

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

Volume I

October 4, 2009

No. 40

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

When Death Is A Gift

Mike Thomas

I don't know of anyone who enjoys death. The separation it brings, the emptiness it leaves, the regrets it imprints, and the fear it poses for the living are all too overwhelming to find enjoyment. Even Jesus came in the flesh "to release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:15). Death is man's greatest dread. So when the word of God suggests that death is actually a blessing for the faithful child of God, we are forced to pause to understand how this is so. John wrote, "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them'" (Revelation 14:13).

How is that possible? How can death actually be a good thing for someone to experience? The Spirit gives two reasons: (1) they die in the Lord and (2) they rest from their labors. When a person meets death with these two conditions, they are experiencing something good, enjoyable, and pleasant; they are fortunate; they are blessed. It is good for them because they left this world having met the requirement for salvation from sin: being in Christ (Romans 6:3, 17-18) at the point of death (Revelation 2:10). Their faith then permits them to enter a realm that the apostle Paul considered "gain" in the presence of the Lord, "which is far better" (Philippians 1:21, 23). It is good for the survivors to witness the deceased meet death in this condition because they are reminded of what matters most in life. Their righteous example produces "works" that follow them into eternity through a godly influence (Revelation 14:13; Hebrews 11:4). Indeed, "The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot" (Proverbs 10:7).

With all to be gained by experiencing death in this manner, why would we pray for God to delay the death of a loved one, or even our own? Is it really such a bad thing for a faithful Christian to die? The Spirit says, No! It's actually a gift. The ultimate gift! Nevertheless, we want to see our brethren in the flesh as long as possible in the same way

the Ephesians wept over Paul's anticipated departure - "sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more" (Acts 20:38). Who among us can not relate to their dread? I hate seeing godly people for the last time in this life, even when I know it is better for them to pass on to the other side. But as the tears flow, and our hearts are heavy, let us remember that the only way to pass from this life to the next is through death. They cannot find rest from their labors without a separation from this earthly body. Our days may be dark with the absence of their company, but their reward is just beginning in eternity as the angels await them to take them to the Lord. We feel loss, but they only know gain. We are saddened, but they are blessed for having died in the Lord.

-via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam, Kentucky



Unread Letters

Matt Hennecke

A childhood accident resulted in poet Elizabeth Barrett becoming an invalid and recluse. Despite her isolation her early poetry drew the attention of Robert Browning who began courting her. He eventually asked for her hand in marriage in 1846.

But there's more to the story.

In her youth, Elizabeth had been watched closely by her tyrannical father. He was strict beyond reason and attempted to prevent suitors from courting her. In fact, he did not want any of his children to marry. As a result Elizabeth and Robert eloped, their wedding held in secret because of her father's disapproval.

After the wedding the Brownings sailed for Italy, where they lived for the rest of their lives - exiled from her parents. Even though her parents had disowned her, Elizabeth never gave up on the relationship. Almost weekly she wrote them letters. Some were fairly lengthy, others short and poetical in form.

Not once did they reply.

After ten years, Elizabeth received a large box in the mail. Inside she found all of her letters. Not a single

one had been opened. Elizabeth's years of writing, her letters pleading for reconciliation - were for naught.

Today those letters are among the most beautiful in classical English literature. Had her parents only read a few of them, their relationship with Elizabeth might have been restored. These events were reported in the Daily Walk on May 30, 1992.

What makes the story of Elizabeth Barrett Browning so compelling is that it is so similar to another story. The story that is repeated over and over again - generation after generation

You see, I am aware of other letters which have been written but not read. Beautiful letters. Letters of reconciliation. Letters of hope. We know them better as epistles. These letters, written by men, but authored by God through the Holy Spirit have been written for our reconciliation, for our salvation. Sadly, they often go unnoticed, unread, unheeded. Indeed, the entire Bible, God's Word, is a book pleading for reconciliation. What is amazing is that God is pleading with us for reconciliation, but He has done nothing wrong. We are the ones who have gone astray (2 Peter 2:15), and yet God stoops to beg for our reconciliation.

In Colossians 1:18-23, Paul speaking of Christ says, "It was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him and through Him to reconcile all to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross." Why? Why would God give His only begotten Son for all of us who have gone astray? Paul tells us in verse 22: "in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach." Paul's letter speaks of reconciliation and of hope. Are you listening? What a beautiful letter. It would be a shame if it were never read, or if read, ignored.

-via *Think On These Things*; Cortland, Illinois

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

Providence – “God Only Knows”

Dennis Carrow

We've all heard this expression. When one is faced with a predicament that seems to reach beyond their comprehension they throw up their hands and state, "God only knows." This can accurately define our limited knowledge when it comes to God's providence. As Deuteronomy 29:29 reminds us there are secret things that belong to God. However, the scriptures also reveal that God has revealed all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). So, while we may ask questions to which we do not know an answer, when it comes to things that relate to our walk of faith - we can know!

One of the things we need to constantly be reminded of is that God's word will accomplish that which he intends. It is a marvelous thing to realize the word of God is living and powerful, even discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

While we may never be able to fully realize how God's word accomplishes everything that it does, we can know that it does!

It is this element of faith that will enable us to trust God and His word even when we do not understand a particular circumstance we are facing. It is from this perspective that we will find peace in times of trouble, and courage to persevere when facing life's greatest challenges.

Our understanding of God's providential care does not always answer every question one may ask. However, it does give us the insight to know that God is with us and His way will deliver us from evil. When we feel compelled to say, "God only knows," may we realize indeed He does know and our faith and our trust should be immovable.

-via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Bayless Romine; Valley View - Madison
Heather Adams; St. Jude - Memphis, Tenn.

At Home:

Polly Davis	Lola Colwell
Delmer Carter	Margaret Carter
Jerry Gilbert	Mitzi Carruth
Ann Locke	Wayne Garner
Tim Dean	James Craig
Molly Weeks	Marie Welden
Matt Poff	Tony Corsbie
Jeff Waddell	Henrietta Word

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Albert Norton, rm. 111
Gladys Johnson, rm. 114	Mary Norton, rm. 111
Lorene Bradford, rm. 117	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm.	Mary Smith, rm. 85

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Jimmy Killen, at home
Reba Adams, at home
Majorie Lambert, 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:

Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan

Joel Smith; Iraq

Whitney Smith; Japan

WORK GROUPS: Tonight is the night for Work Group 1 to meet. If this is your group, remember to meet with your group tonight following our evening service.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember this afternoon at 4:30 will be the time for our children's Bible drill. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present.

NURSERIES AVAILABLE: There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the

west wing and the other in the east wing.

BIBLE CLASS QUARTER: Our new quarter in Bible classes begins today. There will be an adult class meeting on Sunday mornings called “**Bible 101**” taught by *Rusty Brand*. This class will meet in Room 22. Also, the ladies class will resume with *Linda Cleek* teaching it. The ladies class will be studying “**Women Professing Godliness**”. The children’s classes will begin a new curriculum “**Shaping Hearts For God**”. *Sharma, Hamm, Lisa Wulfekuhl, Carolyn Dean, Judy Vaughn, Beth Brand, Marty Adams and Stuart Wilson* will be teaching these classes. The adult classes in the auditorium will continue on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. On Sunday morning, *Warren Glass* will be teaching the epistle of **James**. On Wednesday evening, *David Cox* will be teaching the book of **Acts**. I appreciate all of our teachers from the past quarter and those teaching this quarter for their dedication and willingness to be involved in our teaching program. If you have not been a part of our classes, this would be a great time to begin.

CONSTRUCTION: The construction that has been on-going for the last several weeks is nearing completion. The new roof covering the auditorium and the new ceiling in the auditorium are now complete. The work looks good and the sound in the auditorium with the ceiling and new sound system will improve the acoustics in our worship and classes. They will be working on putting new roofs on the east and west wings of the building then it will be complete. I appreciate the attitude and disposition of the members here in not letting this work cause us to lose focus of what our work is.

PREACHING AWAY: *Warren Glass* is preaching for the church at *New Georgia* near Rogersville today. He will be there at both services.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *O’Neal church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Randall Hammock* will be the speaker... The *Carriger church* is engaged a meeting this week with *Bob Waldron* preaching.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of September 27th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 131
Morning Worship 173
Evening Worship..... 135

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 100

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Kenneth Smith
Assisting Rusty Brand
Serving Ronnie Locke..... Tim Craig
..... Hunter Cox..... Delmer Carter
Closing Prayer Dwain Allfrey

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday October 4th:
Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, October 7th:

Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 22:1-16)
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Invitation Mary Adams
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Sunday, October 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Kenneth Smith
Assisting Rusty Brand
Serving Ronnie Locke..... Tim Craig
..... Hunter Cox..... Delmer Carter
Closing Prayer Frank Noblitt

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord’s Supper Rusty Brand
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday October 11th:
Usher David Terry
Work Sound System Danny Johnson