

# 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.com

### 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. 52

## *Time Is Swiftly Passing*

**David A. Cox**

This next week we will enter a new year. The year 2010. As we enter the new year, I am reminded of the old song we sometimes sing that says, “Swiftly were turning life’s daily pages,  
Swiftly the hours are changing to years.

Indeed, life is passing by quickly and the year that is past is a memory now and forever. As we think of the past year, let each of us ask ourselves the question in the song, “How are we using God’s golden moments? Shall we reap glory or shall we reap tears?” The question is sobering, but true. Each day our lives are spent either being what God desires us to be or being what the world would have us to be.

### **Draw Closer To God**

This past year some have drawn themselves closer to God. They have made the decision to stand up and be counted among God people. But one may ask, “How can I be drawn closer to God?”

1. To draw closer to God, one must **give more time to God in prayer**. Jesus taught that “men ought always to pray” (Luke 18:1). Prayer does not just happen. Each one must determine to make the effort and to take the time to pray. As one prays, he is then drawn closer to God. Prayer is absolutely essential if one is to remain close to God.

2. Drawing closer to God will require that one **spend time reading and studying the word of God**. Getting to know the mind of our Father in heaven will help one to be more like Him. The world will not give us this standard, but the word of God gives us the standard and reveals the mind of God to us (John 12:48; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16). When one is drawn closer to God, then necessary virtues will be added to our lives (2 Peter 1:5-7) and these qualities will replace the problems that hinder spiritual growth such as selfishness, worldliness and a lack of commitment.

### **Becoming More Like The World**

This past year, some have not drawn closer to God and are not living and using the golden moments granted to them in ways that God desires. Some have allowed the world to begin to control their lives. They

are now making decisions that are and will lead them away from God. This kind of living is summed up by Paul when he writes, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21). One that is drawn away from and is given over to the works of the flesh has a tragic future awaiting, if they are not awakened to the reality of it before it is too late (Hebrews 9:27).

Let us each resolve to draw closer to God and to encourage those around us to do the same. We shall only live for a brief period of time (James 4:14) and time is swiftly passing. Let us not misuse “God’s golden moments” and reap tears for eternity. Rather, let us use them diligently doing His will and enjoy the blessings for eternity. Rather, let us use them diligently, that you might learn to live a life of distinction. Let your light shine!



## ***Trusting In God’s Forgiveness***

**Matthew H. Allen**

You know the feeling. It starts deep down inside, and as it grows your stomach turns and anxiety builds. It's the realization that you've fallen short...again. Satan seeks out our weaknesses and effectively exploits them to the fullest. And now, the guilt. The constant questioning, *if only I had...* Think of the dread of coming to worship services again and think *if these people knew half the things I struggle with, they'd run me out of here.* Many obey the gospel of Christ and do well initially. But then, they find themselves falling back into the same habits they had before their relationship with Christ. After they succumb, then comes the guilt. This time it is even worse. Sometimes the guilt is almost overwhelming and younger Christians are tempted to give up.

Sin is a terrible thing. The Hebrew writer likened it to a great weight that ties us down. Hebrews 12:1. It can paralyze our spiritual progress and shackle us with guilt. When we begin to compare our self with the perfect example of holiness, Jesus, it can feel even worse. When Peter finally realized who Jesus really was, he responded. Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord. Luke 5:8. When we begin to understand sin for what it is, the burden may feel overwhelming.

I once read that there are three things we can do with sin. We can resolve to never sin again. If we do this, we set our self up for failure. This is impossible. See 1 John 1:8. We can let sin make us a coward. This is what happened to Judas. Upon realization of the terrible consequences of his scheme, Matthew 27:3-5, tells us he went out and hanged himself. He could have faced his sin through confessing it to God. Had Judas humbly approached God seeking forgiveness, he would have been forgiven. Instead, Judas now has all eternity to deal with the regret of his sin. Sin turned Judas into a coward. Since resolving to never sin and not facing our sin are ways leading to defeat, we must learn from our sin. This is profitable. It is what Peter did. After suffering a crushing spiritual defeat by denying Jesus three times, Matthew 26:69-75, the apostle sought God's forgiveness and picked himself up. A mere fifty days after the resurrection, Peter preached the greatest sermon of his life on Pentecost. There were over 3,000 persons who obeyed the gospel that day. Toward the end of his life, Peter would write:

“Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:3-4, ESV)

Peter knew all about mercy and forgiveness. He had personally experienced it as seen in John 21:15-17. What was true for Peter remains true for us. The Christian is someone who has experienced mercy and forgiveness from God. When God says something, He means it. Let us move in faith and learn Him more.

**The Forgiveness of God is personal.**

God sent His son to a cruel cross in order to be the

perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus is the propitiation for our sin (1 John 2:2). This propitiation is for everyone. It makes no difference how many sins have to be forgiven. There is no one beyond God's power to save. There is a passage in Hebrews 7:25 we need to remember:

“He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”  
(Hebrews 7:25, ESV)

Note the last phrase in the verse above. Forgiveness was not a one-time event. Jesus always lives to make intercession for us. He continues to be the offering that turns away God's wrath. We can always approach the Father, confess our sin, and be assured that He will always welcome us back into His grace.

Heaven is not an unattainable goal. It is not the destination of so called “super Christians.” It is the destination of those who have been forgiven and stand solely by the grace of God. Because of the abundant mercy of God, we have a living hope of salvation given to us through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This hope and assurance should be a source of motivation for us as we go through life. When we realize that God will go to whatever depth or any length to save us, it should radically change our life for the better. How is your life?

-via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana.



## ***Providence – What God Does Through Us***

**Dennis Carrow**

As we carry trust, humility, and patience into seeking God's provisions, a marvelous thing occurs in our lives. God works in and through us to do His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13). The question of *how* God works in us leaves many perplexed. Some have strayed off into mysticism in their attempts to explain God's providence. However, the Scriptures explain in an understandable manner how God provides for us and others. Notice the implication of 2 Corinthians

1:3-6. “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*”

We understand that God provides all spiritual blessings in Christ. We also receive His promises of provisions for necessities. God works through us in the lives of others! We are the conduit of God's blessings in the lives of others.

We pray for the lost to be saved. God instructs us to “*walk in wisdom toward those who are outside.*” (Colossians 4). We pray for those who are suffering and lack the necessities of life. God responds, “*work with your hands...that you may have something to give to him who has need.*” (Ephesians 4:28).

In these passages we can see how God works through us. And, as we reflect on our own lives we can see how God has Worked in times past through those who were walking according to His precepts. The perpetuation of God's providence is seen as He works in us and through us, both to will and to do His good pleasure.

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

## ***News & Notes***

### **THE SICK:**

#### ***In The Hospital:***

*Mark Hargrove*; Huntsville Hospital, ICU

#### ***At Home:***

Lola Colwell

Mot Beasley

Stuart Wilson

Molly Wilson

Harold Hays

Gladys Johnson

Mary Davis

Durrel Allfrey

Bayless Romine

Molly Weeks

Jeff Waddell

Tommy Gatlin

Marie Welden

Margaret Carter

Yvonne Sherbert

Caroline Wilson

Carolyn Dean

David Gardner

Polly Davis

Bobbie Adcock

Elmer Mitchell

Henrietta Word

Nancy Pierce

Wayne Garner

Thomas Lovell

*Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

*Limestone Health Facility:*

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E  
Katherine Stoffregen, rm. 98 Mary Smith, rm. 85  
Lorene Bradford, rm.117 Rosella Pugh, rm. 83  
Irene Daniel, rm. 67

*Limestone Manor:*

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

*Limestone Lodge:*

Ruth Owens, rm. 12W

*Shut-In:*

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.  
Reba Adams, at home  
Majorie Lambert, at daughter's 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 Work Group 4 will meet. If this is your group, remember to meet tonight following our evening service.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to all *the Keenon family* in the passing of his brother *Glen A. Keenon*. He past away this past Friday evening and his funeral will this afternoon at 2:00 at the Limestone Chapel funeral home.

**PREACHING AWAY:** It was good to be with the brethren at *Jackson Drive* Wednesday night preaching in their Fall/Winter Series on "Heroes of Faith". I missed being with you and I appreciate *Rusty Brand* for filling in and teaching my class while I was away.

**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.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance— Week of December 20th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 136  
Morning Worship ..... 175  
Evening Worship..... 102

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes..... 83

**Remember Our Service This Evening 5:00.**

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, December 27th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
Preaching, ..... Warren Glass  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Kenneth Smith  
Assisting ..... Rusty Brand  
Serving ..... Chris Sides ..... Nathaniel Adams  
..... Joel Hamm ..... Tommy Burns  
Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
Prayer ..... Joel Hamm  
Preaching ..... Song Service  
Lord's Supper ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Closing Prayer ..... Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 27th:

Usher ..... Tyler Cox  
Work Sound System ..... Tim Craig

**Wednesday, December 23rd:**

Song Leader ..... Marty Adams  
Bible Reading..... (Proverbs 26:13-28)  
..... Marion Mitchell  
Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn  
Invitation ..... Rusty Brand  
Closing Prayer ..... Lifford Smith

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**Sunday, January 3rd:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Frank Noblitt  
Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox  
Prayer ..... Steven Bradley  
Preaching, ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Kenneth Smith  
Assisting ..... Rusty Brand  
Serving ..... Chris Sides ..... Nathaniel Adams  
..... Joel Hamm ..... Tommy Burns  
Closing Prayer ..... Landon Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
Prayer ..... Joel Hamm  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 3rd:

Usher ..... Roonie Locke  
Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson