

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 IV

December 23, 2012

No. 52

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

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
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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

Seeing The Invisible

Jason Longstreth

There are many things in our world that we cannot see with our eyes. We often call these things “invisible”. This word itself means something that cannot be seen. However, just because something may be invisible, that does not mean that we cannot see it or perceive it. God is one example. Have you ever heard anyone say, “If God would just show Himself to me, I would believe” or something to that effect? I have. But we can’t see God, or can we?

Look at what the Holy Spirit said through Paul in Romans 1:18-20: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

Here we are told that God did make Himself evident to us. He revealed Himself to us. Paul says that God’s invisible attributes have been clearly seen. How can that be? We see God in the things He does and what He has done. We understand Him through what He made. In other words, how do we know God exists? Creation itself proves this fact. And it points to two invisible attributes of God: His eternal power and divine nature. When we deny that God exists, we are without excuse.

The Psalmist says it a little differently. “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world...” Psalm 19:1-4.

Here, instead of using the idea of “seeing” God, the Psalmist says that the heavens and expanse tell us about God. Even though they do

not actually have a voice, they pour forth speech and reveal knowledge. This also shows that creation points to the existence of God - there is no denying it!

In Hebrews 11:1 we are told "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The King James Version says faith is the "evidence of things not seen." Then, in verse three we are told, "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible." Once again, the creation plays an important part in our understanding of God. By faith we understand that God created everything.

Therefore, we understand that what we see was not made out of things which are visible, and we also understand the invisible attributes of God through what we see. When you look at the world around you and gaze into the sky, how can you deny God's existence? What more does He have to do to prove that He exists? Nothing, He has done enough.

Nevertheless, many choose to ignore the evidence that God has given us. These are the people Paul spoke of in Romans 1:21-23. "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures." These are the ones against whom the wrath of God is revealed. This was the condition of many people in Paul's day, but if there has ever been a commentary on our times, I believe Romans 1:18-32 is it. Therefore, I am including the rest of the passage for you to read and meditate upon.

Romans 1:24-32, "Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

And remember, all of this started by not remembering our Creator.

~via *The Beacon*, Bowling Green, Kentucky.



The Cost of My Salvation

Jason Cicero

"And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him" (Luke 23:33). In 1972, Paul S. Minear wrote: "If it is true that Jesus never had a better press than today, it is also true that rarely has there been less knowledge of His commands and less inclination to obey them. Recognition of His greatness has served as a substitute for reckoning the costs of discipleship" (Commands of Christ, p. 11).

Many today rebel at the very idea of "the cost of discipleship" as if it were a denial of salvation by grace. But it was Christ Himself who first called attention to the sobering demands of following Him. Salvation is both free and costly.

Salvation is free. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). This gift (charisma) is of grace. I deserve to be punished for my sins. My God and Father will give me what I don't deserve by His love, grace and mercy which are in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:4-9). Salvation is free.

Salvation is costly. The grace of God is not cheap. The "High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose

name is Holy” (Isaiah 57:15) sent His only begotten Son into this world to shed His blood on a cross for the purpose of bringing unholy folks like me into fellowship with Him. As I rejoice in my salvation, I need to remember daily the cost. God gave His Son. The Son gave His life. I have been redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:19). Salvation is costly.

Immediate death of self. As I come to understand that Christ died for me, my faith is to lead me to submission, repentance, confession of Christ as my Lord and Savior and baptism. In baptism my “old man” is “crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with” (Romans 6:6). To be a disciple of Christ is to put my sinful self to death. To be “born again.” To start over in Him.

Daily death of self. As I begin my life in Christ, I am to understand that “it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). Everyday I am to take up my cross and follow Him. The “life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20).

I have died with Christ in baptism, risen with Him to walk in newness of life, and continue to put myself to death for Him daily for one reason: He “loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” The “love of Christ compels me” to deny myself, take up my cross daily and follow Him (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

~via *The North Jasper Seeker*; Jasper, Alabama

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Do More Than Honk

Michael W. McLemore

Critics abound. They are everywhere. We have met one or two who are Christians. We read a story a while back that caused us to consider our own criticism of others.

It seems a young lady was driving to work during the morning rush hour. The light turned red as she approached an intersection, requiring her to make a

screaming stop. As a result, her car stalled. As she desperately tried to restart her car, the light turned back to green. A truck approached the rear of her car, and the driver began honking the horn. Through one light change, then two, the young lady nervously pumped the gas and turned the ignition. The truck driver continued to honk his horn. Frustrated by her inability to get the car going again, and the impatience of the truck driver behind her, the young woman calmly got out of her car and walked back to the truck. As he opened his window, the slightly woman politely asserted, “If you will start my car for me, I would be happy to continue honking your horn for you.”

So it is with criticism, We can honk our critical horns as long as we want, but it will not change the situation or the people. We must be about the work of the building up the man within. The Lord left the work of judgment and correction to those spiritually equipped to the task (Galatians 6:1).

Christians must be on guard against biased critique of others – in the faith or out. We must ever be aware of our Lord’s assurance. “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again” (Matthew 7:2). Please be aware. All the criticism in the world will not get the Lord’s cause any further along.

~via *The Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Margaret Carter	Shirley Miller
Vickie Brown	Gladys Johnson
Kim & Peyton Rogers	Gwen Bullock
Gilbert Hardy	Mary Ruth Gardner
Wynell Casteel	Wayne Gooch
Una King Currier	Bruce Mordecai
Carrie Miller	Ronald Harrison
Evelyn Harrison	Abby Gilbert
Betty Faye Holt	Phillip Harwell
Ava Brooke Campbell	Charles Burns
Matt Poff	Shelia Dunnington Douglas

In The Hospital:

David Hartsell; UAB-Spain, Birmingham

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 16 Beulah Pope, rm. 100

Matty Murray, rm. 60

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B

Albert Norton, rm. 36 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Rosella Pugh, rm. 74 Billy Sutton, rm. 37

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 29-E

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 will not be meeting for the rest of this month. They will resume meeting on January 8th and continue the study, "The Barnabas Factor".

OUT OF TOWN: *The Williams:* Todd, Julie, Matthew and Phillip are in Sulligent this weekend... *The McLemores:* Alvis and Ann have been out of town this week on vacation... *The Beasleys:* Robert and Mot are in North Carolina visiting with family.

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

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Please come participate in this good work.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASS: The new quarter in our Bible classes at Market Street will begin Sunday, January 6th. This would be a great time to begin participating in our Bible classes if you are not. We are blessed with good dedicated teachers and I appreciate the work all of them do throughout the year in preparing and teaching the classes.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The Children's Bible Drill is each Sunday afternoon at 4:40 and lasts about 15 minutes. It meets in the auditorium and will end about 5 minutes before the beginning of our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present this evening for the Bible drill.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jordan Lovell
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Tommy Coblentz
Serving Steve Bradley Terry Andrews
..... Russ Wulfekuhl Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 23rd:

Usher Heath Dollar
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, December 26th:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading Isaiah 57:1-10
..... Todd Williams
Prayer Landon Adams
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Sunday, December 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Wayne Vaughn
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Kenneth Smith
Assisting Jonathan Keenon
Serving Kenneth Adams Mot Dollar
..... Marty Adams Stefan Fudge
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Wayne Vaughn
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Steve Bradley
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Jordan Lovell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 30th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Landon Adams