

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

August 1, 2010

No. 31

Where Is God When We Suffer?

Mark W. White

The American novelist, Ernest Hemingway, was severely wounded by an explosion during World War I on the Italian front. Doctors picked 237 metal fragments out of his body. His physical wounds healed but he never recovered from the trauma of seeing death at close hand. He never forgot the suffering of men who lost limbs or eyes or whose faces needed reconstruction.

Out of this suffering Hemingway developed a formula for his novels. He put his main character in a difficult situation: a predicament involving violence, suffering, and death. During the crisis, the character's false values and pretensions would slip away. Life suddenly would become clear. Yet the resolution that happened to his characters never occurred to Hemingway. The pain always remained with him. He finally took his own life.

Like many who have suffered, Hemingway never heard any message from God. So, what is God's Word to those who are searching for answers?

God does not explain all suffering. The Bible does not rationalize the death of a child. There is no complete explanation for cancer, destructive floods, or tornadoes. Yet, God spoke on the issue of suffering. In the midst of our pain, He still speaks through His Word.

God does not address the why of suffering, but He does indicate whom we can trust as we endure it. Even this answer eludes many. Like the characters in Hemingway's novels, many people never turn to God for help.

They may have a sense that God is there, but He is silent. Nagging doubts keep them at arm's length from God.

Why doesn't God address the common needs we face? Where is He when we want to be happy? Where is He when we need help making a decision? Why do we seem to be totally alone when we suspect that

one of our children is on drugs? Where is God's answer when we struggle with boredom with life?

Jesus often ended His lessons with an admonition "He who has ears, let him hear" (Matthew 13:9). Each person listening to Him had ears. The shortage was not anatomical, but of understanding. Jesus was saying that God spoke but not everyone listened. God spoke by sending His Son. Many people living in Palestine in the first century A.D. were not listening.

God has spoken, but we may have missed the message. If you find yourself saying, "I know God is there, but He is silent," focus on the cross. God suffered! He allowed Jesus to die and then raised Him back to life again. Firmly rooting yourself in the cross may not immediately solve every problem, but it will point you to the One Who can be followed with confidence when the path is dark and the future uncertain.

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama



"Incredible" Beginning

Andy Diestelkamp

The beginning of things always intrigue us. We often mark them with great ceremony at the time if we anticipate their importance (weddings, ribbon-cutting grand openings, signings, etc.). We frequently research beginnings if only later we realize someone's or something's importance (the work of historians). It is therefore of no surprise that thinking men and women have often pondered the beginning of the physical universe.

While many are content to not give it any consideration and perhaps assume that because it is here it has always been here, most observe and realize that all physical things have measurable deterioration and, therefore, cannot be eternal, but must have had a beginning point.

Essentially, there are two possibilities for how the physical began: 1) It happened by random chance, or

2) It happened on purpose. Expressed another way: 1) It happened by random chance, or 2) It happened by design. Stated yet another way: 1) It began spontaneously from ignorant nothingness, or 2) It began intentionally from intelligence.

In modern parlance it is the debate between "Big Bang" and "Intelligent Design" or "Evolution" vs. "Creation." While some have attempted to harmonize the general theory of evolution and creation theory, at its core such an attempt is futile. To borrow from the apostle Paul, "what fellowship has purpose with accident, what communion has design with chance, what accord has intelligence with ignorance, what agreement has creation with evolution," (adapted from 2 Corinthians 6:14-16). The answer is none.

When anyone is challenged to give a historical explanation for the existence of something physical, spontaneous generation from nothing is never considered sound reasoning. Yet this is what modern science teaches is the best explanation for the beginning of all things.

However, the ancient book of books, the Holy Scriptures, offers another explanation. Many find its explanation incredible, but it is far more credible than the spontaneous generation of something from nothing suggested by atheists and agnostics. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Indeed, mankind is without excuse for not drawing the basic conclusion that a powerful supernatural intelligence (God) is the cause of this physical existence (Romans 1:20).

Scripture reveals that God simply spoke things into existence. "Then God said...and it was so," is an oft repeated phrase in Genesis 1. To be able to speak material things into existence demands a power that is beyond nature and beyond our comprehension. It is super-natural. Therefore, it is understandable that atheists assume that this creation account (along with the rest of the first eleven chapters of Genesis) is mythical, legendary or, at best, allegorical, but certainly not literal. Yet, even some believers in God attempt to explain the creation using the naturalistic assumptions of unbelievers.

Forgetting that with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26), many find these accounts incredible and unbelievable. However, again borrowing from the

sayings of Paul, "why should it be thought incredible by you that" God spoke things into existence in six literal days? Of course, Paul is addressing Agrippa with regard to Jesus' resurrection (Acts 26:8). But beware! If you find a six-day creation incredible, you might have the same problem with the resurrection from the dead. Most people do. Whenever we doubt the powers of God's spoken Word, we have no foundation for faith in any aspect of His Word.

As disciples of Christ, we would do well to follow concerning the authority of the Genesis account. In responding to His adversaries about a point of great controversy regarding divorce, Jesus refers to the Genesis account of the beginning (Matthew 19:3-8). Jesus' authoritative use of Moses' account of creation affirms that He believed it to be accurate. Indeed, we cannot claim Christ as our Lord and reject the accuracy of Moses' words (John 5:46,47). To adapt Jesus' words to the Sadducees and apply them to the present controversy over creation/evolution, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Matthew 22:29). Beware; a rejection of these beginning truths undermines the whole foundation of the rest of Scripture and, therefore, our faith in God's power to do anything.

-via *The Beacon*; Bowling Green, Kentucky.



Gospel Meeting

September 12-16, 2010

(Sunday through Thursday)

Bill Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Jesse Carter; Athens-Limestone Hospital - rm. 214

Buel Gladney; Decatur General - rm. 348

Scott Adams; Cancer Center of America – Chicago

At Home:

Janet Berryhill

David Gardner

Dan Lovell

Mary Ruth Gardner

Lola Colwell

Bobbie Adcock

Emma Clark

Jim Currier

Una King Currier

Molly Weeks

Jeff Waddell

Jeff Mitchell

Mark Hargrove

Randy Graviett

Bernice Martin

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Pauline Lovell, rm. 78

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

Polly Davis, Riverside Home South, Decatur, rm. 74

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.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible drill this afternoon at 4:30. I hope

that all of our children will be able to be present.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Ronnie Locke** and *all the family* in the passing of Ronnie's sister, **Mary Barnett**, this past Sunday morning. Her funeral was Monday in Anderson...Also, we express our deepest sympathy to **Margaret Carter** and *all the family* in the passing of Margaret's aunt, **Marie Weldon**...Also, we express our deepest sympathy to **Joyce McGlocklin** and *all the family* in the passing of Joyce's cousin, **Tony Lovell**. His funeral was Thursday at Athens Memory Gardens.

OUT OF TOWN: **Holly Clem** will be returning this evening from her trip to New York...**The Cleeks:** **Don and Linda** are on vacation out west...**The Griswolds:** **Tim and Cindy** are back after a trip to South Carolina...**The Keenons:** **Jonathan and Lawinda** are in the Smokey Mountains this weekend...**Ida Nell Griffin** is on vacation in South Carolina this weekend.

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDY: The fourth and final study in the series of High School/College Age studies 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.

GOSPEL MEETING: The Ardmore church will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week beginning today and it will continue through Friday. The speakers in the meeting will be as follows: *Sunday morning – Caleb George; Sunday evening – Jason Shackleford; Monday evening – Jordan Lovell; Tuesday evening – Jonathan Dvorak; Wednesday evening – Jeremiah McElyea; Thursday evening – Shane McGregor; and Friday evening – Mark Nave.*

THE RECORD: Attendance– Week of July 25th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 135
Morning Worship 175
Evening Worship..... 105

Wednesday:
Bible Classes..... 103

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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tyler Cox
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 Tyler Cox
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

Wednesday, August 4th:

Song Leader Marion Mitchell
Bible Reading..... (Ecclesiastes 12:1-14)
..... Hunter Cox
Prayer Jack Cannon
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, August 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Rusty Brand
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Stuart Wilson
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Hunter Cox..... Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Nathaniel Adams... Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Albert Bowers

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 8th:

Usher Keenon Currier
Work Sound System Stuart Wilson