

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
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 III

May 29, 2011

No. 22

Signs of Christ's Return?

Mark W. White

Frequently, we hear people discussing the end of time and delineating the "signs" that, they say, are proof that Christ's return is imminent. These signs include "wars and rumors of wars," "earthquakes," and various political/military events that one observes on the evening news. The loud proponents of gloom claim to be representing the Bible in their calculations and forecast. Of course, to date, every attempt to pinpoint the date of Christ's return has failed.

The fact is that earthquakes could not have been intended by God to be a sign of the end of the world. Since 1900 alone, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that several million earthquakes occur in the world each year. Many go undetected because they hit remote areas or have very small magnitudes. The National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) now locates about fifty earthquakes each day, or about 20,000 a year (NEIC Web Team, 2003). Since earthquakes have been fairly constant for the last two thousand years, and occur on a daily basis, they would be completely useless in attempting to recognize the end of the world. However, if Jesus intended them to be immediate signs, contemporaneous with the first century, they would have served a useful purpose.

Consider for a moment what the Bible actually teaches on this matter. In Matthew 24, Jesus pinpointed numerous signs by which His disciples and Jewish Christians could recognize the occasion of the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The signs that Jesus mentioned included "wars and rumors of wars" (vs. 6), "famines and earthquakes" (vs. 7), the Gospel preached to the whole world (vs. 14), and the approach of the Roman armies (vs. 15; cf. Luke 21:20). These events functioned as signals by which the faithful could identify the "end" (vss. 6, 14) of the Jewish commonwealth. Jesus provided descriptive detail in response to the disciples' question concerning the destruction of the temple (vss. 2-3). Just as tender branches and fresh leaves signal the approach of summer (vs. 32), so the multiple signs that Jesus pinpointed would signal the

coming of Christ in judgment on the Jewish nation (vs. 33) in A.D.70.

Then, beginning in verse 36, Jesus turned His attention to the question of the end of time and His Second Coming. Notice the difference! Jesus went out of His way to stress the total absence of signs signaling the end of the world and the Second Coming. He declared that His final coming would be comparable to the Deluge of Noah's day (vs.37), in that it will be totally unexpected. Right up to the very day that Noah and his family entered the ark, life was going on as usual. No signs! Jesus said farmers will be in the field as usual (vs.40); women will be involved in the activities as usual (vs. 41). Jesus even likened the unexpected nature of His final coming to the exploits of a thief (vs. 43). Both Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:2) and Peter (2 Peter 3:10) repeat this analogy. As the coming of a thief in the night is preceded by absolutely no signs, so the final coming of Jesus will be preceded by absolutely no signals.

Contrary to the prevailing notions of today concerning "the signs of the times," the Bible asserts that there will be a total absence of signs to prepare the world for the end of time. The only hope of the entire world is to render obedience to the written revelation of the Bible (24:46). Noah preached, apparently for many years, in hopes of alerting the world's population to the coming judgment upon them. They refused to listen. Likewise, the only "tip off" available today is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that instructs every accountable individual what to do to be right with God. When one brings one's life into compliance with those directives, "signs" by which to anticipate the return of Christ are completely needless.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama



Vacation Bible School

June 13 – 16, 2011

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

Caducity

Kent Heaton

The first bicycle brand-new-out-of-the-box is a special moment. It stands gleaming with bright colors, clean crisp wheels, painted without a flaw and the chain is oiled just right for smooth control. Riding the first time is like flying with the wind. If the bicycle is lucky it will be washed a few times the first week. The second week is when the change takes place and after the first month a remarkable change happens. What once was carefully nurtured to retain the sparkling look of a new bike gives way to being left in the rain, paint scarred from spills and potholes and tubes needing replacement. The new wears off and time brings on rust and decay.

Everything seems to be like that. A new car smell becomes the spilled coffee, stained seats from children playing hard, paint scrapped from bumps and dings and time wears the new car down to a used car; if lucky an antique. On the other hand every antique was new once - a long time ago. We become antiques. We wear down, wear out and lose that new youthful look we had a long time ago.

The wise man said, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them:' while the sun and the light, the moon and the stars, are not darkened, and the clouds do not return after the rain: in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men bow down; when the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows grow dim; When the doors are shut in the streets, and the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of music are brought low. Also they are afraid of height, and of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets. Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well" (Ecclesiastes 12:1-6). Life changes is what the wise man is saying. Youth is replaced with growing older.

Earlier the wise man declared "To everything there is

a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). The nature of life is temporary, transitory and perishable. Paul wrote, “the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18). The most important lesson we must learn is that life is only a brief whisper in the eternal ages to come (James 4:14). We must heed the prayer of Moses to “number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalms 90:12). When we understand the nature of transitory life we can see more clearly the reality of our eternal existence.

Everything is temporary except the promises of God (Titus 1:1-2). What belongs to God will never end. What belong to man will change and end. The word “caducity” is being removed from modern dictionaries. It is one of many words that have lost their use in the English language. The temporal nature of our language proves the temporal nature of life. Ironically, the meaning of caducity spelled its own doom. Caducity is the “quality of being transitory or perishable” (Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, 1986 edition). Such is life - Transitory and perishable. Eternal life is without end (1 John 2:17).

-via *Reunion Reflections*; Athens, Alabama.

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN – 770AM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gladys Johnson	Earl Davis
Janice Cagle	Rachel Grubbs
Judy Vaughn	Gilbert Hardy
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Bertha Johnson	Martha Rice
Mary John Thomas	Patsy Burroughs
Jeff Waddell	Phillip Harwell
Joe Collier	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Sarah Collier
Robbie Shoulders	Randy Graviett
Don Bowling	

In The Hospital:

Vickie Brown; Huntsville W&C Hospital– rm. 315
Jim Currier; Trinity Hospital; Birmingham – rm.
Barabara Ogles; HealthSouth Huntsville; – rm. 308
Rhett Bailey; St. Jude’s Hosp. Memphis, Tenn.

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Sue Warren, rm 116	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Mary Smith, rm. 85	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

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:

Andrew Deen; Japan
Whitney Deen; Japan
Matthew Cox; Iraq

NEW SONGBOOKS: The elders have decided to purchase new songbooks here at Market Street. They know that some members here would like to purchase a songbook or songbooks in memory of someone. If you would like to do this, you can find envelopes with Market Street’s name on them along with 3 x 5 plain card beside

them to place the money and the information needed for the songbooks. The books are \$11 each. They will be accepting the memorials until June 12th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Our Vacation Bible school is scheduled for **June 13-16**. I hope everyone will mark this on your calendar and begin praying for the efforts that we will make for the cause of Christ. There are invitation cards at each exit to give or send to those we would like to invite.

NEW BABY We rejoice in the birth of *William Lukas Brown* this past Sunday in Colorado. He weighed 9 lbs. and 4 ozs. and now at home with his parents, *Cody and Tina Brown*. He is grandson of *Vickie Brown* and the great-grandson of *Judy Brown* and *Shirley Miller*.

MEETING CD'S: The CD's of our recent meeting with *Jeff May* preaching are available and are on the table in the vestibule. If you would like a set, please feel free to take one.

BAPTISM: We rejoiced this past Sunday morning, just after midnight, when *Kenneth Adams* expressed his desire to be baptized into Christ. We appreciate the good heart that Kenneth has and the serious thought he gave to doing what would please God. We wish a long and faithful life in the service of God. May we encourage him as he encourages us in our journey to heaven.

CONFESSION: We were touched by the sincerity of *Virginia Tucker* as she came forward Sunday morning asking for prayers for forgiveness. We are thankful for people with good hearts as Virginia who want to please the Lord in their lives. May we encourage each other to be the kind of servants the Lord desires we be.

PREACHING AWAY: *Warren Glass* is preaching this morning for the church at New Georgia in Lauderdale county. He will be back with us tonight.

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.

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of May 22nd*

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	136
	Morning Worship	174
	Evening Worship.....	128
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	110

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Larry Mitchell
Assisting	Stuart Wilson
Serving	Jonathan Keenon Harold Davis
.....	Keenon Carrier Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Stuart Wilson
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 29th:

Usher	Paul Hasting
Work Sound System	Stuart Wilson

Wednesday, June 1st:

Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 23:1-9)
.....	Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer	Jack Cannon
Invitation	Marty Adams
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, June 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Wayne Vaughn
Preaching	Warren Glass
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Larry Mitchell
Assisting	Stuart Wilson
Serving	Jonathan Keenon Harold Davis
.....	Keenon Carrier Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Landon Adams
Preaching	Marty Adams
Lord's Supper	Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 5th:

Usher	Keenon Carrier
Work Sound System	Marty Adams