

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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume II

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No. 30

"Love Not The World"

Tony Mauck

Everyone identifies with sentiment. We desire the final portraits of Joseph and Job to be not unlike our own, "And Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees" (Genesis 50:23). And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his grandsons, four generations" (Job 42:16).

Perhaps glory will be an even more appreciated prize to those who have lived so long on the earth. But while I might see my children marry, have children and experience being a grandfather, I do not believe one should long for this above heavenly glory. Paul's desire "to remain on in the flesh" was more about what he could do for others instead of any personal desires. He describes his state in Philippians 1:21-24 as hard-pressed from both directions. Continuing in the flesh would allow fruitful labor as Paul could assist those in Philippi and others also. The competing desires so perplexed him that he says, "and I do not know which to choose." But do not miss the point: *glory is better* and *death is gain*.

Paul did not have parental responsibilities, extensive family ties or the potential to be a grandparent some day, but the truth of his words remains unchanged. To be with Christ is *very much better*. Convinced? Our prayers for ill believers do not always reflect this. Are the return of one's "most wanted health" and the resumption of "the normal walks of this life" necessarily the preferable thing?

Are You Too Attached and Satisfied Here?

Do you regard yourself as an "alien" or "stranger" here? This sharp awareness of one's sojourner status is a great key to successfully abstaining from fleshly lusts (1 Peter 2:11). Even if we do not fling ourselves into the direction of immoral lusts, what about the temptation to focus an inordinate amount of time, attention and affection toward our temporal goods? Our stuff will distract us from more important matters if we are not careful. The post-exilic Jews, though their material wherewithal came nowhere close to ours, found contentment in "paneled houses" while

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

God's house, the temple, lay desolate (Haggai 1:2-5). by neglecting to rebuild the temple, they actually were cheating themselves both spiritually and materially (Haggai 1:6-11).

My family is presently nearing the end of a house-construction process. Our short-term, tiny duplex seems to be shirking in size by the hour. The excitement over our new dwelling grows by the day as completion approaches. But I have to keep reminding myself that the new home will be temporary too. It will merely be a blessing to be used wisely, for others and the promotion of the Lord's cause. Hospitality will be a must. Serving the college students here in Auburn will be a priority too.

"And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when it fails, they may receive you into eternal dwellings" (Luke 16:9).

Is Your Longing For Glory Sufficient?

Do you understand the excelling nature of eternity with God and the joyful pleasure of being in His Presence? Too satisfied and too comfortable here could likely be a reflection that one does not understand what awaits the believer.

As much as I enjoy many of the earthly ties and relationships that make life rich and meaningful, the thrill of heaven will exceed the joys of this life. I would even further venture the extent to which it will exceed them is far beyond our ability to fathom completely. Just like "to know the love of Christ which surpasses all comprehension" (Philippians 4:7), glory will be infinitely more fulfilling and joyful than anything we have experienced here.

Admittedly, I live a very cushy life and have done so for my entire forty plus years. Very foreign to my own personal experience, Paul experienced suffering and great difficulty that he amazingly labels "light affliction." He knew its temporary or momentary nature. He found comfort in what those troubles yielded, "...producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

If you measured "home with the Lord" in a pair of scales, nothing else would measure up. No equivalent exists for "the eternal weight of glory." Whenever the time comes for a righteous soul to exit this life, glory is always preferable to staying here.

-via *Biblical Insights*, February 2007; Vol. 7 No. 1

Last Things First

Dan S. Shipley

The scene is Shechem. The occasion is Joshua's farewell address just prior to his death. All the tribes of Israel are assembled to hear the aged Joshua, now 110, as he begins recounting God's dealings with their great nation. Showing that God has continually been with and helping them, he concludes, "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and truth..." (Joshua 24:16).

The scene is Jerusalem. David is nigh unto death as he gives this last charge to his son Solomon: "I go the way of all the earth; be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments and His testimonies..." (1 Kings 2:2,3).

The scene is a Roman prison. Paul is writing his last epistle. In giving his final charge to Timothy, he reminds the young evangelist to not be ashamed of the gospel (2 Timothy 1:8); to hold the pattern of sound words (1:13); to suffer hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus (2:3); to give diligence to present himself approved unto God (2:15) and to persevere with urgency in preaching the Word (4:2) with the assurance that a crown of righteousness awaits all the faithful (4:8).

Such are the words with which these great men of God conclude the final chapter of their earthly existence. The last words of any dying man are generally regarded as having special significance, but the words of these men ought to be especially so regarded - not so much because of being last words necessarily, but because of who they were and what they said with those words.

Joshua, David and Paul were men who had given most of their lives in consecrated service to the Lord. God had used their tongues and talents extensively to serve His purposes among men. Through experience and revelation they accumulated such wisdom as experienced by few mortals. Joshua, for instance, knew how the lack of faith could prevent one's entering unto God's rest. David understood about temptation and sin, and Paul himself had made the transition from "chief of sinners" to ambassador for Christ. As few others could, they perceived how the will of God complements the

greatest needs of man - so their last words deserve an attentive hearing.

And what do we hear? Though different in expression and separated by hundreds of years, we hear messages that are strikingly similar. All emphatically recommend to others the same course they have now finished. All emphasize serving the Lord. Essentially, they are saying to all who shall come after them, "Live for the Lord!"; or as another wise man put it, "fear God and keep his commandments." After all, that's what living is all about. There is a lesson we must learn! Apart from truly reverencing God and walking in His ways, man can have no meaningful existence here and no hope of life in the hereafter. As those destined to go "the way of all the earth," may the last words of these godly men find priority in our lives.

~via *Charlottesville Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia



Who Would Have Thought?

Carl McMurray

Results of a recent study from Mississippi State University, working with the parents of more than 16,000 kids brings us big news indeed. The study compared the scores of children on self-control, exhibiting poor or unhappy behavior, and how well they respected and worked with peers to parents statements on how frequently they attended worship, talked with their children about religion and argued about religion in the home. Two main conclusions seemed to stand out.

- 1) The kids whose parents attended worship services, especially when both parents did so frequently, and talked with their children about religion, were rated by parents and teachers as having better self-control, social skills, and approaches to learning.
- 2) When parents argued frequently about religion, the children were more likely to have problems. Religion seemed to "hurt" if faith was a source of conflict or tension in the family. Researchers credited the good influence of religion for three reasons.
 - 1) Religious networks provide social support to par-

ents, helping to improve their parenting skills. Also, children who are brought into such networks hear the same message from other adults that they hear in their own home, thus reaffirming the importance of the message.

- 2) The types of values that circulate in religious congregations tend to be self-sacrificing and pro-family. This is important to how parents relate to their children and how the kids develop in response.
- 3) Lastly, religious congregations impart sacred meaning and significance to parenting. Of course it doesn't take a university study for Christians to see the importance of following God's value system in the home, rather than the worlds'. Just turn the above three reasons around to see the values that most of the world is teaching today. 1) Abdicate responsibility for parenting to schools, government, and child care officials instead of learning parenting skills oneself. 2) Encourage kids to think that the family revolves around them instead of teaching them service. And, 3) mock family values by encouraging unwed parenting, divorce, materialism, and homosexual agendas.

Ephesians 6:1-4 does not say it all, but it certainly starts the relationship of parenting, children, and spirituality on the right track for everybody involved. The one who built us has provided the manual for proper operation. Who would have thought?

~via *Good News*; Anderson, Indiana

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Polly Davis; Hartselle Hospital, no visitors

Scott Adams; Cancer Center of America – Chicago

At Home:

Beth Brand
Dan Lovell
Judy Vaughn
Bobbie Adcock
Jim Currier
Molly Weeks
Marie Welden
Bernice Martin
Mark Hargrove

Mary Ruth Gardner
David Gardner
Lola Colwell
Emma Clark
Una King Currier
Jeff Waddell
Jeff Mitchell
Randy Graviett

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.

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: *Holly Clem* is in New York visiting on vacation... *The Cleeks: Don and Linda* are on vacation out west.

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDY: Last night we had our third in the series of High School/College Age studies. *Rusty Brand* directed the study this time and did a good job. The fourth and finally study in the series will be will Saturday evening, August 21st, at 6:30 p.m. We will be looking at our *Relationship To Our Job*. 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 18th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 120

Morning Worship 169

Evening Worship..... 125

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 100

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Wayne Vaughn
Assisting Kenneth Smith
Serving Will Chumbley ... Jonathan Keenon
..... Steven Bradley..... Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Steve Bradley
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 25th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, July 28th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
Bible Reading..... (Ecclesiastes 11:1-10)
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer Landon Adams
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, August 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Wayne Vaughn
Assisting Kenneth Smith
Serving Will Chumbley ... Jonathan Keenon
..... Steven Bradley..... Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 1st:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Danny Johnson