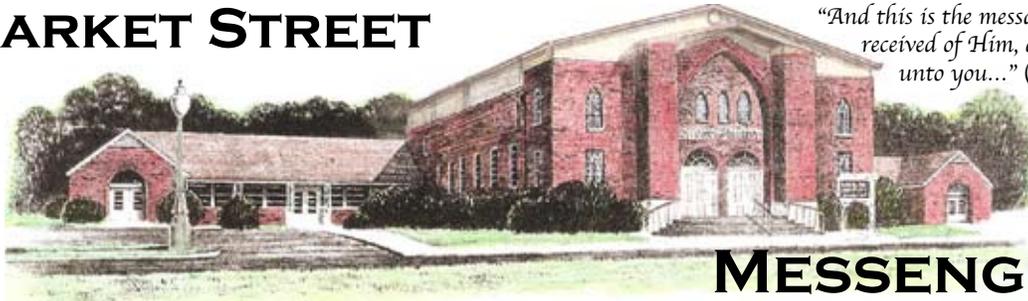


MARKET STREET

"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
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

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 II

July 11, 2010

No. 28

To Live Is Christ

David A. Cox

In Philippians 1:21 Paul says, *"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* It is evident from Paul's words here that for the Christian, life is attractive and inviting even though it may be filled with many trials and tribulations. This may seem strange to many people, but for the faithful child of God it is not. Let us consider why Paul could make such a statement.

Why Life Is So Great As One Serves Christ

Many people do not see the Christian's life as great. They see life as filled with restrictions that suppress the so-called "joys" of life and that the Christian's life still suffers trials, sickness, sorrow, etc. But to the Christian even though life is filled with many problems, it is still a life of hope, joy and peace. The Christian recognizes that what appears joyful in this life is fading and fleeting (Hebrews 10:25). As we think about Paul, his life was one that served self as a Jew and as a Jew, he could have much confidence. But it was not the enduring hope, joy and peace that is in Christ (Philippians 3:3-12). Paul viewed the Christian's life as worth living even though it was filled with many undesirable things. Paul recalls some of these things when writing to the Corinthians concerning his life, "...in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness" (2 Corinthians 11:23-27). As one looks at this, they may wonder why Paul would speak with joy about living the life of a Christian. The fact is that he did and even penned this while being a prisoner (Philippians 1:13-14).

The reason why Paul possessed this attitude toward life is because

his whole life was absorbed into serving Christ. His life was truly a life of devotion and sacrifice to Christ (Romans 12:1). Many people believe that happiness is only found in health and wealth, but actually there can be no real happiness apart from living the righteous life. Notice Paul's desire to live was only if he could continue to serve the Lord.

How can a life that seemed to be so filled with problems be a joyful thing to Paul? There seems to be two reasons for this:

1. **He did not dwell in the past** (Philippians 3:13). Many fail to see the joy of life when reliving the past. Let us do as Paul did by putting those things behind.
2. **He focused on Christ** (Philippians 3:14). This is evident as we hear Paul say "To live is Christ". Christ was more than just a part of Paul's life; Christ was the center, the focus, the aim of his life.

As I think about what Paul said about hope, joy and happiness in Christ, it reminds me of what Dale Oldham wrote:

*Life was shattered and hope was gone
Crushing the load that I bore;
Then out of the depths I cried "O God,
Please give me something worth living for."
O the joy of sins forgiv'n
Nothing's the same as before;
My life overflows since Jesus came
And gave me something worth living for."
Something more than my yesterdays,
More than I had before,
Something more than wealth or fame –
He gave me something worth living for.*

May God help us to see the joy and hope that the Christian life provides and may we live that life with all the joy, peace and happiness that comes from knowing the God we serve.

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

Honest and Sincere

William V. Beasley

Picture with me, if you will, a high school gymnasium crowded with spectators at a basketball game. With just seconds left in the game, a member of the home team goes in for a lay-up which would, if successful, win the game by one point. While in the act of shooting, a whistle blows! He has been fouled by one of the visiting players. Before the free shots can be taken the visiting player guilty of the foul speaks with the referee who made the call, both of them go over and speak with the visiting coach. Two teachers, followed by the boy's parents and the principal, are called to the sidelines and confer with the referee. After what seems like several minutes the referee speaks with the announcer, and the following announcement is made: "Since the visiting player has stated in all sincerity, that he did not intend to commit a foul, and since the coach, other teachers, his principal and parents all vouch for his honesty and integrity, it has been decided to forget the foul. The home team will have the ball at the sidelines, and they still have two seconds in which to try to score. After all, the visiting player did not intend to commit the foul, and he is so very honest and none can question his sincerity."

Now imagine, and this is where you will need an exceptionally good imagination, the coach of the home team, the players and fans of the home team applauding the decision - since the boy was both honest and sincere. I have a pretty good imagination...but not that good! Instead, after such a decision and such an announcement, I can more easily visualize the coach screaming, pulling at his hair, kicking the score-keepers, and, if it were not for the irate fans, could hear him using profanity to describe the referee and his decision. Doesn't the coach believe in honesty and sincerity at a basketball game? Oh yes, but there is more involved in this situation; there are the rules of the game, and the rules say... Don't the fans appreciate how sincere the visiting player is? Yes, but the rules say...

Fanciful? Yes! Ridiculous? Yes! At least it seems to be ridiculous until some people start talking about religion and things spiritual. Then they slip gears and cry out, "It doesn't make any difference what one believes or does just as long as he is honest and sincere!"

To be a Christian one must be both honest and sincere. We are taught of God to be honest: "...having your behaviour seemly (honest, KJV) among the Gentiles..." (1 Peter 2:12; see also Romans 12:17; 13:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:12). Sincerity is also set forth as a positive requirement of our Lord: "that ye may be sincere and void of offence unto the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10; see also 1 Corinthians 5:8; Ephesians 6:24; Titus 2:7). Honesty and sincerity are important and I dare not speak a word against either. We need men and women who are both honest and sincere.

At the same time, we need to recognize that neither honesty, nor sincerity, nor both honesty and sincerity, will suffice in service to God if they must stand alone. That is, honesty and sincerity without obedience (1 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Hebrews 5:9), doctrinal purity (Romans 16:17; 1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 2:17; 2 John 9; Revelation 2:15) and moral purity (Galatians 5:19ff; Revelation 21:8) will not stand. One can be honest and sincere and also religious, but not acceptable to God; he can be honestly and sincerely wrong. An example of such a one is to be found in Saul of Tarsus (who eventually became the beloved apostle Paul) who said, "Brethren, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day" (Acts 23:1). This would include the time while he was a persecutor of Jesus Christ (Acts 9:4). When one persecuted those redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, that one persecuted the One Who shed his blood for their redemption. Later, Saul learned to think of himself as the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).

Dear reader, if you are truly honest and sincere, and have the normal intelligence of a sixth grade student, you will understand that the honest and sincerity of the visiting basketball player who committed the foul, ought not make any difference in the penalty assessed by the referee. If you can understand the example of the basketball player you will, if truly honest, be able to see the same thing matters in religious. Are you truly honest?

-via *Lincoln Bible Reader*; Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Editor's Note: The preceding article was written by brother *William V. Beasley* who labors with the Lincoln church of Christ in Lincolnton, North Carolina. The reason I note this is because it is one of the twenty-three men that the church at Market Street currently supports in addition to the local preachers. It is a good article that brother Beasley wrote and is

worthy of our consideration. May the Lord bless him and all who labor faithfully for His cause.

(D.A.C.)

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Polly Davis; Hartselle Hospital, no visitors

Scott Adams; Cancer Center of America – Chicago

At Home:

Monroe Pressnell David Gardner

Lola Colwell Bobbie Adcock

Patrica Holt Emma Clark

Jim Currier Una King Currier

Molly Weeks Jeff Waddell

Marie Welden Jeff Mitchell

Bernice Martin Randy Graviett

Mark Hargrove

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

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

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

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

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

DIRECTORY UPDATE: We are needing to finish up the pictures for the church directory. *Rusty Brand* and *Joel Hamm* have been making pictures of everyone for the directory. If you have not had your picture made yet, please see *Rusty* or *Joel* to get your picture made today. They will be making the 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.

GOSPEL MEETING/VBS: The *Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00p. m. *E.R. Hall* will be the speaker in his meeting... The *Anderson church* in Anderson is beginning a Vacation Bible School this week. There will be classes for all ages and they will begin at 10:00 a.m. *Adam Andrews* will be teaching the adult class.

TEEN LECTURES: The Hughes Road at Gooch Lane church will be having a teen lectureship Saturday, July 17th. They will begin at 9:00 a.m. with singing and then at 9:30 a.m. *Adam Willingham* will speak on "Joseph Resisted Temptation"; 10:15 a.m. *Jason Cicero* will speak on "Daniel Integrity"; at 11:00 a.m. *Paul Sheehan* will speak on *David's Courage*.

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDY: Our next High School/College Age study will be on July 24th. We will be looking at our *Relationship To Our Parents*. There are some fliers at each exit to distribute to those we invite to the future studies. If you know of some people in these ages groups, please invite them to join us.

THE RECORD: Attendance— Week of July 4th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 142
 Morning Worship 178
 Evening Worship..... 130
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 104

Gospel Meeting

September 12-16, 2010

(Sunday through Thursday)

Bill Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
 Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Joel Hamm
 Assisting Marion Mitchell
 Serving Delmer Carter..... David Terry
 Russ Wulfekuhl..... Mark Rogers
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Landon Adams
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 11th:

Usher Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, July 14th

Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Bible Reading..... (Ecclesiastes 10:1-10)
 Danny Johnson
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Invitation Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, July 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Joel Hamm
 Assisting Marion Mitchell
 Serving Delmer Carter..... David Terry
 Russ Wulfekuhl..... Mark Rogers
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Steve Bradley
 Preaching TBA
 Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 18th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System Danny Johnson