

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 R. Adams (256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand (256) 233-7343
Tim Craig (256) 233-4597
Joel Hamm (256) 230-6223
Bobby McGuire (256) 232-7887
Stuart Wilson (256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass (256) 233-6086

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MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

Volume II

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No. 17

"The Night Is Coming"

Jim Ward

You probably don't recognize the name of Henry Allingham, do you? How about Jeanne Calment? No? Well, there's really no reason why you should; they both lived an entire ocean away, he in England, she in France. Why, then, should we link their names together, you ask, "What did they have in common?" Just this: they were both recognized as the oldest person in the world at the time of their death. Mrs. Calment died in 1997 at the age of 122. Mr. Allingham, at 113 years and 13 days, died in July of 2009.

This pair were members of a rather select group dubbed *super-centenarians*. There are only seventy-seven of them in the world at the moment, at least according to those who keep count of such things. And, they also say, there have been only something over a thousand of these hoary heads documented in history.

Whether that includes - what shall we call them? - super-super centenarians of Genesis chapter five (5) is doubtful. Many people consider the Bible only a myth. Christians are not in that number; we believe that the Bible is history and not myth.

If so, the patriarchs of Genesis five are the hoariest of all the hoary heads on record, with ages ranging from 777 to 969 years. But aside from the advanced ages of these men of old, there is another hard fact that jumps out at us from this text: each brief biography (with the exception of Enoch's) ends with the words, "and he died." It happened that way with Ms. Calment; she lived 122 years and *she died*. And Henry Allingham; he lived 113 years *and he died*. That's how my story ends - and yours, and the story of all humankind. What's more, it's no big secret; "the living know that they will die" (Ecclesiastes 9:5). We'd have to be dense to overlook the constant parade of hearses.

Why bother, then, to write about the certainty and universality of death? Why spend the time and ink and paper? Surely, it's superfluous, isn't it? My answer is no. Even though we know it, we don't seem to get

it. We hide it back in some dark recess of our minds; we deny it. Jeremiah said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (17:9). We have to teach about things we already know because the human heart has a remarkable capacity for blocking out things it doesn't want to hear. And if we don't block them out entirely, we convince ourselves that we have plenty of time to deal with them.

Consider, then, two questions suggested by the fact of death:

When Must We Get Serious?

My short answer is: immediately, if not sooner. But let's look at the issue in biblical language. The writer of Ecclesiastes wrestled with the meaning of life, and here is his reply to our question:

"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Life is fleeting, he says, so it's best to enjoy your youth while you can (11:9f). Just do so with an eye on judgment. Enjoyment and seriousness are not mutually exclusive.

But what if youth passes us by and we fail to sober up until later in life? My answer is still the same: get on with it now. Jacob uttered a bit of unstudied wisdom after he learned that his lamented son Joseph was alive. He said, "I will go and see him before I die" (Genesis 45:28). *Before I die* - those are the pivotal words. It's the only time we have to act. And procrastination is folly; who can say when death will batter down our door? We all know someone to whom it was a sudden and cruel intruder.

Even Jesus was constrained by time. "I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day," He said, "the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4). If true of the Master of time, how much more true of us. The wise will take it to heart.

What Must We Be Serious About?

Birth and death are common to us all; it's what comes between which distinguishes us from each other. Life is a stream of everflowing choices, and they all matter because they all have consequences. The wise son of David tried them all. Here's what he found:

* Wisdom, though preferable to folly, falls short of being the key to life. To the contrary, "in much

wisdom is much grief, and he who increases in knowledge increases sorrow" (Ecclesiastes 1:18).

- * The party life is a washout. Pleasure, wine, laughter - "What does it accomplish?" (2:1-3).
- * Possession don't cut it. Fine houses, servants, gold, silver, vineyards, flocks and herds - he denied himself nothing. And it was about as satisfying as a handful of wind.

So he wound up hating life "because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to him" (2:17). But then, finally, he worked his way to what he called "the conclusion of the whole matter: "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all" (12:13).

So what will it be? God has set before us "life and death, blessing and cursing" (Deuteronomy 30:19). With Moses, I urge you, "Therefore, choose life," and one more thing: do it now. "The night is coming when no one can work."

-via *Lost River Bulletin*; Bowling Green, Kentucky



The Man Who Tried Three Religions

W. Frank Walton

"Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task" (Acts 6:3).

The growing Jerusalem church consisted of converted Hebrews from Jerusalem (Acts 3:13; 4:50 and Hellenistic Jews "from every nation" (Acts 2:5). The Hellenistic widows' needs in the church were being overlooked, so the apostles' put seven spiritual "men of good reputation" in charge of this benevolent task (Acts 6:1-12).

How many can you name from memory of these early benevolent servants in the Jerusalem church? Probably Stephen, later the first martyr (Acts 7), and Philip, who later devoted himself to evangelistic work (Acts 8:5). All seven men in this list have Greek names. These are

Hellenistic Jews, except one man listed last: ...Nicolas, the proselyte from Antioch” (Acts 6:5).

Nicolas is the first Gentile convert documented in Acts. Previously, he had converted from Gentile paganism to Judaism. Greek paganism was frightfully superstitious and morally bankrupt. In this idolatrous darkness, Nicolas the Gentile was attracted to the goodness and righteousness of the Jewish religion (Deuteronomy 4:6-8). He became a practicing Jew that meant annually going up to Jerusalem for feast days (Exodus 23:17).

Hence, it is most likely he was among that international crowd of Jewish worshippers on Pentecost (Acts 2:5). If so, he was touched by the gospel of Jesus, by penitent faith in the Messiah, and gladly obeyed Christ in baptism (Acts 2:36-41).

What an exciting conversion story out of the wilderness of religious confusion! I like and admire Nicolas. He grew amid Gentile idolatry, converted to Judaism, and then became, upon hearing the gospel, a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Here truly is a “good” man, willing to be led and controlled by “the Spirit” (Acts 6:3)! Having been in two other religions, he again was willing to change when faced with the truth. At last, he discovered the true religion of the Son of God and obeyed “truth as it is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21).

This is the spirit of an idealistic truth seeker (Acts 17:11). “Lord, what will you have me to do?” (Acts 22:10). Every person is his or her own “restoration movement” to be all the Lord wants us to be.

In seeking to be right before God, we must be willing to change wherever we err, was revealed in Christ's ultimate and final word of truth (John 1:17). This is the final test of a good heart's true sincerity: obeying the truth where it leads (Matthew 5:6,8; Luke 8:15).

-via *Jones Road Family Items*; Athens, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Raymond Brown; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 653

Jerry Gilbert; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 608

At Home:

Marvin Wales

Benton Ball

Bernice Thomas

Harold Hays

Evelyn Hays

Polly Davis

Lola Colwell

Bobbie Adcock

Molly Weeks

Ruth Lawson

Jeff Waddell

Jeff Bates

Thomas Lovell

Marie Welden

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Pauline Lovell, rm. 90

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Marjorie Lambert, rm. 91 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Mary Smith, rm. 85

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

Mary Coggins, 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:

Joel Smith; Iraq

Andrew Deen; Japan

Whitney Deen; Japan

WORK GROUPS: This evening, following our evening worship service, will be the time for Work Group 4 to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening.

OUR MEETING: Our Gospel Meeting with *Buc Chumbley* preaching ended this past Thursday evening. The meeting was very well attended and I thank each of you for attending so faithfully. We averaged 162 for the meeting. Buc did his work well and all were benefitted who came to hear the lessons. I appreciate the song leaders during the meeting: *Joel Hamm, Stuart Wilson, Tyler Cox and Tommy Burns*. The singing was excellent and a number of visitors made comments to me about how much they enjoyed the singing. I appreciate all the work that so many of you did by inviting your friends, neighbors, co-workers, family, etc. to join us for the

meeting. We had a great number of visitors who came and many told me that they had been invited by many of you. Let us continue to remember the meeting and the open doors it has given us. If you would like copies of the meeting on CD, please let us know and we will get them made for you.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Our Vacation Bible school is scheduled for June 21-24. I hope everyone will mark this on your calender and beginning praying for the efforts that we will make for the cause of Christ.

NURSING HOMESINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

NEW ADULT CLASS: The new adult class meeting in the east wing will begin meeting this morning. The class will be studying the theme: *"Increasing Our Faith"*. I hope this will be a profitable study for all who come. Also, on Wednesday night in the east wing there will be a class on *"History and Geography of the Bible."* **Marty Adams** will teach that class.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Somerville Road church** in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Tommy Andrews* ...The **Weatherly Heights church** in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. The speaker for this meeting will be *Bob F. Owen*.

SINGING: there will a singing on Saturday night at the Oakland church. it will begin at 7:00p.m.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: Beginning today and continuing for the next few weeks, we will be making new pictures of everyone for a new pictorial directory. So please see **Rusty Brand** or **Joel Hamm** to get your pictures made. They will be making these pictures in the little auditorium on the west wing.

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.

OUT OF TOWN: Keenons: Jonathan and Lawinda are out of town this week for a short vacation...**Helen Blankenship** has been in Jerusalem, Arkansas for a few days and plans to be back home tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance- Week of April 18th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	132
	Morning Worship	184
	Evening Worship.....	183
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	123

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer	Monroe Pressnell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Larry Mitchell
Assisting	Marty Adams
Serving	Delmer Carter..... Hunter Cox
.....	Ronnie Locke..... Chris Sides
Closing Prayer	Gilbert Hardy

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer	Jonathan Keenon
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Marty Adams
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 25th:

Usher	Tyler Cox
Work Sound System	Danny Johnson

Wednesday, April 28th:

Song Leader	Marty Adams
Bible Reading.....	(Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3)
.....	Jack Cannon
Prayer	Keenon Currier
Invitation	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, May 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Marion Mitchell
Preaching	Warren Glass
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Jonathan Keenon
Serving	Marion Pepper Nathaniel Adams
.....	Russ Wulfekuhl Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Nathaniel Adams
Preaching	Stuart Wilson
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 2nd:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Marty Adams