

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

August 31, 2014

No. 35

Hezekiah: Warrior Against Cynics

Greg Chandler

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) 233-1017

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
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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 final days of the Divided Kingdom period of Israel's history offered little respite for the righteous. From the King down to the commoner, most had turned from faithful service to the Lord and followed either pagan religions or the dictates of their own hearts. God was weary of their antics. Through His prophets, He warned that the end was near and that the fierce Assyrian Empire would soon be used as His instrument of judgment on the wicked Jews who were once known as a part of His chosen people.

Though the southern Kingdom of Judah also had difficulty remaining loyal to their Lord, a few good kings helped to bring the people back to faithful service to Jehovah. One such king was Hezekiah. Though he had his moments of weakness, Hezekiah was a devoted servant of the Lord and a man who desired others to show the same loyalty. This is well documented in 2 Chronicles 29-31 where the religious revival orchestrated by the king is recorded in great detail. As a part of this revival, Hezekiah chose to reinstitute the holy Passover feast which had ceased to be observed correctly for many years. While this is an amazing feat for a king interested in godliness, what is even more amazing is who the king had the audacity to invite. 2 Chronicles 30:5-9 states:

So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it as often as prescribed. So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his princes, as the king had commanded, saying, "O people of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were faithless to the Lord God of their fathers, so that he made them a desolation, as you see. Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the Lord and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve the Lord your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. For if you return to the Lord, Your

brothers and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him."

Not only did good King Hezekiah desire obedience on the part of his own people in Judah, he sought to bring his brethren in the wicked northern country of Israel back into God's fold. What possibly could have motivated him to take such drastic action amongst such a spiritually dark people? It was his love for God and his love for his fellow man. Hezekiah refused to grow cynical in the belief that there was no hope for their spiritual revival. Though numerous excuses could have been given as to why this was a bad idea, Hezekiah put them all aside to pursue what was right.

When one seeks to please the Lord during wicked times, it is very easy to allow cynicism to run rampant. Consider the time in which we currently live. A quick scan of modern television programming shows a culture that is quickly losing grasp of its last remaining morals. Decisions by government indicate a shift from traditional, godly values to an outlook that is seeking to remove any vestige of God from the public arena. Such shifts can make the God-fearer feel alone in a world that is foreign to his or her outlook. In such times, Hezekiah sets a high standard for those who seek righteousness.

Like Hezekiah, the God-fearer should never come to the inappropriate conclusion that the blackness of sin has caused everyone to give up on finding and pleasing God. In times when wickedness prevails, it is essential that saints seek to spread the message of light and hope in the midst of darkness and despair. As Jesus walked the earth in the spiritually dark shadow of the Roman Empire, He told His followers "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14). This is true for His followers in any age. The only outcome of cynicism is denying those in sin the opportunity to hear the life changing message of the gospel.

When saints choose to shun the way of cynicism, will they see results from their efforts to bring the message of hope to a lost and dying world? This really does not matter. It is beyond the capability of anyone to change the heart of another. This is something that can only happen between an individual and God. The duty of the faithful is to bring this message of salvation and to provide opportunity for a change of heart to happen.

Still cynical? Continue reading the account of

Hezekiah's revival:

So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

Because Hezekiah refused to give in to cynicism, a choice was given. Some chose to scorn the message and continue in their wicked ways. Others however, took advantage of an opportunity to come back to their Lord. Because one man chose to do the right thing, several citizens of the northern kingdom chose to humble themselves under the mighty hand of Jehovah. Are you a faithful follower of the Lord? Are you giving opportunity to others to join you in this walk? Hezekiah did and great things followed. They still can today.

-via *Teaching Truths*; Madison, Alabama.

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Beersheba

Kent Heaton

There was a time not long ago when the word of an honest man was a bond of faith. Many agreements were sealed with an oath of promise and possibly the shaking of hands to seal an accord between two parties. The spirit of a covenant was a binding action that would not be broken. Abraham Lincoln said, "We must not promise what we ought not, lest we be called on to perform what we cannot."

In the days of the early patriarchs, an oath was made between Abimelech and Abraham because of a conflict over a well of water. "So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant. And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves. Then Abimelech asked Abraham, 'What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?' And he said, 'You will take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, that they may be my witness that I have dug this well.' Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there" (Genesis 21:27-31).

The name Beersheba is a reminder of an oath made many centuries ago between two men and continues to

strike a chord for the value of speaking the truth and holding to ones word with others. Jesus illustrated this principle when he said, "Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No,' 'No.'" For whatever is more than these is from the evil one" (Matthew 5:37; see also James 5:12). A person's word should be his bond and especially when that person is a child of God.

Above all things people of the Book must be people who follow the meaning of Beersheba in "putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor" (Ephesians 4:25). Speaking truth is fulfilling oaths and agreements we have made with others. Albert Barnes wrote, "Nothing is more important in a community than simple 'truth' - and yet, it is to be feared that nothing is more habitually disregarded. No professing Christian can do any good who has not an unimpeachable character for integrity and truth - and yet who can lay his hand on his breast and say before God that he is in all cases a man that speaks the simple and unvarnished truth?"

The wise man reminds us that when we make a vow before God we should pay it "When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed; better not to vow than to vow and not pay" (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5; see verses 1-7). This speaks to the honesty of the heart and the integrity of one's character. If we agree to pay a financial accord we should hold to our word - Beersheba. When we make agreements with others our hearts should follow the principles of honesty and truth - Beersheba. Even in our marriages we have made vows before God that must be kept - Beersheba. Abraham and Abimelech called the place Beersheba because "the two of them swore an oath there!"

It might also be noted that Abraham planted a "tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God" (Genesis 21:33). When Abraham made a promise, he made it to God. The bond of his word was based upon the word of God and the blessing of God. Jesus said, "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:36-37). Beersheba.

-via *Reunion Reflections*; Athens, Alabama

Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 4:00.



Gospel Meeting

September 21-24, 2014

(Sunday through Wednesday)

Different Speakers

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Mot Dollar	Betty Pepper
Marjorie Dunnivant	Fay Ferguson
Buddy Pepper	Carl Hargrave
Gilbert Hardy	Crutcher Harbin
Gwen Bullock	Robert & Mot Beasley
Ruth Lawson	Una King Currier
Gene Carpenter	Dorothy Casteel
Ava Brooke Campbell	Alex Reed
Phillip Harwell	Charles Burns
Eli Williams	Analynn Tegg
Elizabeth Kate Miller	Kim Pressnell
Dianna Ritter	Joey Hinkle

In The Hospital:

Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.
Michael Vaughn; Clear Lake Hosp.; Clear Lake, Texas

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 75	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97	Mattye Murray, rm. 2
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63	Deannie Britton; rm. 66

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

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

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

Wynell Casteel, at home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

NURSING HOMESINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the **Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care**. Come to sing, you will enjoy it and you will encourage the residents there.

OUT OF TOWN: The Vaughns: Phillip and Margaret are in Houston, Texas with their son, Michael, this week... **The Reeds:** Dan and Scottie are in Idaho on vacation... **The Wulfekuhls:** Russ, Lisa and Ali are in Colorado on vacation this week... **Hunter Cox** is in Auburn today.

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 August 24th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 143
Morning Worship 182
Evening Worship..... 118

Wednesday:
Bible Classes..... 133

Bible Study



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 31st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Marty Adams
Serving Hunter Cox Keenon Currier
..... Heath Dollar Mot Dollar
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching Marty Adams
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 31st:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, September 3rd:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading Romans 3:1-18
..... Tony Thomas
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Invitation Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Sunday, September 7th

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Tommy Burns Marvin Putman
..... Paul Hasting Jason Conn
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 7th:

Usher Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System Landon Adams