

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

November 1, 2009

No. 44

It's Your Life, You Know

Dee Bowman

Life is filled with perplexities, puzzlements of various sorts. It has odd turns: seemingly insignificant things sometimes turn out to be terribly significant; things that aren't supposed to work out, but sometimes do; and things that seemingly should work out, but don't. Life is a tangled web, a knotty, mostly inexplicable web. Man seeks to describe it, to explain, and he can't. All he can do is live it.

But don't despair. There is more to life than just an inexplicable maze of un-related and un-controllable events. Actually, God made life, and it is to Him that we must turn for information concerning its proper management. Life can be a zesty, fulfilling experience, even in the face of difficulty or adversity, if it is lived in accordance with the designs of the Maker. Otherwise it's just an empty shell lived without meaning and with little genuine happiness attached to it.

First, let it be carefully observed that a life divorced from God has little meaning. Solomon paints a sordid picture of life in Ecclesiastes. He says that the sun rises and goes down over and over. He says that one generation comes and another passes away. He says that the weather forecast really doesn't change that much - that one cold front follows another, that "that which is crooked cannot be made straight and that which is wanting cannot be numbered" (Ecclesiastes 1:15). Paul the Apostle echoes the same sentiment when he exclaims, "If in this world only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Corinthians 15:19). So let it first be noted that a good life begins by getting in touch with God.

Life has meaning when it generates service. Service is the essence of life. To put oneself at the disposal of others is to bring meaning to life, to be a part of society, to bring honor to the Creator. We are "all members one of another" (Romans 12:5). That means we are joined in service to one another. We don't all have the same talent, but we all have some talent with which to serve. Want a fulfilling life? Put yourself

at the disposal of others. Get out of yourself and get involved in serving others.

Life has meaning when it is motivated by love. Love is the divine energizer. It brings things about. It generates the motion necessary for everything from good marital relationships, to good congregations of God's people. Actually, what is not motivated by love is of little value in the ultimate reality. Love broadens, softens, actuates, disciplines, clarifies, joins, repairs, and is behind every sort of human happiness. Love and you'll be blessed - even when things go wrong.

Furthermore, life has meaning when it is pointed in the right direction. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," is Jesus' way of saying, "point your life toward me or it will have no real meaning." The Hebrew writer must have had this concept in mind when he said we should run the race "with patience, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." To look in the wrong direction is disastrous! You will have a wreck for sure.

Finally, faith is the substance for giving life real meaning. A life that has been lived without any connection to the life hereafter is foolish indeed. More than that, it's a terrible waste! Even the light affliction worketh for us a far greater and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). You should know by now that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Our faith is the basis for our hope. If we look in the right direction, we will see - off in the distance there - eternal life. Now that's a life worth living!

-via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana.

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

The Patience of God

Eddie J. Caskey

Paul, in Galatians 5:22, lists "longsuffering" as a fruit of the Spirit. Longsuffering or patience is certainly a virtue that seems to be entirely lost in our modern age. Almost everything in our generation is expected on a very limited time schedule and impatience abounds when that schedule is not kept. The drive-thru convenience of nearly every commodity in our society has made waiting in lines practically inexcusable. Unfortunately, this same impatience often spreads to our dealings with our fellow man. Christians, however, should be well exercised in practicing patience.

Paul, in addressing the brethren in Ephesus, wrote, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:1-2). Even though "patience" is the word we most commonly use today, "longsuffering" very accurately depicts the words meaning. We are required to "suffer long" with one another, and many times it feels exactly that way! Patience involves controlling and containing our passions, desires, and intentions. This enduring, however, must not be short lived, but rather lasting through diligent study and devotion.

To better understand patience, let us look to the example of our God's dealing with man. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:2-4 that "...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'" But, then he warns in verse 8-9, "But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." God is suffering long with mockers, scoffers, and all sorts of transgressors in hope that they will turn from their wicked ways. He is controlling and containing His righteous passion, desire, and intention for all of our good. He has done so for a long time!

The fact that we are all still here and still have

the opportunity to come to the Lord and serve Him attests to His patience and mercy. Indeed the Lord has suffered long with us, and continues to do so. Peter's point in commending the Lord's patience is summed up in 2 Peter 3:15, "and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation..." Has His longsuffering been of value to you? Let's give thanks that even though we have often been impatient, God has been patient with us!

-via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas.



Spiritually Productive

Shane Williams

We all enjoy seeing beautiful landscapes. Whether it is vast fields ready to be harvested or a magnificent garden where flowers bloom and great beauty is everywhere to behold.

What about a plot of land that is a memorial to neglect? Anything of beauty or that which could be good and useful can be choked out with that which is undesirable.

The apostle Peter told us how we can avoid being "barren" (useless) and "unfruitful" (2 Peter 1:8). He encouraged Christians to be diligent and spiritually productive, developing the character qualities of faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (vs. 5-7).

Doing this requires effort on our part. It demands that we work on our relationship with God. We need to be reading the Bible regularly, praying often, resisting temptation, focusing on obedience to Him, and reaching out to others in love. Peter mentioned the additional benefits of being fruitful: a continued assurance, spiritual stability ("you will never stumble") and an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior (vs. 10-11).

How productive is your life? Is your life in God's sight one of beauty or neglect?

-via *The Lilbourn Light*; Lilbourn, Missouri

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:

Katherine Stoffregen; Athens-Limestone, rm. 219

Benton Ball; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 1548

Kaden Moses; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 407E

Bayless Romine; Valley View Rehab. - Madison; 79B

Heather Adams; St. Jude - Memphis, Tenn.

Marie Welden; Whitesburg Rehab., Huntsville

At Home:

Jerry Gilbert

Polly Davis

Lola Colwell

Gladys Johnson

Henrietta Word

Wayne Garner

Tim Dean

James Craig

Molly Weeks

Jeff Waddell

Matt Poff

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Bobbie Adcock, rm. 118

Mary Smith, rm. 85

Lorene Bradford, rm.117

Rosella Pugh, rm. 83

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Limestone Lodge:

Ruth Owens, rm. 12

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.

OUT OF TOWN: We have missed several who have been out of town. *Tommy and Susan Burns* in Puerto Rico; *Nancy Abernathy* in Arkansas; *Frank and Ava Noblitt* in Knoxville, Tennessee.

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 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.

BAPTISM: We are rejoicing over *Joyce Varnell's* decision to be baptized and begin a new and fresh life in Jesus Christ. We appreciate Joyce and her conviction to be pleasing to God. May we all encourage her as she has encouraged us. May the Lord bless her with many years to serve Him.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Travis Phillips* and all the family of *Janette Houston*. She past was Travis' aunt by marriage.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Friday. *Bob Waldron* will be the speaker ... The *Jordan Park church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday with services at 7:30. *Lowell Sallee* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Elkton church* in Elkton, Tennessee is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Helton Drive church* in Florence is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Gary Henry* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Shawn Jeffries* will be the speaker in this meeting..

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of October 25th

Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 115
 Morning Worship 158
 Evening Worship..... 104

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 92

Remember our Service This Evening 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Benton Ball
 Assisting Stuart Wilson
 Serving Nathaniel Adams... Marvin Putman
 Chris Sides David Terry
 Closing Prayer Rusty Brand

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Benton Ball
 Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday November 1st:

Usher Bonnie Sutton
 Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, November 4th:

Song Leader Tim Craig
 Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 23:22-35)
 Joel Hamm
 Prayer Rusty Brand
 Invitation Jerry McGlocklin
 Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Sunday, November 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwain Allfrey
 Song Leader Frank Noblitt
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Benton Ball
 Assisting Stuart Wilson
 Serving Nathaniel Adams... Marvin Putman
 Chris Sides David Terry
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwain Allfrey
 Song Leader Frank Noblitt
 Prayer Rusty Brand
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday November 8th:

Usher Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System Tim Craig