

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
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

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No. 35

The Tears of God

Chuck Durham

Does God rejoice when He judges the wicked? In 2 Kings 8:1-15 lies an answer to this question. Elisha anoints Hazael to be king over Syria (v. 13). When Hazael inquires of Elisha for his master's health, Elisha tells him that Ben-hadad will die (as it turns out by the murdering hands of Hazael). Verse 11 (ESV) states:

And he{Elisha} fixed his gaze and stared at him {Hazael} until he was embarrassed. And the man of God wept.

Hazael was not only embarrassed by Elisha's stare, but puzzled as well by the weeping of the prophet. Elisha answered with tear-stained face: "Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel... you will kill their young men with the sword and dash in pieces their little ones and rip open their pregnant women" (v. 12).

Elisha faithfully performed the duties of his office, but he did so without any joy. His eyes bore into the soul of God's instrument of judgment upon His apostate people and Elisha drank the bitter dregs of the horrors of righteous justice.

Mark well this passage to any who would presume to preach His word—you may well bear words that are bitter to your heart and cause you to stare in utter dismay at the consequences of sin. You will weep in the long hours of the night because of the sins of God's people. And in those dark days you will pray earnestly that this cup pass from you. Preaching the Lord reflects both His goodness and severity (Romans 11:22).

So, does God cry like His prophet? This question matters infinitely more than Elisha's tears. When God judges His apostate people, does He weep inconsolably for them (cf. Jacob, Genesis 37:35)? The Scriptures answer with a resounding "Yes!"

In Luke 19:41, the text says: "Now as He [Jesus] drew near, He saw the city [Jerusalem] and wept over it." Leon Morris says the Greek word

may rightly be rendered “wailed.” He burst into outward, audible sobbing when he saw Jerusalem (Tyndale NT Commentaries, p.280). Why did He “audibly” weep? Because His people had exhausted the long-suffering mercy of their God; His people had forsaken Him for the last time. They had rejected the day of peace for the judgment of war. And thus their Great Father (cf. Isaiah 9:6) wept inconsolably, knowing the fullness of judgment: Rome will “level you, and your children within you, to the ground” (v.44).

God never rejoices in judgment. Never! He carries it forth in righteousness, tears staining His face to the end. Don't ever forget this. God does not want to judge. It is His last resort at all times. A British journalist once commended the patience and good-will of the United States by stating the obvious: were we Hitler of Stalin with no conscience, we would have long ago made the earth a parking lot (by means of our nuclear arsenal). When we nailed His Son to the tree, and the heavens darkened at midday and the earth quaked in fear--no one but One knew how close we came to being the parking lot! But mercy triumphed over judgment (James 2:13).

The scene of Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem is immediately followed by His cleansing the Temple of those who bought and sold in it (v. 45). He physically drove them from the Temple. The zeal of His righteous indignation was stained with the tears of His love. It is an amazing contrast in the heart of God. It both consoles and terrifies all at once. It is real. It matters, this business of living here below. It really matters in the great scheme of things, how we behave each day of our lives. Mark this passage in your heart: God does cry when He judges His people. Mark it well.

“I think He will weep over the lost as He did over Jerusalem. It will be something to be said forever in heaven, ‘Jesus wept as He said, Depart, ye cursed.’ I think that the shower of fire and brimstone was wet with the tears of God as it fell, for God has ‘no pleasure in the death of him that dieth’” (Andrew Bonar as quoted in Dale Ralph Davis, 2Kings: The Power And The Fury, p. 135).

-via *Think On These Things*, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

What Might Have Been

Barney L. Keith

How painful is the thought expressed by one of the great poets, John Greenleaf Whittier:

“For of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: ‘It might have been!’” Many a person has thrown away his life in drug addiction, (including alcohol). Numerous are those who have thrown away their marriages by becoming involved with others. Parents have often lost their children by neglecting them, or even granting them excessive freedom. Many are those who have thrown away a good name by some ungodly behavior. Do you not suppose that a vast majority of these later in life have shed tears of bitter remorse as they have thought of “what might have been”? It is too late, however, for all has been lost.

This bitter lament is found also in the Bible. It was expressed by the “weeping prophet,” Jeremiah (8:20) as he sadly exclaimed, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” God had given His people ample time to repent and respond appropriately to His offers of mercy. When God was no longer willing to tolerate their wickedness, the Babylonian captivity became His means of teaching them a 70-year lesson. No doubt there were times in Babylon when they mourned and wept over “what might have been” if they had only listened to the voices of the prophets who had warned them.

Such lessons ought not to fall on deaf ears today. That individual who has stopped serving the Lord faithfully will one day realize what he has given up. It may be too late then to do anything about it. My dear wayward brother or sister, before the “harvest is past” and the “summer is ended,” you ought to take advantage of a merciful God's offer of pardon by repentance, confession and prayer. Better that, by far, than to stand condemned in the judgment and have to think of “what might have been.”

That individual, too, who has never obeyed the gospel should ponder seriously what hell is like (according to God's word) and submit himself to the rule of Christ in faith, repentance, confession and baptism before it is too late to do so. Far better this than to

be separated eternally from God and think of "what might have been."

-via *The Lenexa Edifier*; Lenexa, Kansas.



No Fleshly Incentives

Bill Hall

The use of fleshly incentives to draw people to worship services is becoming more and more common. One church offers free cokes, doughnuts, and balloons to its bus riders. Another offers a prize to the child who brings the most visitors. Still another uses some sports figure or entertainer to attract a crowd. Dinners and socials, elaborate church buildings, "Friendliest church in town" or "Fastest-growing church in town" advertising - the list of gimmicks is almost endless.

A study of 1 Corinthians, chapters 1 and 2, suggest that the people of our generation are not the first to demand fleshly incentives. The Jews and Greeks of Paul's day demanded them. "For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom" (1 Corinthians 1:22). Paul could have produced both, but he refused to do so: "But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1:23-24).

Paul recognized the fact that some people are just not "convertible": "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1 Corinthians 1:26). Why are such infrequently called? Because the majority place their trust in the flesh rather than in God. They are fleshly-minded. And Paul was not about to coax fleshly-minded, "unconvertible" people "into the church" by the use of signs, wisdom, excellence of speech, enticing words, or any other fleshly incentive. To do so would result in getting their names on a "church roll", but not in bringing them to Christ to the saving of their soul.

If Paul refused to use signs and wisdom as fleshly

incentives, what would have been his reaction to the use of cokes and doughnuts? If he came "not with excellence of speed or of wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:1), what would he have said concerning attempts to attract crowds through the use of sports figures and entertainers? If Paul, led by the Holy Spirit, followed a "no fleshly incentive" policy, should that not be our policy? And should we not always be able to say with Paul, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2)?

-via *The Lakeview Lamp*; Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM - 92.5 FM

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

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Delmer Carter	Bobbie Adcock
Rachel Grubbs	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Martha Rice
Jack Jones	Wayne Bolton
Larry Jones	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Millinea Threet
Brent Lowman	Phillip Harwell
Mary Dean	Jeff Waddell
Joe Collier	Sarah Collier
Wanda Taylor	Paige Phillips
Barbara Ogles	Robbie Shoulders
Don Bowling	Randy Graviett

In The Hospital:

Lifford Smith; Huntsville Hospital, ICU
Gladys Sandlin; Health South Rehab., rm. 320
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
Mary Smith, rm. 85 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Limestone Manor:

Albert Norton, rm. 98

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

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: Remember our gospel meeting is just two short weeks from beginning. The dates are September 11-14. The speakers will be: **Sunday – Jeff McCrary; Monday – Steve Klein; Tuesday – Norm Webb; Wednesday – Lance Taylor.** The services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. There are invitations at each exit for you to take and pass along to those you invite.

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.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent is on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. If it is where you can be available on a Tuesday evening to come and sing for about an hour, come and join us there.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of August 21st*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 138
Morning Worship 175
Evening Worship..... 112

Wednesday:
Bible Classes..... 104

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Tommy Coblenz Paul Hasting
..... Harold Davis Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 28th:
Usher Keenon Currier
Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, August 31st:

Song Leader Marion Mitchell
Bible Reading (Isaiah 29:17-24)
..... Joel Hamm
Prayer Jack Cannon
Invitation Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Sunday, September 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marcus Morris
Assisting Kenneth Smith
Serving Joel Hamm Marion Mitchell
..... Ronnie Locke Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 4th:
Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Marty Adams