

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

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
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Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 52

What Shall We Do With A New Year?

David A. Cox

Paul admonished the Corinthians to “Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5). As we come to the end of the year, it is good to reflect on our accomplishments and failures of the past year so that we make resolve or purpose to do better in the new year than in the past. It has been said, “That those who fail to plan, plan to fail.” With this thought in mind, let us “examine ourselves” and consider what we shall do with a “new year”.

A year is a definite period of time. 2011 will be composed of 52 weeks and 365 days. If we are allowed to live through these weeks and days they will either be used for our good or our detriment. Many have entered years of the past to have only used the year to wander away from God and are no longer pleasing to Him. I want to suggest five ways that we can make the “new year” a good year and a blessing to us spiritually.

Grow Spiritually – In knowledge – In grace.

The necessity of growing spiritually as Christians is important (Hebrews 5:11-14). In order to grow spiritually, we must determine to be faithful in our attendance in the services of the church. We must learn the value of taking time to study God’s word with other Christians and receiving encouragement from others as well as extending encouragement to others. If we are to grow spiritually, we must be present when the local church of which we are a member assembles (Hebrews 10:23-25). We will not grow in knowledge and in grace when we place our jobs or other activities in front of our “assembling together” in order to be exhorted and to exhort and encourage others in love and good works. But spiritual growth also requires our participation in home Bible studies with others and the study of God’s word on our own. Christians should be like the Bereans who “searched the scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11). Let us make time in our schedules this year to be present at assemblies and Bible class periods, to participate in home Bible studies and to make time for personal Bible study at home. We make time for everything that we

deem as important, and without a doubt there is nothing more important than doing those things which will help us to be faithful and grow spiritually.

Grow Deeper In Our Worship.

One reason why we do not grow spiritually is because we lack depth in our worship. Many look at worship as just putting only enough time as necessary. As we think about this let me ask, "How many of the 8,760 hours this year will we spend in our worship—both public and private?" Some may think 52 hours a year is enough. But, if one works 40 hours a week for a year, they will spend 2,080 in their work. We must understand the value in study, prayer, teaching in song, in giving and reflecting upon God's will and His marvelous grace. Reflecting on our worship and putting the meaning in it that we should will help our perspective and help us to overcome sin and draw closer to God.

To Grow In Our Service To Others.

Selfishness is condemned in the scriptures. Remember the rich fool in Luke 12, who was blessed with abundance in his harvest, but was condemned for thinking of self and not remembering God or others. Again, in Matthew 25:31-46, we have the judgement scene pictured and those that were condemned were those who had not remembered others when they had the opportunity to assist. The life of a Christian should be a life of putting God first, others second and self third (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 2:3-4). Let each of us determine to look upon the needs of others in the coming year. Let us truly exemplify Christ living in us as we forget about ourself and look for opportunities to help others; physically and spiritually (Matthew 26:39).

To Make Our Homes As God Desires.

If we are to have good homes in the world in which we live we must make them as God would have them. God is the designer of the home and He is the authority for how the home is to be ordered. We must determine as husbands, wives, and children to be what the scriptures teach us about our place in the home.

Make Our Lives Pleasing To God.

We must make sure our lives are what God would be pleased with. If we have not done the things to bring about the forgiveness of our sins and reconciling us to God then we must do that immediately. We all must resolve to make our lives a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1-2).

Let us determine to use what time we have in the "new year" to grow spiritually, deepening worship, grow in service to others, and to make our homes and lives pleasing to God. Let us do all that we can in 2011 for the cause of Christ and for the work we have been given to do. Let us all determine to use the "new year" for our good.

Editor's Note:

Brother A. J. Rollings, an evangelist at Market Street for many years, would recite this poem each year as the old year would be finishing and the new year would be coming in. We appreciate the truths that are told within this poem and commend the thoughts of it to you. May we all do better with the time that is ahead of us.

I came to my teacher with quivering lips,
My task undone;
Teacher hast thou another sheet for me?
I have spoiled this one,
She took the old sheet, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad face smiled,
"Do better this time, my child."

I came to the Father with a quivering heart,
The old year done;
Father, hast thou another year for me?
I have spoiled this one.
He took the old year, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad heart smiled,
"Do better this time, my child."

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Our Tattling Priorities

Dan S. Shipley

As someone has wisely noted, "life is governed by esteemed values." It's what men consider important that really counts in the ordering of personal priorities. Obviously, not all consider the same things important. What one views as trivial may be another's treasure, and vice versa. But this much is sure: no man ever treats his own "treasure" as a trivial thing.

On the contrary, one's devotion to his special interests will likely be conspicuously manifest, even when he might wish it otherwise. As Jesus has said, "for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). Again, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). The heart is where the treasure is and the mouth will soon reveal where the heart is. Our priorities tell on us because we like to tell about them. Sooner or later, the topic of conversation will be centered on our interests - maybe not with the enthusiasm of a golf or fishing "nut", but like ants at a picnic, they'll keep on showing up. Our auditors hear what we are concerned about. What do they hear? Is it ever spiritual subjects? It may be enlightening to see a list of what friends consider to be our priorities. Chances are they wouldn't be far off because if our conversations didn't tell on us, our schedules would.

Like our speech, the employment of free time says much about our interests. That's why we always seem to find time for doing what we want and seldom find time for the don't-wants. Worse, we may even become unconscious to making such distinctions - even to the extent of habitually first doing what we want, then, if necessary, invent excuses for our failures. Mostly, Christians with excuses are just Christians with wrong priorities. Think, for instance, of how Christians could redeem the time, not only by attending Bible studies and worship, but by visiting the sick and weak and teaching the lost. Yet, it is not unusual to hear of those who put in more time watching TV in one or two evenings than on all of these activities put together for a whole week! We ought to be ashamed! —not for watching TV, but for neglecting the other. Redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:16) becomes an impossible task without right priorities.

Finally, the use made of financial resources says something about what we consider important. In fact, some say it says most and loudest. Anyway, like time and tongue, it does tell where the heart is and its use can be a proof of love (2 Corinthians 8:24). Certainly, that which we profess to be the most important and urgent cause on earth deserves to be supported accordingly, financially and otherwise.

Remember, our priorities do tell on us. and they always tell the truth! The Lord hears what they say. The brethren hear. So does the world. The real ques-

tion is, do we? If so, we may conclude that changes are needed. Not superficial changes that force external "improvement", but the kind that get to the heart of the matter - the kind that come from facing up to our true condition and real needs and make us see the need for the Lord and seeking Him first.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Gladys Sandlin; HealthSouth Huntsville – rm. 320

Janet Berryhill; Millennium Rehab. – rm. 133

At Home:

The Brand Family

Gilbert Hardy

Kim Rogers

The Adams Family

Rachel Grubbs

Joe Leopard

Fay Ferguson

Bobbie Adcock

Hazel Toone

Rachel Clem

Mary Ruth Gardner

David Gardner

Bertha Johnson

Phil Pressnell

Eva Felker

Phillip Harwell

Keena Adams

Jesse Carter

Ray Bailey

Jeff Mitchell

Bernice Martin

Randy Graviett

Jeff Waddell

Mary Bates

Emma Clark

Jim Currier

Una King Currier

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

Jane Meredith, rm. 114 Bernice Thomas, rm. 52

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Polly Davis, River City Care, 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
Matthew Cox; Iraq

NURSERIES AVAILABLE: There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other is in the east wing.

WORK GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for work group four to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening after our evening service.

SARAH HALBROOK (1919 – 2010): We learned of the passing of sister Sarah Halbrook this past week. She had been a member of the Market Street church for many years. She had been living in Memphis, Tennessee in a retirement home over the last several years. There was a graveside service at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Nashville this past week. We want to express our deepest sympathy to all the family in the passing of sister Halbrook.

BEGINNING IN JANUARY: The first Sunday in January will begin our new quarter in Bible classes. I hope that everyone will be a part of these classes on a regular basis. On Sunday morning, there will be a class in the small auditorium on the west wing studying “Leadership”. This class will be for all who are interested in being and developing themselves as leaders and for those who would like to encourage others to become effective leaders. This class is not just a men’s class; any women would be interested in doing what they can to help encourage their husbands or men to be leaders are invited to attend.

SONG SERVICE TONIGHT: This evening at 5:00 will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. We will spend our time in singing songs, hymns and songs of praise to our God, our creator and sustainer. I hope that everyone will make every effort to be present at this period of singing.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of Dec. 19th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 124
Morning Worship 154
Evening Worship 97
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 94

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Ronnie Locke
Assisting Wayne Vaughn
Serving Nathaniel Adams... Marvin Putman
..... Keenon Currier Marion Pepper
Closing Prayer Rusty Brand

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching Song Service
Lord’s Supper Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 26th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, December 29th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 10:12-19)
..... Harold Davis
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Sunday, January 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwain Allfrey
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Ronnie Locke
Assisting Wayne Vaughn
Serving Nathaniel Adams... Marvin Putman
..... Keenon Currier Marion Pepper
Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Rusty Brand
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 2nd:

Usher David Terry
Work Sound System Marty Adams