

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

March 13, 2016

No. 11

Seeking Those Things Above Which Are Above

Daniel Bailey

In Colossians 2:11-15, Paul writes to the faithful Christians in Colosse, explaining the symbolic significance of baptism into Christ. The apostle details that immersion in the waters of baptism symbolizes a death and burial in the form of Christ's death and burial. Whereas Christ died physically and was raised to live again by the power of God, the believer in Christ, when baptized according to the gospel message, dies to sin and is raised up again to walk a new spiritual life in the likeness of Jesus Christ. Upon these statements, Paul goes on in Colossians 3 to teach how this spiritual resurrection should affect the way that Christians live before God in this earthly life: *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*

Paul here speaks to people who had been raised with Christ – they died to sin and were raised to walk in newness of life through faith when they were baptized. And based upon that fact, the apostle teaches these Christians, as all children of God should learn and understand today, that a new creature in Jesus Christ must not live a life absorbed and controlled by the concerns and desires of the world, but should live with an unwavering consciousness of the eternal will of God, giving utmost devotion and highest loyalty to the rule of heaven.

"Seek those things which are above, where Christ is" – in other words, be motivated to strive for and attain the things that really matter: the things that are above, in heaven with Christ and God. As children of the world strive and struggle to gain worldly things, children of the Most High must focus their efforts on heavenly things. The concerns of God and His righteousness must take priority over the concerns of this life (Matthew 6:33). Christians must make heaven, that eternal resting place of the faithful, our principle goal and aim, and we must strive with all diligence and devotion to attain it. Note how Paul expressed his paramount aim in this life: "forgetting those things which are behind

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) 232-3312
Joel Hamm.....(256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell(256) 230-0185
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

and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13f).

"Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth" – set your mind is somewhat too weak a translation, for the concept involves more than just the logos, but also love, desire, value, moral reflection, and intense concern (see Strong or Vine on the Greek, *phroneite*). For this reason, the King James Version translates the phrase, "Set your affection on things above," and the NASV footnotes, "Be intent on things above." The command involves not only what we think about, but how we think. The new creature in Jesus Christ does not stumble through life with heaven directly occupying every waking thought, but rather contemplates every thought, action, emotion, and situation in the context of heaven, always considering the present in the light of eternity and God's will. This means that before making the decision to take a job or begin an educational program or join a club/society, faithful Christians first think about how that decision might affect their service in God's kingdom, then the possible benefits gained in this life. When we surf the internet, or choose a book to read or a movie to watch or a radio station to listen to, we as God's children reflect upon whether or not the consequent meditations will be edifying to our souls and beneficial in our race for the prize of heaven – Christ is there, our loving Father is there: we should long with mind, body and soul to be with them, and therefore live and think in ways that will help us secure that goal.

Oftentimes walking in the light of Christ demands that we abstain from carnal things that the impure world regards as fun. Sometimes devotion to the rule of the Lord demands that we refuse to operate by the dishonest and selfish standards of the world that lead only to temporary success and satisfaction. Colossians 3:1-3 reminds all Christians that we no longer live according to the priorities and dictates of the flesh, because we died to those carnal things when we put on Christ. Therefore, God's children must live every moment of every day striving above all else to please God, living in accordance with His standards of righteousness and wisdom. Let us firmly focus our minds on heaven, and always make decisions in this life while considering the life that is to come.

-via *Meditate On These Things* Woodlawn, New York.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Is Worship About Me?

Paul Earnhart

It is rather amazing that the evangelical protestant world should presently be locked in controversy about the proper focus of worship. Actually this conflict is but a narrow expression of a broader conflict over the proper focus of religion. Is religion about the will of God or the desires of man? Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Seminary, recently quoted with approval these words of A.W. Tozer: "It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend the meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God's professed children are bored with Him for they must be wooed to meeting with a stick of striped candy in the form of religious movies, games and refreshments."

To this Mohler added: "This has influenced the whole pattern of church life and even brought into being a new type of church architecture designed to house the golden calf... The striped candy technique has so fully integrated into our present religious thinking that it is simply taken for granted. Its victims never dream that it is not a part of the teachings of Christ and His apostles."

The question simply put is: Is worship about God or about me? This would seem to be a question with an answer so evident as to be beyond controversy. Who should be at the center of religion, the Creator or the creature? Whose will should be honored most, the One who knows all things in perfection or the one who knows little and that imperfectly? Who should be exalted in awe-struck reverence, the One who gives life to all or the one who is absolutely dependent on the Life-giver? Who should be praised and loved, the One who had incredible grace redeemed a wicked and rebellious race or those who have been mercifully forgiven?

Yet, all this notwithstanding the history of humankind has been beset with efforts of the creature to usurp the position of the Creator. It began in the Garden of Eden where our forefathers were seduced by the thought that they could be as wise as God (Gen. 3:5-6), and it hasn't stopped since. It inevitably taints even religion, which by definition is supposed to be about the worship of God and His will but is turned by human cleverness into the exaltation of man and his

wishes. It is the human inclination to serve God but according to their own judgments rather than God's.

The question, "Is worship about God or about me?" It does have another dimension. From God's perspective everything is about us, not about our wisdom or will or way, which are frail and fallible, but about us. We are the objects of His eternal purpose (Ephesians 1:4). He has poured Himself out on us in order to bring us to glory as His very own children (Romans 8:28-30; Hebrews 2:9-10). The cost has been unspeakably great (Romans 5:8-10; Peter 1:18-21) and has to do with the "deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:9-10). Even God's call for us to worship Him and Him alone (Matthew 4:10) is not about Him but about us. He does not need us to shore up His self-image with our praises. God knows full well who He is. What is essential for our own eternal well-being is that we know who He is and that we acknowledge it, for in knowing who God is we come to know who we are. We are not God but we are made in His image and destined for great blessings if we are willing to accept the grand purpose that He has in mind for us as His creatures.

From our perspective, however, worship must be all about God. It is through the greatness of God's power, wisdom and grace that we are drawn out of ourselves into the splendor of His infinite glory. Jesus taught us that the thing that will cost us our essential lives is to focus on ourselves. His cautionary warning to those who would be His disciples is clear: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." The crucifixion of self is essential not just to worship but also to the whole of discipleship. We, too, like our Savior must say and mean it, "Not my will but Yours be done." this being done we may experience even now the state described from Charles Wesley's hymn. "Love Divine".

Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

-via *Cyfair Family News & Notes*; Cypress, Texas.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Tommy Coblentz	Bobbie Adcock
Loretta Warner	Charles Vaughn
Patsy Thomas	Gilbert Hardy
Doris Lovell	Reba Byram
Irene Inman	Linda Jones
Ann Bush	Shaun Carruth
Gary Barksdale	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Jeanette Weir	Ella Melvin
Mot Dollar	Gayle Ball
Janice Cagle	Eli Williams
Gene Carpenter	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Annalynn Tegg	Al Pollard
Matt Poff	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Ben Hinkle
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Daniel Ogles
Staley Jackson	Anita Willis
Ray Kennedy	

In The Hospital:

William Thomas; Huntsville Hospital, rm.
Cynthia Smith; University Hospital, Columbus, Ohio
Buzz Lovell; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm. 211

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Mattye 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

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Russellville church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Josh Thompson* will be the speaker in this meeting.

TEACHER'S MEETING: There will be teacher's meeting next Sunday afternoon at 4:15. It will be in the west auditorium.

SINGING: The *South Cullman church* will be having their annual singing this Friday night at 7:00.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Mot Dollar and all the family* in the passing of Mot's brother, *Lewis Dollar*. He passed away Friday morning in Florida.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We want to extend a warm welcome to *Jocelyn Pepper*. Jocelyn has let it be known that she desire's to be a part of the work at Market Street. We are glad to have Jocelyn with us and we want to extend to her a warm Market Street welcome.

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.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Mar. 6th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 151
 Morning Worship 197
 Evening Worship..... 141

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 113

Gospel Meeting

April 17-21, 2016

(Sunday through Thursday)

Buc Chumbley, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
 Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 13th:

Morning Worship

AnnouncementsHarvey Nixon
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Marty Adams
 Serving David Terry Marcus Morris
 Marvin Putman Bart Brown
 Closing PrayerMike Ogles

Evening Worship

AnnouncementsHarvey Nixon
 Song LeaderStefan Fudge
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Keenon Carrier

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 13th:

Usher Terry Andrews
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, March 16th:

Song Leader A. J. Price
 Bible Reading..... (2 Corinthians 5:1-10)
 Danny Johnson
 Prayer Keith Hinkle
 Invitation Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Tony Thomas

Sunday, March 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song LeaderStefan Fudge
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Steve Usery
 Serving Jason Conn..... Kenneth Adams
 Nathaniel Adams A. J. Price
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Hunter Cox
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Norman Brown

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 20th:

Usher Keenon Carrier
 Work Sound System Landon Adams