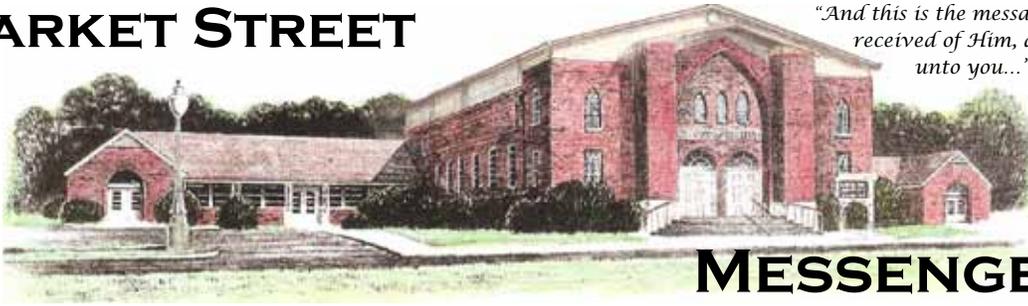


MARKET STREET

"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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P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume VII

November 1, 2015

No. 44

In God We Trust (sometimes)

Wilson Adams

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 Coblenz(256) 232-3312
Joel Hamm.....(256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell(256) 230-0185
Russ Wulfekuhl(256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox(256) 233-8910
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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

Life is hard and some days it gets even harder. What then? This is usually when we quote Hebrews 12:2; "Fix our eyes on Jesus..." Someone asked me once, "Brother Adams, how do you do that when your eyes are filled with tears?" Good question.

You do what Job did. And David did. When life knocks you to your knees and you find yourself walking through the "valley of the shadows of death" and discouragement and struggling with your faith, there are four essential things you must do.

1. **Tell God exactly how you "feel."** That's what Job did. Job 7:11—"Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul." Did Job really say that? Yes, He did! God allowed the patriarch to vent his heart and speak what he was feeling.

We remind people repeatedly that God is such a trusted friend you can tell Him anything. Do we really believe that? Can God handle my doubt, my anger, or my fear? And can He cope with my grief or confusion or questions? Yes, He can. If you don't believe that, then you haven't read the book of Job.

Have you ever had a friend with whom you could just be yourself? A friend you could trust to keep the grain and blow away the chaff? God is that kind of friend. On the other hand, we all have "guarded friends" we tiptoe around, watch what we say, and the conversation never gets below the surface. And why?—Because we're not sure they can be trusted.

You don't have to do that with God. David didn't. Job didn't. God allowed them to express the fears and frustrations of their hearts and... He loved them anyway.

Think about the parent-child relationship. As a parent, do you want your children to communicate only what they think you want to hear?

Or do you want them to have the freedom to share their hearts? As a father, I want my children to come to me regardless of their hurts and fears, questions and confusion. And if they don't understand something I've done, or a decision I've made, how will we hope to reach an understanding without openhearted communication? It doesn't mean I will always be able to explain it to their satisfaction or level of maturity, but it does mean that talking about it will go a long way in building trust. It's the same with God. You will never heal until you open your hearts to Him.

2. Focus on His unchanging nature. Regardless of your circumstances or how you feel, it is essential to confess what you know is true. There are facts about God that your circumstances (no matter how bleak) will not change:

- You know God is good.
- You know God loves you.
- You know God knows what you're going through.
- You know God cares about you.

Never doubt in the dark what God has told you in the light of His word. When Job's life fell apart and God was silent, he still found things for which he was thankful. Scattered throughout the book are references to his blessings – including 19:25 – “I know that my redeemer lives.”

It reminds you of a song, doesn't it? It's easy to sing the song by Fred A. Filmore and envision the author experiencing an emotional high perched atop a glorious mountain. I'm not sure where Fred Filmore was when he wrote the song, but I know where Job was when he first said it. And he wasn't exactly on top of a mountain. The fact is he was in the lowest valley of life. Yet even in the valley of suffering he was able to say, “I know...” (not feel) “that my Redeemer lives.”

3. Trust God to keep His promises. There will be days and nights in your spiritual life when you will come up dry and your faith will be running on fumes. It happens. That's when it is essential that you rely on the promises of God and not your emotions.

In other words, don't be troubled by trouble. Your circumstances (as bad as they are) don't change the character of God – or the love of God – or the grace of God. The truth is God is for you even when you do not feel that He is (Psalm 118:6). Does that mean I enjoy going through the valley of the shadows of suffering

and depression? No. Does that mean I understand everything about God's providence and His timing? No again. Yet in spite of my troubles and unanswered questions, can I trust Him?

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways...” (Isaiah 55:8-9). At the end of the day, I may not be able to understand the Why, but I must learn to trust the Who. Psalm 56:3 – “When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.”

4. Remember what God has done for you already. I've often heard people throw a personal qualification on the love of God. Here's how:

- If God really loved me... He wouldn't have let my sister die.
- If God really loved me... My husband would still be here.
- If God really loved me... I wouldn't have lost my job.
- If God really loved me... My parents would not have divorced.
- If God really loved me... The accident would not have happened.

Dear friend, if God never did another thing for you, He still deserves your very best because of what he has already done for you (2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:6).

The next time we are tempted to throw a big pity party, maybe we need to stop, look back at the cross, and remember. Nothing puts my suffering into perspective like the cross. Yes, there are days I may not “feel” it, but I must “know” it. And what I know is this: I know that my Redeemer lives and ever cares for me. That is a fact that no feeling can ever be allowed to erase.

*-via **Biblical Insights**; Vol 15, No. 3, March 2015.*



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

Truly Precious

Frank Walton

“Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed. This precious value, then, is for you who believe,” (1 Peter 2:6-7 NASB)

Louisville’s Speed Art Museum has acquired a Paul Cezanne masterpiece. It measures only 10”x13”; amazingly, this precious painting cost \$3.5 million!

Peter teaches that Christians have the “precious” privilege of beginning life anew by a living faith in Christ. Earthly life often disappoints (cf. high divorce and suicide rates). Yet, Peter reminds us that Jesus will never disappoint us. Whatever it cost, it is worth it to be a faithful Christian!

1 & 2 Peter reminds Christians, originally facing persecution and false teaches, what’s truly precious. Whether we face external pressure or internal perversions, we’re motivated to faithfulness by appreciating the truly precious. The stock market’s recent fall should remind us that what’s really valuable isn’t here on earth.

1. Precious Blood of Christ. “You were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Sinful man cannot buy his salvation. We’re spiritually bankrupt in an empty, futile life. Life without God is a hopeless end.

Yet, God has given us endless hope by the priceless, perfect gift of Jesus. God’s grace offered the best and dearest He had to win us back. Justice demands the guilty be punished. Jesus our substitute paid our debt and died our death. We’re the costliest of God’s creatures. So, you’re infinitely precious to God.

2. Precious Corner Stone. “And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God... For this is contained in Scripture: ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone’” (1 Peter 2:4-6). The Jewish religious leaders (expert builders) “rejected” Jesus. Isaiah predicted this ignorance of human experts. Ironically, men disdained Jesus, But God honored His as the focal point of building His redeemed people

into His New Covenant Temple, the Lord’s church. (Ephesians 2:19-22) We can rebuild our fallen lives on the merits and life-changing example of Jesus, enjoying sweet fellowship with God.

True Christians enjoy this “like precious faith.” (2 Peter 1:1) The local church is a faith-family, from diverse backgrounds with different personalities. Yet, our common faith in Jesus brings us together in living fellowship. By “coming to Him,” we appreciate why we are here and where we are going. Together, we can optimistically live with a song in our heart and purpose in our step. We know who we are and whose we are.

3. Precious Promises. “He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust” (2 Peter 1:4). As penitent, obedient believers (1 Peter 1:22), we have forgiveness of all past sins, the lifting of the burden of guilt, the hope of heaven, the avenue of prayer, the guiding light of the Word of Christ, peace of mind, joy in living, and God’s daily providence watching over us. Indeed, we have the greatest quality of life in Christ, truly “life more abundant” (John 10:10).

The Lord has freely given us these things, worth much more than a \$3.5 million Cezanne painting or stock options! In Christ, “you are rich.” (Revelation 2:9) There is nothing more precious. Thank God!

-via “*Thing On These Things*”; Texarkana, Arkansas

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Anita Wheeler
Jim Whitt
Joe Hinkle
Reba Byram
James Abernathy
Irene Inman
Jeanette Weir
Gwen Bullock
Donald Cole
Linda Ordonez
Phillip Harwell
Ann Bush
Ben Hinkle
Anita Willis

Mot Dollar
Ella Melvin
Marjorie Dunnivant
Gilbert Hardy
Essie Hardison
Carl Hargrave
Elizabeth Howard
Abi Gilbert
Betty Hamm
Ava Brooke Campbell
Gene Carpenter
Pam Perry
Al Pollard
Helen Rushing

