

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

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

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No. 42

The Race of Life

David A. Cox

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

The Hebrew writer is writing to the Hebrew Christians to encourage them to remain faithful and to keep their focus on the goal. He has just concluded a list of great examples of faith in Hebrews 11 such as: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sara, Issac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. After mentioning these he writes, “And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets...” (Hebrews 11:32). Of these that he did not mention he says that they suffered violence of fire, imprisonment, and other violent mistreatments and declares “of whom the world was not worthy” (Hebrews 11:38). It is in this setting he pictures for the Hebrew Christians this great cloud of witnesses as gathered about them for encouragement as they run their race of life. Let us notice the instructions the writer gives as they run this race.

Lay Aside Every Weight and Sin

The analogy here is that in a race no one will race carrying around extra weight to burden them as they run. In the race of life, many things serve as distractions to our fully devoting our lives to the service of Christ. Some of these things may not actually be sinful in and of themselves, but they encumber us as we strive to serve. We must honestly look at our lives and see if there are things which are hindering us in being fully committed to serving Christ. It may be in our work, hobbies, etc. We must shed any excess baggage as we run the race of life.

He also mentions sin. The rejection of sin is an absolute must if we are to finish with victory. Sin will sap us physically and emotionally, but will also destroy us spiritually. We must stand against sin and do all we can to avoid it. At times, we may fall back into sin, but we must not let it remain with us or it will destroy us in our race. The great cloud of

witnesses understood this and we must understand it too: to rid ourselves of all encumbrances and sin. They did it and so can we.

Run With Patience

Patience is a key part of the race we are running. The Christian life must not be seen as a sprint or a 40 yard dash, but a long distance run, a marathon. Good starts are good in any race, but it is not what is necessary in a marathon. Rather, a long distance runner must train and develop for the race and then pace himself for the long run. In our lives as Christians, we must learn to be patient and to not expect immediate results. Patience is one of the attributes Peter says that we must add to our faith, if we are to not lose our faith (2 Peter 1:3-10). Let us run with patience and endurance; not becoming weary in well doing.

Let us remember the exhortation of the Hebrew writer to remain focused on the long-term race, and not be turned away by short-term distractions regardless of how appealing they may seem to be. The great people of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11 have given us the example that the race can be run and finished well. The race of life must be run in patience and endurance focussing on “Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).



Living In The “Last Days”

Jacob Holman

In the middle of Paul’s second letter to Timothy, he urged, encouraged and warned Timothy to live as a true disciple of Christ, an active bond-servant of the Lord, and to be ever watchful for the work of the devil, as shown in the lives of others. In doing so, Paul also spoke very candidly about the coming difficulties of the “last days.”

He wrote, *“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable,*

malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

What a list! What a vivid, no-holds-barred description of life in Timothy’s day! Paul pulled no punches in painting such a graphic picture of just how far away people - who were made in God’s image and likeness - would stray from God!

Yet, while Paul addressed these words specifically to Timothy, we must realize that we too are living in the “*last days*” and people haven’t changed much in the last 1,940+ years. The devil is still alive and active, sin is still pervading every facet of our society and masses of people are still living as they please.

If you doubt that fact at all, just take a look at this divinely-inspired list again. If we didn’t know these were 1st Century words, we would think they were written in the 21st Century!

What are most people in love with in our day? Self, money and pleasure (vs. 2-3)! This infatuation with self and stuff shows itself in many people’s boastful, arrogant, ungrateful, unholy hearts and results in a total lack of self-control!

How do many children treat their parents? Many are disobedient to their instructions (v.2) and could care less what their parents say!

What level of commitment describes many who are “religious” in our time? Many hold to an outward “*form of godliness*” (v. 5), while living as they please, thus denying its power to mold them into the image of Christ!

...And on and on down Paul’s list we could go!

However, as we look at this list, we who are Christ’s disciples must realize that we are called to live by a different “list” than others living in these “*last days*.” We must lose our life now for Christ’s sake so that we can save our life then (Luke 9:24). We must “*not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind*” (Romans 12:2). We must be “*children of God...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation*” (Philippians 2:15) - shining our lights in such a dark world. We must be truly changed by the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16), so that our “*new self*” reflects the

image of our Lord (Colossians 3:10).

It's not easy living like a Christian in these "last days." It never has been (2 Timothy 3:1), nor will it ever be! God help us all to live by His "list" rather than Satan's!

-via *College View Columns*; Elizabethtown, Kentucky



Peter Got It Right

David Diestelkamp

When Jesus asked, "Who do men say that I, the son of Man, am?" (Matthew 16:18), He illustrated that man's religious conclusions and definitions may not be the same as God's. Some people thought things about Jesus that simply weren't true. Their belief, however sincere it may have been, didn't make Him John the Baptist, Jeremiah or one of the prophets (Matthew 16:13-14).

Peter was correct when he answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). The others, however sincere, misguided, or deceived, were wrong. Saying, "My Jesus is..." was the thinking of people who reached wrong conclusions about Jesus. Peter's understanding of the truth came from God, not from men (Matthew 16:17). Our thinking must perceive what God means and then conform to it.

Peter was able to sort through the quagmire of incorrect religious positions and controversy and find the truth. Saying, "If the experts can't agree..." or "Maybe we need to go with the polls," would have been disastrous. It is possible to confidently know the truth, even in a confused religious world.

Peter's statement of truth gave the solution to division. The difference in what people believed about Jesus was more of a problem because it differed with God rather than with each other. Division over who Jesus was could only be resolved by all accepting who He really was, not by everyone agreeing to a palatable compromise (i.e. He was Elijah). Generally, unity will

naturally occur when all accept and apply the truth. Any other unity is more adhesion than oneness and does not produce unity with God.

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

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 Rehab. - Madison
Heather Adams; St. Jude - Memphis, Tenn.

At Home:

Margaret	Polly Davis
Lola Colwell	Jerry Gilbert
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	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Gladys Johnson, rm. 114	Mary Smith, rm. 85
Lorene Bradford, rm.117	Rosella Pugh, rm. 83

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80
Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

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

WORKGROUPS: Tonight is the night for Work Group 3 to meet. If this is your group, remember to meet with your group tonight following our evening service.

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE AGE STUDY: Last night, we had another in our series of High School/College Age studies. The next and final study at this time will be November 14th.

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.

PREACHING AWAY: *Warren Glass* is preaching for the church at Jones Road this morning. He will be back with us tonight.

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

WEBSITE: The church's website is undergoing a redesign and it will be complete in a couple of weeks. There will be improvements made to the site and after the redesign is complete, it will allow us the ability to upload the sermons preached at Market Street weekly. The web address is:

MarketStreet-church .org

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Holland's Gin church* in Ardmore is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Frank Richey* will be the speaker ... The *Locks Cross Road church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday with services at 7:30. *Will Dillbeck* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Capshaw church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Friday. *David Hartselle* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Jackson Drive church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Friday. *E. R. Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of October 11th

- Sunday:**
- Bible Classes..... 118
 - Morning Worship 163
 - Evening Worship..... 132

- Wednesday:**
- Bible Classes..... 96

Remember our Service This Evening 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 18th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Stuart Wilson
- Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
- Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Larry Mitchell
- Assisting Wayne Vaughn
- Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Tommy Burns
- Marion Pepper Landon Adams
- Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Evening Worship

- Announcements Stuart Wilson
- Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
- Prayer Kenneth Smith
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
- Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday October 18th:

- Usher Raymond Brown
- Work Sound System Tim Craig

Wednesday, October 21st:

- Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
- Bible Reading (Proverbs 23:1-11)
- Nathaniel Adams
- Prayer Tyler Cox
- Invitation Rusty Brand
- Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, October 25th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Rusty Brand
- Song Leader Joel Hamm
- Prayer Jack Cannon
- Preaching Warren Glass
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Larry Mitchell
- Assisting Wayne Vaughn
- Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Tommy Burns
- Marion Pepper Landon Adams
- Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

- Announcements Rusty Brand
- Song Leader Joel Hamm
- Prayer Tyler Cox
- Preaching Song Service
- Lord's Supper Wayne Vaughn
- Closing Prayer Stuart Wilson

Other Assignments for Sunday October 25th:

- Usher Ronnie Locke
- Work Sound System Danny Johnson