

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 VIII

February 21, 2016

No. 8

Maintaining Our Spiritual Appetite

David A. Cox

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
Russ Wulfekuhl(256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox(256) 233-8910
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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

The Christian's life is to be a life that is one of growth and development. Peter writes to Christians and exhorts them to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). However, this is far too often not the case among Christians. After obeying the gospel, they lose their fervor, zeal, and thirst for spiritual things, and lives are filled with secular pursuits to the point that are so busy and filled with many pressing physical concerns. Lives filled with earthly pursuits is a serious problem. How can Christians guard against being overcome with the material pursuits and have an insatiable appetite for spiritual things?

Have An Understanding of the Physical and Spiritual. The problem of not having a right and proper understanding of the physical and spiritual things is detrimental to a Christian's growth. Many see life in the realm of the physical. But physical things are here for our proper use and enjoyment. They are not to be the end of all things in this life. John warns Christians not to love this world. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:15-17). The world is passing away, and the things of this physical life will one day be all gone, but the spiritual things which are seen by faith are the things that will endure (2 Corinthians 4:16-5:2). So let us understand the necessity of feeding upon the spiritual things.

The Necessity of Minding Spiritual Things. In Romans 8:5 Paul writes, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the spirit." Paul is making it clear that our devotion to the physical, worldly enticements will end in death. We must give our devotion to the things of the Spirit and live a life focused on God and obeying Him. What can we do to maintain our appetite for spiritual things?

1. *Read the Bible.* Reading the Bible does not mean just reading to cover the book. Rather, it is reading in such a way to understand the context and the meaning of what we are reading (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11). The reading of God's word will involve a consistent study, and this will take some effort.

2. *Pray.* Ask God for wisdom in applying the knowledge you have gleaned from His Word. Pray for courage, to stand for what is right, in whatever opposition you might face. Talk with the Lord in prayer daily and cast your cares upon Him. To be spiritually minded we must talk to the Lord daily in prayer. James says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). One thing accomplished through prayer is that there is a recognition of God, who He is, and who we are.

3. *Sing.* The lifting of one's voice to praise and exalt the name of God helps to bring one closer to God. James says, "Is any merry let him sing" (James 5:16). The thoughts of the song and the truths that are taught help our minds to focus on the things that are above and keeps our spiritual appetite keen.

4. *Spend Time With Other Christians.* Hebrews 10:25 teaches that Christians should not forsake the assembling with the church, but the Hebrew writer also stresses the value spiritually the assemblies have in our being together. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith...let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works...exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:23-25). Assembling with other Christians at every opportunity builds us up spiritually and increases our spiritual appetite. Yes, spending time together, whether in or out of the assemblies, is important. Much is said in the scriptures about hospitality. Why? Because of its value to us spiritually. Let us never think lightly of times for us to gather together as just something to take or leave. Let us see these opportunities for growth and spiritual strengthen of ourselves and others. Let us use these times to encourage ourselves and others to greater spiritual work.

5. *Work To Serve Others.* We must always remember the work of service. Jesus came to serve, not to be served (Matthew 20:28). Let us not forget that to grow spiritually and to become more Christ-like, we will be servants. As Peter described Jesus to those gathered at Cornelius' house he said, "He went about doing good"

(Acts 10:38). Dorcas was a faithful Christian, who died and was remembered for the good deeds (works of service) she did while she was living (Acts 9:36,39). The service of Dorcas follows the example of Christ. The Hebrew writer reminds us to run the race of life "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). When we "look to Jesus" we see His service to others, His compassion for others and His love for others. Seeing and the example He left for us will help us to be more like Christ and will help keep our spiritual appetite strong. Peter reminds the Christians he writes to lay aside evil and ungodly practices and then says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

May we with all diligence work to develop and desire the influence of God's word in our life. Let us do the things that will draw us closer to God and closer to heaven.

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Consider Me Irrelevant

Mike Thomas

Rob Bell, former pastor of a megachurch, said in an interview with Oprah Winfrey that any church that does not endorse same-sex marriages will become irrelevant. Regarding accepting homosexuality in spite of the Bible, he says, "I think culture is already there and the church will continue to be even more irrelevant when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago as their best defense" (The Huffington Post, 2/20/15).

Our nation is gradually adopting Bell's reasoning. More and more "Christian" are rushing to the defense of homosexuality and learning to "approve of those who practice" it (Romans 1:32). The current tactic of the devil is to convince people to view it in the same light as the racial injustice of the past. "It was wrong to reject a black man for his skin color and it is wrong to reject a homosexual for marrying someone he loves."

We all can see that racism is a sin (Acts 10:34-35). But by duping us into thinking we are just as unloving for opposing sexual perversion, the devil has tricked us into defending error. And now that “Christian pastors” are telling us churches are irrelevant if we do not endorse same-sex marriage, and the Bible is outdated in condemning it, we are that much closer to what God said of Sodom and Gomorrah before He destroyed them: “their sin is very grave” (Genesis 18:20).

Believe what you want, dear friends, but I choose to act like Lot when he lived in Sodom – he “was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked...from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds” (2 Peter 2:7-8). He did not let the world convince him to redefine God’s will on this matter, and hopefully, neither will I. The Bible says it is a sin for a church to endorse any sin, especially that of a sexual nature (1 Corinthians 5). The only way God forgives homosexuality is when it is repented of and removed by the blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Acts 18:8). The church I attend might become fewer in number for upholding these antiquated principles, but the truth of God’s will has never been determined by the number of people who deem it relevant (Genesis 19:14; Matthew 7:13-14).

-via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam, Kentucky

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



Singing — At the Gathering Place

This afternoon, February 21st
Following the afternoon service
Come Join Us As We Sing Together

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Charles Vaughn
Nikki Ogles
Bobbie Adcock
Jennifer Threet
Patsy Thomas
Dana Baker
Reba Byram
Irene Inman
Linda Jones
Shaun Carruth

Jerry McGlocklin
Addison White
Paul Adcock
Loretta Warner
William Thomas
Doris Lovell
Jeanette Weir
Gilbert Hardy
Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Mot Dollar
Ella Melvin
Eli Williams
Gene Carpenter
Linda Ordonez
Annalynn Tegg
Matt Poff
Elizabeth Howard
Phillip Harwell
Shayna Tollison
Staley Jackson

Gayle Ball
Janice Cagle
Donald Cole
Betty Hamm
Charles Burns
Al Pollard
Ava Brooke Campbell
Ben Hinkle
Una King Currier
Daniel Ogles

In The Hospital:

Ray Kennedy; UAB Hospital, Birmingham

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Judith Groce, rm. 45	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Terry Camp, rm. 91	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Mable Crafts, rm. 98	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Wayne Gooch, rm. 66	

Limestone Health Facility:

Mildred Landers, rm. 103
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 20W

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at home
Hazel Brooks, at home
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
Wynell Casteel, at home

Marjorie Dunnivant, in Huntsville in assisted living
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
 Essie Hardison, at home
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

ANNUAL SINGING: Our *Fifth Annual Singing* will be this Friday night, *February 26th*. Remember to tell others to come and join us. If you are on Facebook, please share the event and send invitations to you friends to join us. We will be putting chairs out on Wednesday night following our Bible study.

RESPONSES: *Tim Griswold* came forward Sunday morning asking for prayers for strength as he deals with the trials of this life...On Sunday night, *Amy Hinkle* came forward stating that she want to become more like Christ. She asked for prayers for forgiveness and strength. We are thankful for the good hearts that have been demonstrated before by Tim and Amy. May the Lord richly bless them.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Be sure to mark the following dates on your calendar for this year:
 April 17-21 Gospel Meeting with Buc Chumbley
 June 13-16 Vacation Bible School
 Sept. 11-15 Gospel Meeting with Andrew Roberts

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.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Feb. 14th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 149
 Morning Worship 192
 Evening Worship..... 141

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 124

Fifth Annual Singing

February 26, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Steve Klein



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
 514 WEST MARKET STREET
 ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Russell Melvin
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Cody Kennedy David Terry
 Kenneth Adams..... Keenon Carrier
 Closing Prayer Harvey Nixon

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Russell Melvin
 Closing Prayer Joy Warner

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 21st:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, February 24th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Bible Reading..... (2 Corinthians 3:12-18)
 Jason Conn
 Prayer Nathaniel Adams
 Invitation Mike Ogles
 Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Sunday, February 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Dan Reed
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Mike Ogles
 Serving Tony Thomas Seth Todd
 Charles Vaughn Bart Brown
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Jason Conn
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 28th:

Usher Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System Marty Adams