

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

October 30, 2016

No. 44

Spiritual Tragedy

Bill Hall

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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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

Melvin Gordon is dead. He loved his family, and was especially concerned for his sister who suffered from a serious kidney ailment. "I would do almost anything to restore my sister's health," he told his wife. So he drove to a local hospital, put a rifle muzzle to his head and fired one shot. Pinned to his shirt was a note, "Get my kidney within one hour." A kidney, however, to be used for a transplant, must be taken at the moment of death and kept filled with flowing blood to avoid tissue deterioration. They found him too late. His kidneys could not be used. Melvin Gordon died in vain.

What a tragic story! And the story becomes doubly tragic in the realization that had Melvin Gordon taken the time to learn the facts, he could have helped his sister while continuing to live a normal life himself! But, he acted according to his feelings, on impulse, and as a result he is dead and his sister continues to suffer from her kidney ailment. He died in vain...because he didn't take the time to learn the truth.

The tragic story of Melvin Gordon is being spiritually re-enacted in the lives of millions of people throughout the world - people who are religious; who are zealous in their religion; who are giving liberally of their time, money, and talents; who would gladly die for the cause they have espoused; who both expect and desire to go to heaven; but people who have really given little consideration to what God has said concerning that which pleases Him. In fact, while many of them read the Bible every day, they frankly admit that they have little knowledge as to what the Bible teaches. They have plunged headlong into some cause without demanding book, chapter, and verse to show God's authority behind that cause.

These people vary widely in what they are doing. One person may have done one thing "to be saved," while another may have done something entirely different. One person may be caring for the day nursery for the church while another is playing on the church softball team. But the one thing that they have in common is that they are all "doing" without having taken the time to investigate what they ought to be doing.

Such action leads to spiritual tragedy. “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall be shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name dome many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto then, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23).

In the judgment, the question will not be, “Were you religious?” but, “Did you do the will of the Father in heaven?” Only those who are diligently studying God’s will and are doing it can face that judgment with confidence. Don’t give your life in vain.

~via *Perspectives*; Birmingham, Alabama.



Turning To God

Randy Harshbarger

While the problems of modern man are many (Job 14:1), the greater problems are those of a moral and spiritual nature. It is obvious that mankind in general does not realize this. Men are consumed with technology, politics, and economic woes. To be sure, living in this world obligates us to spend some energy on the things of this life. Yet, the pursuit of the mammon of this world is vanity (Ecclesiastes 16-17). Leaving God out of one’s life leaves a void that cannot be filled by striving after the wind. David said: “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord” (Psalms 4:4-5). In this Psalm, David seeks the conversion of his enemies. It is a magnificent expression of confidence and faith in the Lord. In the midst of the troubles of this life, he provides for any man, modern or ancient, the formula that will insure spiritual success.

“Stand in awe and sin not.” Men are prone to dwell only on the goodness, love, and mercy of God, rather than the severity of God. A God without both is not the

God of the Bible (Romans 11:22). Instead of awe, fear, and trembling, we speak of joy, happiness, and peace. We must **wake up** to the seriousness of sin. As we live before God we must take sin seriously (Romans 7:13). Before God in His infinite holiness, we are “undone” (Isaiah 6:1-5). Sin is not simply a moral error, or an inherited legacy from our parents, or a part of our “animal nature.” Sin is a violation of the law of Almighty God. Let us wake up that fact!

“Commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still.” When we compare ourselves with others we always look better than perhaps we really are (2 Corinthians 10:12). We must turn away from others as we take spiritual inventory. An honest inward self-examination is needed as we endeavor to walk in the light of the Lord (Isaiah 2:5). Some men do not love the light of God’s word and turn away; in doing so they are never going to be able to cleanse the guilty conscience. To “know thyself” demands an uncompromising inward look at the kind of heart we have. We must be willing to make any needed sacrifice in order to please God (Mark 9:43). It is the image of the Lord we are striving for, not our own or that of some other (2 Corinthians 3:18). The effort must be made to draw our hearts away from earthly affections as we put our spiritual condition on trial (2 Corinthians 13:5). Let us “be still” (slow down) long enough for serious reflection about our standing before God.

“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness.” The only sacrifices accepted by the Lord are those authorized by Him. The holiness of God along with our undone condition without Him, demands that we turn to heaven above as our only hope. Reflection on the Lord will turn us in the right way (Psalm 119:59-60). David manifested the right kind of heart (Psalm 51:17) in his repentance. As we repent and turn from our sins, the Lord promised to forgive (1 John 1:7). We look not to self, but to the great sacrifice of God’s Son (Hebrews 9:13-14).

“And put your trust in Jehovah.” Who else can we trust (Philippians 4:6-7)? We trust the Lord to receive, forgive, and bless us (Matthew 11:28-30). We trust God as He reveals His promises through His Son (John 14:8-9). We trust Him by our willingness to do exactly as He commands. We must do what is good (Romans 12:1-2) and turn from what is wrong (Ephesians 4:22-24).

To do what David did, necessitates a conscious decision on our part. To do what David did is an act of the will. We must choose the way the Lord provides. We must wake up spiritually. We must look inwardly

often. We must realize that the Lord is our only hope. Only then will we find the healing and redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Let us press on (Philippians 3:14), accepting the challenges of life. With the Lord's help we can live for Him now and for eternity.

~via *Power Talk*; Lexington, Kentucky.



The Road To Recovery

Allen Malone

For the Ephesian brethren, the sin was having "left thy first love." For other Christians at other times there may be other sins blighting one's record. In every situation, however, the Lord's admonition to the Ephesians contains for all children of God the avenue to forgiveness. The Lord admonished them:

"Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except repent" (Revelation 2:5).

Remember: The Christian needs to ever recall and review that time in his life when recent obedience to the gospel prompted sincere devotion, depth of love, and fervent zeal. Have these grown with the increase of Bible knowledge, or has digression occurred? Has sin crept into one's life? Remembrance helps us to see the general trend of our lives. It is an essential aspect of examine oneself (2 Corinthians 13:5) and the seed of godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:9-10).

Repent: If remembrance indicates that the child of God has fallen into sin, a further remembering of "from whence thou are fallen" should lead to sorrow of sin. Godly sorrow will move the sinner to repent. Repentance is an act of the will. It occurs in the heart, the mind. It is a decision to turn from sin, a determination to conform one's own will to that of God. Without this change of heart, forgiveness cannot be expected. (Acts 8:22).

Reform: Christ said, "Repent, and do the first works." John the baptizer had said "Bring forth fruits

worthy of repentance" (Luke 3:8). Those who are truly penitent will strive to follow through with their decision to turn from sin. They will again "do the first works."

Remember, repent, reform - these are the stones which pave the road to spiritual recovery. Traveling this road overcomes sin, and ultimately leads to the "paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

~via *Pause-Ponder-Profiteer*; Paragould, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Paul Adcock	Anita Wheeler
Bobbie Adcock	Mary Will Johnston
Patsy Thomas	Doris Lovell
Cindy Glass	Al Bush
Janet Jones	Everette "Bud" Dollar
Wayne Bolton	Wayne Gooch
Betty Christopher	Linda Jones
Ann Bush	Pamela Simon (Grenada)
Shaun Carruth	

Updates:

Lucille Craig had an arteriogram done on Thursday... **Mitzi Carruth** went into hospital on Wednesday for surgery. She was unable to have it due to difficulties with heart and blood pressure ... **Irene Inman** is scheduled to return to possibly try another injection in her back on Friday... **Drew Ogles** is scheduled for additional tests on Tuesday... **Diane Kilpatrick, Ruby Dean Ezell's daughter**, received a good report from her last doctor's visit last week.

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Ella Melvin
Reba Byram	Irene Inman
Gayle Ball	Janice Cagle
Jeanette Weir	Diane Kilpatrick
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Jenny Pickens	Gene Carpenter
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Daniel Ogles
Anita Willis	Eli Williams

In The Hospital:

Paul Adcock; Crestwood Hospital – rm. 416
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville
Ashley Sims; Cobb County Hospital - Atlanta, Georgia
Charlie Christopher; Athens-Limestone – rm. 255

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61 William Thomas, rm. 110-B
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Matty Murray, rm. 2 Helen Trousdale, rm. 30
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 38
Terry Camp, rm. 82 Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 39 Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 92 Tom Lovell, rm. 92

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55 Gilbert Hardy, rm. 117

Shut-In or Away From Home:

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

OUT OF TOWN: *Jim Whitt* is out of town with his work in Louisiana.

PRAYER SERVICE: This evening our service will be spent in song and prayer. I hope that everyone will be back for our service at 5:00.

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

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 Oct. 23rd*

Sunday: Bible Classes 137
 Morning Worship 169
 Evening Worship 134
Wednesday: Bible Classes 108

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, October 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Kenneth Smith
Assisting..... Jordan Lovell
Serving James Johnson Steve Usery
 Danny Johnson Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... A. J. Price
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 30th:

Ushers..... Terry Andrews/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System..... Marty Adams

Wednesday, November 2nd:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
Bible Reading..... Galatians 6:11-18
 Joy Warner
Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz
Invitation..... David Cox
Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Sunday, November 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Russell Melvin
Assisting..... Jerry McGlocklin
Serving David Terry Marvin Putman
 Marion Mitchell..... James Johnson
Closing Prayer Arvid McGuire

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 6th:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Marcus Morris
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams