

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 12, 2009

No. 28

“Hope – Anchor of the Soul”

Wilson Adams

I am a passionate student of U. S. History and could hardly contain my excitement when I stepped aboard the USS Lexington – the gigantic aircraft carrier docked in Corpus Christi Bay. The Lexington (dubbed the “Gray Ghost” by Tokyo Rose due to premature broadcasts that the giant carrier had been sunk) served our nation well from WWII to Vietnam before being decommissioned.

The Lexington and other naval vessels of times past have given way to a more modern fleet of ships – larger and more capable of meeting the needs of today’s military. The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, for example, is one of the largest ships in the world – from keel to mast, it is the size of a 22 story building. Her flight deck comprises 4.5 acres; she weighs 95,000 tons, and carries a crew of 6,000 (that’s 18,000 meals per day). She is a floating city! The Eisenhower also has two anchors. Each anchor weight 60,000 pounds, is attached to a chain weighing 665,000 pounds, and each individual link in the chain weigh 365 pounds. Now that’s an anchor!

But every vessel, large or small, has an anchor. And why? It is the anchor that keeps the ship where it needs to be. Question: What keeps YOU where you need to be?

The Bible warns time and again about the danger of drifting. “For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it” (Hebrews 2:1). That is why it is essential that we set our anchor firm and deep. “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast...” (Hebrews 6:19).

Hope – Is there anything that anchors our hearts in days filled with so much despair and despondency? Life is hard and some days it just gets harder. All of which means, without hope you’re not going to make it. “I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13). That’s hope! “In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome

the world” (John 16:33). That’s hope! “Whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). Hope again!

“How do people make it when they are not Christians?” The answer is: they don’t. They deny it, fake it, use artificial means to escape it – alcoholism, workaholism, recreational pursuits – anything to keep them busy and fill the void in their lives. The one thing non-believers cannot do is face the tragedies of life with calm, quiet, confident hope. Only God’s child can do that. (“But I do not want you to be ignorant brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

“This hope we have...” It is something possessed by Christians. We have been born again to a living hope (1 Peter 1:3) because we have a living Savior. As William Gaither states, “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives.

Someone reading these may be feeling that hope is lost. It isn’t. Circumstances may be bleak, but if you will embrace the living Lord, you will find hope. Anchor deep in the hope of Jesus.

via *Needmore Bulletin*; Haleyville, Alabama.

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Set Your Face

Gary M. Ogden

When a Political candidate sets his or her sights on the White House, it involves desire, planning, and diligent effort. Though there are pitfalls and obstacles along the way, fierce determination, “setting one’s face toward Washington,” is the only way to get there.

Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem. His mind was set. He had unwavering determination. He was not going to vie for political position; He was not going to earn His fortune; He was not going for earthly

fame. He had a high and noble reason for going to Jerusalem. He had been there many times, but this time was different.

Jesus Set His Face to go to Jerusalem...to Die.

He was not going there for a vacation, not to see the sights, not even for a “holy pilgrimage,” Jesus was going to Jerusalem to endure a tortuous, agonizing death. He was going there because it was the Father’s will. “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent me” (John 6:38).

Long ago, when it was God’s will for Jesus to come to earth, He set his face toward earth! While here, how many times He must have said, “I must be about my Father’s business.” That “business” included being crucified for the sins of the world. To make it more personal, He set His face to die for you.

He had boldly predicted what was going to happen at Jerusalem. “Now, Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again’” (Matthew 20:17-19). As you read Luke’s account, Jesus keeps pressing forward, day after day, knowing what awaited Him (Luke 13:33; 19:28).

Jesus remained firm in His commitment and determination in spite of His disciples trying to discourage Him from doing so. When he announced to them that He was going to Jerusalem to be crucified, Peter was the first to say, “This shall not happen!” (Matthew 16:21-23). But Jesus was not about to let misguided disciples distract Him from His determined course.

Jesus was determined in spite of the fact that some people, the Samaritans, rejected Him because He had set his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:53). Even though the majority rejected Him (John 1:11), it never swayed Him from doing the will of the Father. “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51)

We, Too, Need to Set Our Face Toward Jerusalem

There’s no need to face Jerusalem when we pray as they did in the Old Testament (Daniel 6:10; 2 Chronicles

6:34-35). There's no need to make a pilgrimage to the "holy city" since Jerusalem is no longer considered that by God (John 4:21). Oh, we can go there and see the sights spoken of in the Bible, but there is no inherent holiness obtained by so doing.

The New Testament speaks of a spiritual, heavenly Jerusalem that people come to when they become followers of Christ. "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect" (Hebrews 12:22-23).

You don't become a part of the body of Christ, the church, a part of the spiritual, heavenly Jerusalem, a Christian, by accident, or by birth. It takes fierce determination to make the good confession, to repent of sins, to be baptized into Christ, and walk in newness of life.

We Must Set Our Faces Toward the Heavenly City

Especially in the Book of Revelation, the final dwelling place of all God's faithful children, heaven, is described as the "New Jerusalem." "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name" (Revelation 3:12; 21:2; 21:10).

If we're ever going to make it to heaven, we're going to have to set our faces toward it. This is what patriarchs like Abraham did (Hebrews 11:10). Like so many before us, we need to "desire a better, that is, a heavenly country." "Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (Hebrews 11:16).

A Final Plea

Friends, don't set your face on this earth. Remember, we are strangers and pilgrims here. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland" (11:13-14). This world is the journey, not the destination!

If you set your face toward heaven, like Jesus, you're certain to encounter opposition along the way. Like the Samaritans' attitude toward Jesus, not everyone will be happy with your decision to be a Christian, maybe those in your own family (Matthew 10:36). Set your face and fix your determination anyway! Like Jesus' disciples, sometimes the Lord's people have their minds set on earthly things (Matthew 16:23; Philippians 3:18-19). Don't allow others to discourage you. Set your face and press on.

May God help us to set our faces toward heaven. Let us say with Isaiah, "For the Lord God will help Me; therefore, I will not be disgraced; therefore, I have set My face like a flint. And I know that I will not be ashamed" (Isaiah 50:7). And let us say with Paul, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Let us sing and mean it – "I have decided to follow Jesus. Though none go with me, I still will follow."

Set your face toward Jerusalem and ...keep on marching toward Zion!

-via *Biblical Insights*; Vol. 6 No. 9

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Evelyn Hays; Hartselle Hospital

At Home:

Fay Ferguson	June Dawson
Reba Byram	Mot Beasley
Angela Green	Jeff Waddell
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
Wilton Pepper, rm. 99	

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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Joe Leopard** and *all the family* in the passing of Joe's sister, *Joyce Gooch* this past Thursday. Her funeral was yesterday in Athens.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The **Jones Road church** is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. **Bill Hall and Lowell Sallee** are the speakers in this meeting...The **Bethel church** in Bethel, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. **Everette Conn** is the speaker in this meeting...The **Anderson church** in Anderson is beginning a VBS on Monday morning and it will continue through Friday at 10:00a.m. The speaker in the adult class will be **Cecil Cox**.

YOUNG PEOPLE STUDIES: This Saturday, July 18th, the **Hughes Road church** in Madison will be having a series of lessons for the high school age. **Eric Reynolds, Jeff May and Edwin Crozier** will be the speakers. The sessions begin at 9:45 a.m., 10:45 and 11:45 a.m. The theme will be "*The Need For A Stronger Faith*".

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 12th:

Morning Worship

Annoucements	Stuart Wilson
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Albert Bowers
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Joel Hamm
Serving	Delmer Carter..... Tim Craig
.....	Raymond Brown..... Frank Noblitt
Closing Prayer.....	Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Annoucements	Stuart Wilson
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer.....	Gilbert Hardy

Other Assignments for Sunday July 12th:

Usher	Rusty Brand
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, July 15th:

Song Leader	Jack Cannon
Bible Reading.....	(Proverbs 17:15-28)
.....	Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer	Larry Mitchell
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer.....	Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, July 19th:

Morning Worship

Annoucements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Marion Mitchell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Joel Hamm
Serving	Delmer Carter..... Tim Craig
.....	Raymond Brown..... Frank Noblitt
Closing Prayer.....	Curtis Glass

Evening Worship

Annoucements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Albert Bowers
Preaching	
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer.....	Steven Bradley

Other Assingments for Sunday July 12th:

Usher	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System	Danny Johnson