

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 VI

March 16, 2014

No. 11

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 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) 232-3312
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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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

The Secret Things of God

Mike Thomas

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God," said Moses to the Jews, "but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). The apostles taught the same thing in Christianity; everything God wants us to know about His will has been revealed in His word (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 3).

It is folly on our part to speculate in matters which God has not explained. From the forbidden fruit to what our resurrected bodies will look like, we are not given specific information on many things. Man in his ignorance has said the forbidden fruit was an apple and assumes our eternal bodies will be the same as our current ones, but God has not revealed the answers to these and many other questions.

Is there life on other planets? Are there other "earths" in the many galaxies we see? Has God experienced creation many times over and will He continue doing so after He brings this world to an end? Why is Satan more powerful than other angels? If he is an angel that rebelled, how come other angels have not succeeded him in evil dominion? As we ponder the possibilities to these and other intriguing thoughts, let us not "ponder" ourselves into denial and disbelief. Paul warned, "But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife" (2 Timothy 2:23). There is such a thing as wrestling over uncertain things to the point of creating confusion, doubt, and division. This is not only foolish, it can also lead to a bitter and divisive spirit, which God has made clear is an offense to Him (Pro. 6:19). Besides all this, He has given us plenty to learn and decipher from His word to keep us busy, instead of wasting time on wrestling over the unknowable.

How many churches did Jesus establish? What kind of music does He want in worship? When does He want saints to take the Lord's Supper? What kind of organization does He want in local churches? What role do women have in public teaching? What does He think about divorce? What is the church to do with unfaithful members? God has answered these

questions (see Ephesians 4:1-4; Colossians 3:16; Acts 20:7; Titus 1:5; 1 Timothy 2:11-12; Matthew 19:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 3:14). It is our responsibility to rightly divide the Bible to find these answers. (2 Timothy 2:15) and to remain content with God's will (1 John 2:3-6). Anything not given is not God's will for us to know.

-via *Standing Firm*, Beaver Dam, Kentucky.

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Will God Bless America?

Ken Weliever

"God bless you." "And God bless America." How many times did we hear some version of "God bless" during the weeks of the Republican and Democratic National conventions? Almost every speaker invoked God's blessing once or twice at the end of every speech.

But I was struck by the irony of asking for God to bless America all the while advocating moral positions that are contrary to the will of God. Abortion. Homosexuality. Same-Sex marriage. So as I thought about all the request for God to bless America, I wondered... will He?

Of course, God has blessed us. The fact is without dispute. Even in a time of economic downturn, high unemployment and rising gas prices, most folks have it pretty good. Our "poor" would be middle class in many countries of the world. In fact, most "poor" people enjoy creature comforts unknown to millions of people in impoverished countries.

We have great wealth, technological resources, educational opportunities, leisure, and the ability to pursue whatever it is we may desire or dream. Yet, it seems that we are less grateful, less religious, and more proud and self-reliant than ever.

So, will God continue to bless us?

Abraham Lincoln once said, "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their own independence upon the overruling power of God...and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and provide by all history, that those nations only are

blest whose God is Lord."

The basis of Lincoln's words are found in Psalm 33:12. They are as true today as when Lincoln said them and the Psalmist penned them. However, it is apparent that we are no longer one nation under God. Secularism, atheism and agnosticism have undermined our core values. The spread of Eastern religion and belief in Islam and their god, Allah, has further eroded our "Christian" precepts and principles.

Will God bless America when our people are reveling in wickedness at every turn? Corruption in business and government, the promotion of pornographic materials, breakdown of the family and an increase of deviant crimes against children. Furthermore, we are in the midst of a great struggle regarding the sanctity of marriage. William Bennett was right when he wrote, "the real crisis of our time is spiritual."

And what is the answer? I believe it is one that God gave to Solomon at the beginning of his reign when he built the temple. God appeared to him in the night and made a promise to him based on the faithfulness of the people. God said, "If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Will God bless America? Yes, If we...

1. **Humble Ourselves.** "A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor" (Proverbs 29:23). We need to be reminded that God has blessed us. Our affluence, success and greatness is the result of a benevolent Creator.
2. **Pray.** Humility leads to earnest prayer. Pride takes us away from prayer. Paul exhorted that we should pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). More than ever, prayer is needed today.
3. **Seek the Face of God.** If our nation is to be healed, we must come to the great Physician for the spiritual balm so badly needed. Our 30th President, Calvin Coolidge, once said, "We do not need more national development, we need more spiritual development."
4. **Turn From Our Wicked Ways.** It is not enough to know what is right, we must do it. We must turn from both the practice of sin and the approval and tolerance of it.

As a result, God promises to hear, forgive and heal. If God is to bless America, Christians must make a difference. Let us lead the way. Let us be the light. Let us be the salt. And let us stand up and be heard before it is too late!

-via *Stanley Avenue Bulletin*; Andalusia, Alabama.



Rise Up and Build

Brent Paschall

The seventy years of exile which God had brought upon His people in punishment for their sins was drawing to a close. Jerusalem lay in overgrown ruins, and the land had received rest from the unfaithfulness of the Jews. Now it was time for the nation of God's people to be restored. As we can read in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, this restoration took place in three major stages.

Restoring Worship

The first major stage of the restoration of Israel began in 539 BC when the Persian king, Cyrus acting under the direction of the LORD God of heaven, sent the Jews home to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1-4). The major leaders of God's people at this time were Zerubbabel, their governor, and Joshua the High Priest. They led a group of over 42,000 of God's people on a return journey to the land of promise (Ezra 2:64). As soon as they return, they began observing the feasts and sacrifices of Moses' law. With the prompting and encouragement of God's prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, the temple was begun (Ezra 3:11-13), and after a lengthy delay (Ezra 4), finally finished (Ezra 5-6). God's people could fully worship Him again!

Restoring the Law

The second major component of the restoration of Israel took place under the leadership of Ezra, the scribe. He led another large group of Jews back to the Promised Land (Ezra 7-8). When he got there, he discovered that the people had become lax in their observance of God's commands. He took bold and direct action to restore the knowledge and observance of God's law among the surviving remnant of God's people. This included calling them to repentance when it was discovered they had

become involved in unlawful foreign marriages (Ezra 9-10), and teaching them God's law so that they could renew their covenant with God to live faithfully as His people (Nehemiah 8-10).

Restoring the Walls

The third major stage of restoration was led by a man named Nehemiah. As a cupbearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes, he asked for and received permission to go lead the rebuilding of the physical walls of Jerusalem. When he arrived, his prayerful and dynamic leadership resulted in the walls being completely rebuilt in just fifty-two days (Nehemiah 6:15). God's people had physical security provided in a way that made it clear that God was their true protection. As their governor for the next twelve years, Nehemiah made sure that more walls were built in the hearts, minds and lives of the people, between themselves and the pagan people of the land (Nehemiah 13:1-9, 23-31), between the Sabbath day and other days of the week (Nehemiah 13:15-22), and between what was right and wrong (Nehemiah 5:1-13).

In many lives, homes, communities and nations throughout the world today, restoration is desperately needed. Wherever true restoration occurs, it involves the same three components that were manifest in the great restoration of the Old Testament. Worship must be restored according to the pattern of God's word. The law of Christ, rather than of Moses, must be proclaimed and observed, and walls must be built and defended in the lives of God's people that mark the boundaries of God's heavenly city. Are you taking part in the great restoration? As the men of Jerusalem said to Nehemiah, "Let us rise up and build!" (Nehemiah 2:18)

-via *Blue Ridge Brandmarks*, Roanoke, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Reba Byram	Fay Ferguson
Buddy Pepper	Robert & Mot Beasley
Crutcher Harbin	Gwen Bullock
Matt Poff	Joey Hinkle
Ray Kennedy	Michael Vaughn
Bennie Pepper	Joan Stanford
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Mark Hargrove	Carol Locke

Ava Brooke Campbell Abby Gilbert
 Jerry Taylor Una King Currier
 Phillip Harwell Elizabeth Howard
 Charles Burns

In The Hospital:

Bob Richter, Crestwood Hosp.; rm. 319

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Louise Hardy, rm. 81-A Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
 Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Mattye Murray, rm. 60
 Mable Crafts, rm. 100 Gayle Mills, rm. 15
 Robert Johnson, rm. 18

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Jack Cannon, rm. 111A
 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B
 Billy Abernathy, rm. 93

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Lola Colwell, at home
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
 David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

BETTY HASTING (1939 – 2014): It is with sadness that we mention the passing of sister Betty Hasting this past Tuesday night. Betty was a kind, caring and a Christian example to all she knew. She had been sick and unable to be at services at Market Street for sometime and has been missed. We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Paul, Cindy, Sherry, Jenny and Doug* and all the family in her passing. Her funeral was Thursday afternoon at Spry Funeral Home and she was laid to rest in the Legg Cemetery.

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.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of March 9th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 136
 Morning Worship 190
 Evening Worship..... 120
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 105

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Marty Adams
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marcus Morris
 Assisting Tommy Coblentz
 Serving Marvin Putman ... Nathaniel Adams
 Jonathan Keenon Bart Brown
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Landon Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
 Closing Prayer James Johnson

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 16th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System Terry Andrews

Wednesday, March 19th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Bible Reading Mark 12:18-27
 Dan Reed
 Prayer Kenneth Adams
 Invitation Marty Adams
 Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Sunday, March 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Tommy Coblentz
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Terry Andrews
 Assisting Norman Brown
 Serving Kenneth Adams Paul Hasting
 Todd Williams Bonnie Sutton
 Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
 Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 23rd:

Usher Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System Landon Adams