelation 1:9 demonstrate Jesus told the truth. John was still alive and the kingdom of God had already come.

I know our Premillennial friends like to jump to Revelation 20, and there are certainly a myriad of positions taken on what that chapter means. However, whatever we believe it means, we can't make it deny the very foundation of John's book. John's foundation was that the kingdom was already established and enduring a great tribulation, it was not looking forward to one in the dim and distant future.

The kingdom of Jesus is here; we are not waiting for it. We need to get into it and stay in it.

-via *The Franklin Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee



For The Lack of Wood

Bob Dickey

“For lack of wood the fire goeth out; And where there is no whisperer, contention ceaseth. As coals are to hot embers, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to inflame strife...” (Proverbs 26:20-21).

Slander and gossip are said to be like a fire; they heat up the spirit and cause us to speak inflammatory things. This kind of speech burns up all that is good. It will inflame and embroil families, friends, work associates, and brethren -- as well as enemies. All of our society bears the marks of fires that have raged out of control, destroying what is good and precious. And where does the fire start? It is the whispering gossip or slanderer, according to Solomon, that is often the one who fuels the fires of contention.

In the New Testament, James writes about the evils of the tongue and says: “Behold, how much wood is kindled by how small a fire! And the tongue is a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which

defileth the whole body and setteth on fire the wheel of nature, and is set on fire by hell...” (James 3:5-6).

Brethren what we must all do is put an end to the fueling of these fires! We must stop the talking that hurts and destroys others. When the whispering and gossiping stop, the fire will go out. When the rumors, evil reports, and tale-bearings cease, the contention will cease.

-via *South Cullman Companion*; Cullman, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Evelyn Hays; Hartselle Hospital

Wilton Pepper; Huntsville Hospital – room 456

Joyce Gooch; Huntsville Hospital – ICU

At Home:

David Gardner

June Dawson

Reba Byram

Mot Beasley

Angela Green

Jeff Waddell

Benton Hardy

Tim Melson

Matt Poff

Tony Corsbie

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118

Mary Smith, rm. 85

Christine McGuire, rm. 57

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Lorene Bradford, rm.117

Rosella Pugh, rm. 33

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Pauline Lovell, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118

Mary Smith, rm. 85

Christine McGuire, rm. 57

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Lorene Bradford, rm.117

Rosella Pugh, rm. 33

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

Jerry Gilbert; at home

Majorie Lambert, at home

Ellis Dunnavant, at home

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

- Cody Brown; Iraq
- Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan
- Joel Smith; Iraq
- Whitney Smith; Japan

CHILDREN’S BIBLE DRILL: Remember this afternoon we will be meeting at 4:30 in the small auditorium on the west wing for our children’s Bible drill. I hope that all of our children will be able to attend.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The *Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Paddy Kendall Ball* is the speaker in this meeting... The *New Georgia church* in Lauderdale county is beginning a VBS on Monday morning and it will continue through Friday at 10:00. The speaker in the adult class will be *Greg Chandler*.

NEW QUARTER IN OUR BIBLE CLASSES: This week we are beginning a new quarter in our Bible classes. There are classes for all ages, a ladies class and an adult class in the auditorium. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of our teachers this past quarter and I am looking forward to the new quarter. If you are not attending our Bible study periods, why not begin now. This would be a great time and these classes will help all of us on our journey to heaven.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord’s Supper
 Presiding Albert Bowers
 Assisting Rusty Brand
 Serving Marion Pepper Ronnie Locke
 Chris Sides Landon Adams
 Closing Prayer Tim Craig

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Stuart Wilson
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord’s Supper Rusty Brand
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday July 5th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System Frank Noblitt

Wednesday, July 8th:

Song Leader Tim Craig
 Bible Reading (Proverbs 17:1-14)
 Nathaniel Adams
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 Invitation Warren Glass
 Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Sunday, July 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements TBD
 Song Leader TBD
 Prayer TBD
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord’s Supper
 Presiding TBD
 Assisting TBD
 Serving TBD TBD
 TBD TBD
 Closing Prayer TBD

Evening Worship

Announcements TBD
 Song Leader TBD
 Prayer TBD
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord’s Supper TBD
 Closing Prayer TBD

Other Assignments for Sunday July 12th:

Usher TBD
 Work Sound System TBD