

# 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

Volume III

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No. 16

## *Is There Any Hope?*

**David A. Cox**

### 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

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### 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*

As I watch the news, one thing is quite certain, life is filled with dire circumstances, of personal problems or natural calamities of one kind or another. As such circumstances befall men, many times the question comes, "Is there any hope?"

The Bible teaches, "The world passeth away, and the lust thereof" (1 John 2:17a). Peter wrote, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (1 Peter 3:10). When one asks if there is any hope in this life and the world in which we live, the answer from the scriptures is clear; No! The sobering fact is that those who place their trust in this life and what it has to offer will be lost without any hope.

To truly answer the question, "Is there any hope?" The answer is "Yes!" This is because of Jesus Christ and his coming to earth and living a perfect life among man and sacrificing himself for us. Jesus died on the cross to redeem us from sin (Ephesians 1:7). Because of the death of Christ, we might have life (1 John 4:10). Because of Jesus' resurrection, we have a hope that lives. Peter reminded those he wrote to of this fact when he wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). So indeed, there is hope in God. The Hebrew writer refers to this hope as "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19). This hope is our stabilizing force through the storms of life, as an anchor is to a sea vessel on the stormy sea.

This hope is available to all who will put their trust in God (Hebrews 11:6); repent of their sins (Luke 13:3); confess Christ before men (Romans 10:9-10); be buried in baptism in the name of Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4); and live faithful lives in serving God

(Revelation 2:10). John writes “and the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (1 John 2:17).

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## *Spiritual Vision*

**Phil Robertson**

A Paradox “is an apparently true statement that leads to a contradiction or a situation which defies intuition” (Wikipedia.com). Typically, either the statements in question do not really imply the contradiction, the puzzling result is not really a contradiction, or the premises themselves are not all really true or cannot all be true together. Jesus often used a paradox in his teachings. The teachings challenged followers because the answers demanded great thought. In short, he wants us to think outside this “earthly box.”

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” The paradox of this statement is that in the eyes of the world this makes absolutely no sense. No one in this world would say that you are blessed if you are poor in spirit. That is just not the innate goal of man! In order to be successful, you need find your self-worth. Take care of yourself and everything else will take of itself. Those are the prevailing attitudes of the world. But Jesus says the exact opposite! The poor in spirit realize just how helpless they are. “All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one” (Romans 3:12). The spiritually poor crouch like a beggar and look to God for fulfillment.

It takes a heavenly vision to understand this paradox and apply it. For example, a spiritually minded father when asked, “How are you preparing for your child's future?” will not think about college, marriage or employment. He will think about heaven. Preparing his child for the future will go well beyond the material and the physical. Granted, earthly accommodations need to be made, but they are more short term than long term planning. Therefore, a spiritual father will encourage his children to be “poor,” not rich. He will focus on the only “future” that matters - eternity!

May our vision be like those listed in Hebrews

11. “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. But now they desire a better, that is a heavenly country (vs. 3). Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (vs. 6). As you can see, they were thinking “outside the box.”

-via *Northwood Messenger*; Northport, Alabama.

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## *A Reason For The Shadows*

**Forrest D. Moyer**

We sometimes speak of life amid the shadows. We refer to such things as sorrow and adversity, calamity and misfortune as shadows. Yet, we need to remember that the same God who made the sunshine also made the shadows. Yea, it is the brilliancy of the sunshine that produces the contrast of the shadows. Is there a value in shadows? Yes, verily, for who could appreciate the beauty of the sunrise were it not for the shadows of the night? To awake on a foggy morning with only the shadows of the misty clouds about us causes us to yearn for the crisp dawn with sun reflecting upon the western hills. Yes, shadows have their purpose.

And it is so with the shadows of pain, sorrow and adversity. The one who comes out of such shadows as these appreciates the light so much more than the one who has know only peace and prosperity. The pain of sorrow only intensifies the joy of contentment. The bitter cup of anguish makes the taste of comfort that much sweeter. We must learn to use the shadows to come to appreciate the sunshine.

When adversity comes, the end result of it will be determined by how we accept it and how we use it. We can lie down and wallow in the shadows of self-pity or we can move toward the sunshine. The choice is really ours. For as surely as there is a night, there also follows a sunrise. We can walk toward that sunrise and away from the night. Sunset may be coming, but the sunrise we'll see!

-via *The Auburn Beacon*; Auburn, Alabama

## *Perish The Thought*

Dan S. Shipley

While visiting a local area hospital recently, I was amused at their curb-side signs which read: “Don’t Even **think** About Parking Here!” Such novel wording reveals an insight into human nature. When the motorist begins to contemplate leaving his car in a no-parking zone, he is apt to think, “It’ll only be for a little while,” or “I’m in a hurry,” or “well, everyone else does it, why shouldn’t I?” Those who think thusly are likely to be found parked at the red curb. So the admonition not to even think about it is appropriate – and not only for those tempted to park illegally.

Indeed, the Bible teaches of a serious correlation between our thinking and our temptations. “For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings...” (Matthew 15:19). It is “from within” that all these evil things proceed and defile the man (Mark 7:21). As someone has observed, “What we sow in thought, we reap in deed.” How true! Thinking about it is the prelude to practically every sin committed. Like the motorist rationalizing about the no-parking zone, most find it easy to mentally “sell” themselves on their temptations – especially, after many thought rehearsals. What sinner has ever failed to find his own “extenuating circumstances” to minimize or excuse his sin? “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes” (Proverbs 21:2) – even when he does that which he **knows** to be wrong. Maybe he didn’t **plan** to be wrong, but then he didn’t plan **not** to either! This is not to say, of course, that all who have evil thoughts will necessarily involve themselves in evil deeds. It largely depends on what is done with the evil thought. If it is dismissed at once (“don’t even **think** about it”), it may do no harm. However, if it is nurtured, savored, and rehearsed, it is likely to find expression. As someone has said, “We can’t help it if birds fly overhead, but we need not let them build nests in our hair.” If we fail to control our thoughts, it is not likely that we will control our actions.

For this reason we need more teaching and preaching aimed at the **heart** of ungodly conduct. True, evil deeds must be condemned, but we must not overlook the heart from which they are launched. If we can eliminate the hate we can eliminate the murder and

countless lesser conflicts (1 John 3:15; Matthew 5:21-28). When we are able to remove envy, jealousy, and anxiety from the heart, we will have spared the world their troublesome manifestations – not to mention all the misery and heartache associated therewith. How much better off we would all be if we could just remember to **not even think** about such things! “Can’t help it,” you say?

Peter evidently thought men could control their thinking. He encourages “girding up the loins of your mind” (1 Peter 1:13). Paul likewise admonishes “bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5) and to “think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). Can’t help it? Perish the thought!

~via *Susquehanna Sentiniel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania

## *Gospel Meeting*

May 15-19, 2011

(Sunday through Thursday)

Jeff May, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Ray Miller*; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 1643

#### *At Home:*

Mary Will Johnston	Nancy Abernathy
Beverly Sutton	Gilbert Hardy
Hazel Toone	Margaret Carter
Kathleen Wales	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Bertha Johnson
Martha Rice	Jeff Waddell
Jesse Carter	Matt Poff
Don Bowling	Phillip Harwell

Jim Currier                      Una King Currier  
 Randy Graviett                Robbie Shoulders

**Athens Convalescent Center:**

Betty Bates, rm. 17

**Limestone Health Facility:**

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65      Rachel Grubbs, rm. 97  
 Gladys Sandlin, rm. 101    J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E  
 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74        Mary Smith, rm. 85

**Limestone Manor:**

Albert 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

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Shirley Miller** and *all the family*, in the passing of Shirley's great-grandson, Jarred Austin Hartman. He was four months old and passed away suddenly Thursday morning. The visitation will be today from 12:00 noon to 2:45 p.m. at Limestone Chapel. There will be a graveside service at 3:00 p.m. at Roselawn Cemetary.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **South Fayetteville church** in Fayetteville, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Jason Hardin* will be the speaker in this meeting.

**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 three to meet. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group this evening.

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

**THE RECORD:** *For the Week of April 3rd*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 128  
 Morning Worship ..... 171  
 Evening Worship..... 118

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, April 17th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
 Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
 Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Tyler Cox  
 Assisting ..... Kenneth Smith  
 Serving ..... Nathaniel Adams..... Mark Rogers  
 ..... Jonathan Keenon .. Keenon Currier  
 Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
 Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
 Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Preaching ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Lord's Supper ..... Tyler Cox  
 Closing Prayer ..... Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 17th:

Usher ..... Paul Hastings  
 Work Sound System ..... Stuart Wilson

**Wednesday, April 20th:**

Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 19:18-25)  
 ..... Jonathan Keenon  
 Prayer ..... Jack Cannon  
 Invitation ..... David Cox  
 Closing Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton

**Sunday, April 24th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
 Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
 Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Tyler Cox  
 Assisting ..... Kenneth Smith  
 Serving ..... Nathaniel Adams..... Mark Rogers  
 ..... Jonathan Keenon .. Keenon Currier  
 Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
 Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn  
 Preaching ..... Song Service  
 Lord's Supper ..... Kenneth Smith  
 Closing Prayer ..... Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 24th:

Usher ..... Delmer Carter  
 Work Sound System ..... Marty Adams