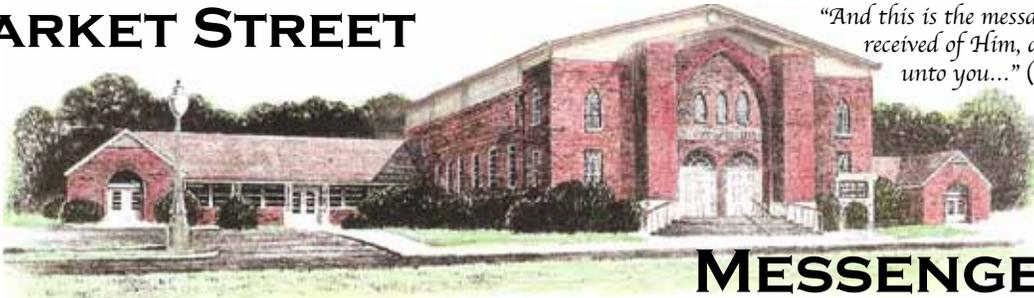


MARKET STREET



“And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you...” (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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No. 41

Let Us Make A Name For Ourselves

David B. Hartsell

Remember after the flood that God told Noah and his sons, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (Genesis 9:1). This directive was actually a repeat of what God had told Adam earlier. The Lord wanted mankind to spread throughout the earth. By Genesis 11 we read of men planning to do the opposite. They began building an impressive structure designed to keep them all together. And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4). The Lord was displeased with man's disobedience. He confused their languages which caused the dispersion that He originally had intended.

Why were man building such an elaborate complex? They wanted “to make a name for themselves.” Men had forgotten their purpose in life. Fearing God and keeping His commandments was, and is, the “whole” of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13) To respect our Lord and to obey Him we must know Him through His word, the Bible. Often this is where a problem exists. Men either don't know His Word or don't respect it. Even some Christians fail here. Too often God's people are improperly motivated. Let us examine one way that men have tried to make a name for themselves.

God has designed individual churches to accomplish His work. These congregations are led by elders and served by deacons (Philippians 1:1-2). Elders have only the authority to oversee the church of which they are members (1 Peter 5:2). Each church is to spread the gospel, encourage its members, and help in benevolence. No church or human organization has a right to solicit funds from churches so that they can oversee the work God has given each church to do. This was done in the Missionary Society in the mid 1800's. Many brethren objected because it was a human institution. So some brethren shifted to the Herald of Truth which was associated with a large Texas congregation. They gathered funds from churches across the country to manage missionary work through the use of radio programs, purchasing advertisements, supporting preachers, etc. - all the duties of every local church. What could be the problem with

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) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm..... (256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelist

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

this? Simply put, no church has any authority to receive funds from other churches, except to relieve physical needs. And the sending of these funds is to cease when the needs are satisfied (2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 13-15).

Why do men devise such things that conflict with God's way? They want to make a name for themselves. The important thing is not to become great in men's eyes but in God's. Our Lord sees differently from us. We see the "rich man;" He sees Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Let us make a name for ourselves before God.

~via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama.



In Good Times and Bad

Wilson Adams

It's easy to give God the glory when you have great friends and family, and enjoy wonderful health and happiness. It's easy to praise Him when others surround you in like mind and your voice is joined in a chorus of hundreds. It's easy to be thankful when you walk along a quiet beach or sit atop a mountain where you can see forever. It's easy then.

And I have had those times. You have, too.

There are "mountaintop" days when your cup is filled to overflowing, days when you can't thank Him enough. The simple song, "God is so good," seems to be on "repeat" as it plays in your mind. In fact, you wake up to the message of Psalms 118:24 — "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Indeed.

I love those days. Unfortunately, there aren't enough of them.

Psalm 145 is filled to overflowing with bounty and blessing. "Every day I will bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name forever and ever" (v.2). Yet in the midst of this beginning-to-end song of praise, there is this realistic reminder: "The Lord sustains all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down" (v.14). There will be days when we fall, days when we are bowed down.

Hence, Can we bring Him glory when times aren't so good? Can we praise Him in spite of the pain? Can

we thank Him in the midst of trials? Can we trust Him when we don't understand?

Job's response to Mrs. Job sums up the struggle (2:10): "Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" What do I tell the young mom struggling with two toddlers in tow and feeling completely overwhelmed? Or what do I say to the sister that has buried a spouse or to the brother that looks into the mirror and speaks the word he never thought he would hear. "Cancer?" What words can be said to the one struggling through a divorce or to the family facing the loss of their home to a natural calamity?

In those moments of intensified emotion, the words, "Praise God!" ring hollow. Yet, in the aftermath of each situation just described, He can be praised. Looking back on life's toughest days, we can give Him the glory for what He could see when we couldn't. Have you ever prayed for an outcome only to be denied, and then later been thankful that God didn't give you what you thought you wanted? At the time of denial, our selfishness made it hard to praise Him. Given time and opportunity for reflection, it becomes easier.

One mark of spiritual maturity is to learn to glorify him in days of delight and days of distress. After the Nashville flood of 2010, I made a list of lessons learned to our benefit.

- We learned that we are not in control.
- We learned that people are more important than possessions.
- We learned to quit complaining about insignificant stuff.
- We learned that God has given man an indomitable spirit.
- We learned that things could change in an instant.
- We learned to thank Him for our safety.
- We learned that after the storm comes a rainbow of hope.

Can God be glorified when times are hard and circumstances difficult? Yes.

When a friend's wife died just shy of their 30th wedding anniversary, he was given wisdom perspective when presented with question. "If God had sat you down thirty years ago and said, 'You can have her, but only for thirty years' - what would have been your decision?" He responded, "I would have still said, 'Yes!' - and been thankful." His friend paused and replied,

“God gave you those thirty years.” He learned there and then to glorify God for the time that he had. It’s a faith-perspective that, sometimes, only tragedy allows you to find.

The song “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” was taken from something Job said in 19:25. It’s one of those hymns we sing with great fervor and emotion. It’s also easy to conclude that whomever wrote those original words must have been experiencing a mountaintop moment unlike any other. Friend, Job wrote those words and...he wasn’t sitting on a mountain. In fact, he was at one of the lowest ebbs of life.

Even then, his faith stirred him to look past his troubles and glorify God for what he knew.

Life is hard and some days it gets harder. Ask God for help to see the good. Satan will do everything he can to convince you otherwise. Don’t listen to that liar. Put your trust in the One who can see what you cannot see. Be thankful for what you have. And keep your eye cocked toward heaven.

Good times or bad - Glory to his name!

~via *Family Items*; Athens, Alabama



Generosity

Dennis Carrow

As we conclude our final entry on the subject of “the virtuous family,” the ending characteristic we will observe is that of generosity. Generosity is the principle at the very center of being loving and merciful. Please recall the purpose and motive of being virtuous is to “bring value to life.” Generosity is the blessed state through which we bless the lives of others, and the consequence of this is that we bless our own lives as well.

The apostle Paul highlights this grand truth in Acts 20:35 as he calls us to remember he words of Jesus, “it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

The challenging thing about the quality from a familial vantage point is how is this virtue taught? The

only way generosity can be taught is to instruct and guide one in giving something they possess to someone else.

The instructions given in Ephesians 6:7 help us as we learn the motive behind the things we do are "as unto the Lord, not to men." The essence of generosity is giving. While this can and does often apply to possessions, the essential element is the expression of mercy. Mercy is the great blessing we receive from God. What is critical in our understanding of this virtue is that if we fail to give - we will not receive!

So, the virtuous family is the family that gives! We give of our time and resources - ultimately we give ourselves. Indeed, this brings value to our lives as we become valuable to the lives of others.

Are you a part of the Virtuous Family of God?

~via *What Is True?* Little Rock, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Irene Mitchell	Bonnie Sutton
Ronnie Locke	Mot Beasley
Nancy Abernathy	Virginia Miller
Shirley Miller	Janice Cagle
Gilbert Hardy	Wayne Gooch
Wynell Casteel	Yvonne Sherbert
Abby Gilbert	Mary Ruth Gardner
Carrie Miller	Betty Faye Holt
Charles Burns	Mike Wulfekuhl
Ava Brooke Campbell	Phillip Harwell
Jeffery Miller	Matt Poff
David Hartsell	Marie Bates
Eli Williams	

In The Hospital:

Una King Currier; East Glen Rehab; Birmingham

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 10 Beulah Pope, rm. 100
Mary Holt, rm. 98

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B Albert Norton, rm. 36
Bobby McGuire, rm. 33A J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Billy Sutton, rm. Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. They are engaged in a study called "*The Barnabas Factor*". If you are a lady, and are able to meet with them, please join them in this study. It will do you good.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. If it is where you can come, please come participate in this good work.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coblentz:* Tommy and Marcella are in Nashville, Tennessee this weekend with family...

Ida Nell Griffin is out of town this week in Washington, DC... ***The Keenons:*** Joanthan and Lawinda are visiting in Auburn today... ***The Coxes:*** David, Kerry and Hunter are visiting with Tyler in Auburn today.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The ***4th Street church*** in Cullman is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday evening. *Sewell Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting. Services will begin Monday through Thursday at 7:00 p.m.... The ***Carringer church*** is conducting a meeting this week through Wednesday with services beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be different speakers.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The Children's Bible Drill will begin today at 4:40 and last about 15 minutes. It will be in the auditorium and will end about 5 minutes prior to the beginning of our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present.

THE RECORD: For the Week of Septtember 30th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 125
Morning Worship 170
Evening Worship..... 106

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 101

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Terry Andrews
Assisting Kenneth Smith
Serving Keenon Currier Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Heath Dollar Dan Lovell
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 7th:

Usher Marion Mitchell
Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, October 10th:

Song Leader Todd Williams
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 51:1-8
..... Tommy Coblentz
Prayer Kenneth Adams
Invitation Dan Reed
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, October 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jonathan Keenon
Assisting Jerry McGlocklin
Serving Tommy Burns Paul Hasting
..... David Terry Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 14th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Marty Adams