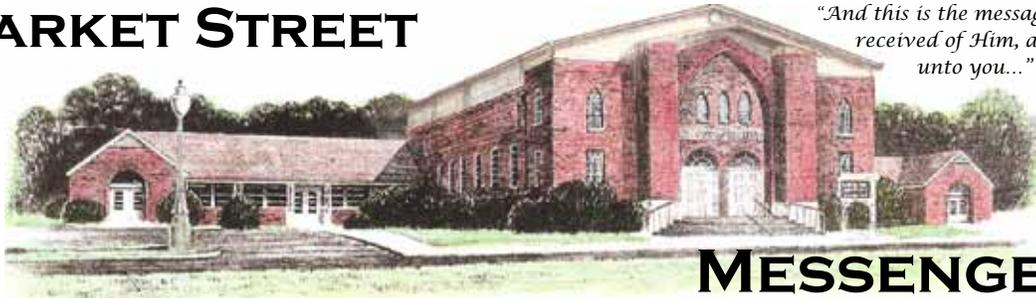


MARKET STREET



“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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Volume VIII

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No. 20

“Do Not Refuse Him Who Speaks”

David A. Cox

The Hebrew writer shows in his letter that Jesus is God’s spokesman (Hebrews 1:1-2) and that Christ is a living high priest (Hebrews 4:15-16; 7:25). He also states that “every transgression and disobedience received a just reward” (Hebrews 2:2). Throughout the letter, the writer stresses the necessity of obedience as Christ obeyed (Hebrews 5:8-9) and as the obedience of all those enumerated in Hebrews 11. The reason for these reminders is that if God demanded obedience under the law of Moses (which was inferior to the law of Christ), then how much greater is God expectation for our obedience to the law of Christ. As the writer comes to the end of the letter in speaking of Christ as the mediator of the new covenant of better things says, *“See that you do not refuse him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape, if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven”* (Hebrews 12:25). As we consider all these things, we must ask, “Why do people refuse Christ?”

Believe In False Teaching

Some people are taught things that the scriptures do not teach. Paul spoke of the Jews in his day when he wrote to the church at Rome, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:1-3). It is sad, but many are doing what they have been taught, but it is not in accordance with God’s will. Therefore, let us determine to study God’s word, and know the truth that will save us.

Trust In Their Own Goodness

Many times people seem to trust their own goodness. Statements such as “He is as good of a person as I know.” Because of this sometimes people will begin to trust in themselves. Let us be reminded that Cornelius in Acts 10 was a very good man, but Peter went to his house to

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

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

tell him what he needed to do to be saved (Acts 10:33; 11:14). Paul also wrote to the church at Corinth telling them “we dare make ourselves of the number, compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12). We must remember that our lives and obedience in righteousness must be what God is pleased with and not man.

Trust In Their Own Way

Some simply do not want to surrender their lives to the Lord’s way. They believe that they know the way to please God and fail to put their trust in the Lord’s way. Jeremiah said, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). We must remember to look to God and the way of Christ. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Some refuse Jesus as the way and fail to look to Him and His word.

Think They Will Obey Later

It is sad, but the fact is that many know and understand the way that will lead them to eternal life, but they think that they will obey later. The fact of the matter is that we do not know how long we may have. It may be that our lives will be required of us sooner than later. Paul wrote of those that obeyed not the gospel as being “punished with everlasting destruction” (2 Thessalonians 1:9). The rich man focused on life and died, and was not obedient to God (Luke 16:19-31). The rich farmer that was busy with all life gave him but forgot about God and his need to please Him (Luke 12:16-21). Many people may think things such as, “I will obey God, but just not right now.” Let us determined to please God now and not wait for the “convenient season” as Felix thought he would do (Acts 24:25). Understand that life is short and uncertain, therefore, let us determine to hear and obey today.

If we refuse to hear and obey Christ, He will refuse us in the judgment (John 12:48). Let us study God’s word diligently and be obedient in all things, so that we will be pleasing and accepted of Him.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

No Short-cuts

Tony Mauck

While in high school, I learned in mathematics that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. That’s simple enough, but life isn’t so simple. Rarely can one get from point A to point B by a straight line. I live approximately five minutes from the Southside building. If I could travel in a straight line, I could make it in less time. Life is more involved with curves and turns rather than a straight line. The Christian walk is on a highway, but the highway, at times, is winding, running through rugged and hilly terrain. The highway leads to heaven. The goal is worth the journey, but sometimes the way is steep.

We all tend to seek short-cuts, an avenue or path to our destination which is quicker or easier. I can get to the building by several routes, but it took me nearly six months to figure out the shortest route from my apartment to the building (avoiding 20 m.p.h. school zones and occasionally fitting in a trip to McDonald’s for breakfast).

Our fast-paced society desires convenience (the prevalence of drive-thru windows and remote control everything suggests this to be the case). Time is precious, so we want to make the best use of it. That’s all well and good (Ephesians 5:16), but sometimes short-cuts are dangerous. Shortcuts in religion are extremely perilous to the soul.

Satan is in the business of offering shortcuts. He short-changes us by providing alluring temporal pleasures in place of eternal pleasure. He offered Jesus a short-cut to obtaining a kingdom (Matthew 4:8-10). The way of Christianity is a cross (Matthew 16:24), and the first one to suggest achievement without one was Satan himself (Matthew 16:21-23).

No short-cuts exist in arriving at spiritual maturity. It requires faith, patience and labor. One does not learn and know the Scriptures by osmosis. One must love, diligently study and meditate upon the truth. He must pray for wisdom to employ it. Prayer, also, requires learning. An individual’s communication and intimacy with the Father improves with practice and deepens with growth in faith. Just as the physical body does not mature in one day, the Christian does not arrive at spiritual maturity overnight nor without effort. Satan

will do his best to throw us some curves, and he will whisper in our ear, “You’re doing great; just relax and take it easy; you can pray and study and work for the Lord later ...when it is more convenient.”

The Christian travels the Highway of Holiness (Isaiah 35:8). It’s no ordinary or boring Highway, and it’s not traveled by just anybody. Fools do not wander on it and the unclean will not travel it either, but the redeemed will walk there (Isaiah 35:9). The way is sometimes difficult, but remember that we are climbers; at our best when the way is steep. By God’s grace and our longing and perseverance, heaven will eventually be our eternal home. Do not accept Satan’s offer of a shortcut. His is the way of misery, sorrow and woe. Ours is the way of everlasting joy and gladness (Isaiah 35:10).

~via *The Stonegate Standard*; Port Arthur, Texas.



Godly Women

Mike Thomas

The godly woman is not only of great value to her family (Proverbs 31:28), she is also a great asset to the Lord and His people.

Converting Others: The church at Philippi began as a result of one woman’s conversation (Acts 16:14-15). Lydia then made herself a servant to others and brought more people to the Lord – laying a foundation for the Lord’s work in that part of the world (v. 40). I have seen this pattern repeated many times over in other godly women. Entire churches have come as a result of zealous women who trusted God’s word over the traditions and error of false religions. These women “sanctify” their family by exposing them to truth (1 Corinthians 7:14), then spread that influence into the community with faith and humility. Timothy was a great asset to the Lord because he was taught the scriptures and led to the Lord through the influence of his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15). Let us celebrate, encourage, and utilize a godly woman’s ability to win souls to the Lord (1 Peter 3:1-2).

Eldership: God has prohibited a woman from having authority over a man in teaching God’s word

(1 Timothy 2:11-12). Consequently, she is not permitted to serve in the role of an elder, deacon, or preacher, who each must do their work with authority (Titus 1:9; 2:15). However, she is still called upon to perform a very important role for the Lord in that an elder must be “blameless, the husband of one wife” and so forth (Titus 1:6). The same is true for the deacon. “Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things” (1 Timothy 3:11). Without godly women, there would be no men qualified to serve as elders or deacons. Her presence is critical in helping him perform his duties for the church, both as his confidant and aide, especially in spiritual matters with other women. Perhaps this is why God requires elders and deacons to be married. Their work is unachievable without the encouragement, presence and assistance of a godly wife.

Training Other Women: God expects older Christian women to “be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things– that they admonish the young woman to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed in sin” (Titus 2:3-5). It is a tragedy when older women are worldly and unable to demonstrate faith and purity to the younger generation. God’s will is for women to show other women how to live for God.

Indeed, the Lord’s work is dependent on women of faith and holiness.

~via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam. Kentucky.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

JoAnn Gilbert	Patsy Thomas
Mitzi Carruth	Irene Inman
Doris Lovell	Reba Byram
Gilbert Hardy	Wayne Gooch
Shaun Carruth	Ann Bush
Linda Jones	

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
Ray Kennedy	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Ben Hinkle
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Daniel Ogles
Staley Jackson	Anita Willis
Matt Poff	

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	William Thomas, rm. 70
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 18
Terry Camp, rm. 82	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 98	

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Hazel Brooks, at home
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookside Farms
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
 Essie Hardison, at home
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

OUT OF TOWN: *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* have been in Texas... **Ross Melvin** has been out of town with work this week... **Harvey Nixon** is out of town with his work ... **The Userys: Steve, Allison, Elizabeth & Mattherw** are in Gulf Shores this weekend... **Tyler Cox** is in Phoenix, Arizona today.

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 May 8th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 161
 Morning Worship 223
 Evening Worship..... 149
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 122

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Steve Usery
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	A. J. Price
.....	Bonnie Sutton
.....	Cody Kennedy
.....	Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Marty Adams
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinke
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 15th:

Ushers	Seth Todd/ Norman Brown
Work Sound System	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, May 18th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....	(2 Corinthians 8:16-24)
.....	Keenon Currier
Prayer	Tommy Coblentz
Invitation	Mike Ogles
Closing Prayer	Arvid McGuire

Sunday, May 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Keith Hinkle
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting	Russell Melvin
Serving	Seth Todd
.....	Marvin Putman
.....	Charles Vaughn
.....	Bart Brown
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Kenneth Adams
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 22nd:

Ushers	Marty Adams/Steve Usery
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams