

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

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A Literal Black Friday

Shawn Jeffries

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

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
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MARKET STREET MESSENGER
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Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Did you do any shopping on Black Friday? Most Americans did. Black Friday is often regarded as the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Millions of people rush to the nearest Wal-Mart, Target, Best Buy, or Macy's in order to find the best deals on big screen televisions, tablets, video game consoles, clothing, smart phones, Blue Ray/DVD players, and a host of other items. Each year I try to tell myself I won't get involved with Black Friday, but the super deals and ability to save hundreds of dollars consistently changes my mind. I am a huge fan of getting more, while paying less!

Where did the term "Black Friday" come from? Many retailers are said to traditionally operate at a financial loss ("in the red") from January to November. But Black Friday indicates the point at which retailers begin to turn a profit, or get "in the black." For a store like Wal-Mart, their net income is positive starting on January 1, and Black Friday can boost their year to date net profit from \$14 billion to \$19 billion. I always thought the name "Black Friday" was given due to aggressive crowds in many stores. There is just something negative about annual reports of assaults, shootings, and throngs of people trampling on other shoppers in an attempt to get the best deal on the product they want before it runs out.

Our culture is obsessed with the Friday after Thanksgiving. But did you know there is a "Black Friday" in the Bible? Don't misunderstand. There wasn't a day when hundreds of Jews went to a Macy's or Wal-Mart to purchase expensive products for half the price. But there was a Friday in which the land of Judea was literally dark for hours because God's plan to save us from our sins was at work.

Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over

all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:41-46).

Although the death of the perfect and sinless Son of God provided a literal dark time on the face of the earth, spiritually men had never seen anything brighter. Because of sin, every person of an accountable age deserves to be lost in hell forever (Romans 3:23; 6:23). But through the death of Jesus the penalty for our sins was paid (Romans 5:6-9). Now we can be reconciled to God and be saved. This is only made possible because 2,000 years ago Deity stepped out of heaven, walked on this earth, lived a perfect life, and gave Himself as a sin sacrifice.

What a paradox we find at the cross! What happened at the cross was the darkest moment in human history (a literal black Friday). And yet, mankind has never seen a brighter moment. While men are killing the Son of God He was giving the most wonderful gift ever given to man – the gift of salvation. While there is nothing wrong with shopping on the day our culture calls "Black Friday," never forget to thank God for the events that took place on that Friday 2,000 years ago.

~via *With God's Word*; Columbia, Tennessee.



Fight The Good Fight

Jim Jonas

School bullies with an inferiority complex like to fight. Politicians with a craving for pork like to fight. People with a pure mean streak like to fight. Even some religious folks who desire the limelight like to fight. But only perverse people enjoy fighting and the turmoil and suffering it spawns.

But, like it or not, every breathing, thinking person is at war with spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). Thus, Paul urges Timothy to "wage the good warfare" (1 Timothy 1:18) and "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12). Make no

mistake: A war is being fought, our soul is the prize and the outcome is for eternity.

The modern religious world recoils from militaristic terminology. They would rather emphasize love, peace and harmony. But it was the Holy Spirit, not Bible translators or right-wing religious zealots, who chose this wording to describe the conflict between good and evil. The New Testament speaks of armor (Ephesians 6:10-18), weaponry (2 Corinthians 10:3-5), enemies (Philippians 3:18) and fighting (2 Timothy 4:7). Not a pretty picture but accurate nonetheless.

In this battle, truth is constantly attacked. We must fight to preserve and advance it (Galatians 2:5). Our character as godly people will be assailed. We must give no occasion for justified criticism (2 Corinthians 8:21). But amidst the fiercest battles, let us remember one thing: The war is not ultimately against us but Christ. Satan hates Him so passionately that he also hates all those loyal to Him. Jesus repeatedly alludes to this (e.g. John 15:20-21; 16:1-4).

Even in warfare, men recognize certain rules of engagement. The Geneva Convention establishes humane treatment in the midst of inhuman behavior. We must not only fight but fight as children of God, as ones who possess His spirit. If we begin enjoying the battle and use it as a pretext for satisfying our own carnal urges, then we bring guilt upon ourselves even as did the Assyrians and Babylonians of old (cf. Isaiah 47:5-7; Zechariah 1:15).

We have no choice as to whether we shall participate in this battle; we're already in it. The only choice to make is which side we will be on. Victory belongs only to Christ and those on His side (1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:33-39).

~via *Eastside Church Bulletin*; Indianapolis, Indiana.

Bible Study



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

Tithing

Frank Himmel

A tithe is a tenth. Is that the per-centage God requires Christians to give?

The concept that God's portion is a tenth dates back at least to the days of the patriarchs. Abraham gave Melchiz-edek, a priest of God, a tenth (Genesis 14:20). Jacob promised that when God returned him to the land of Canaan, he would give him a tenth (Genesis 28:22).

Under the law of Moses a tenth of everything was holy to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30-33). The Israelites were to give it to the Levites in return for their service at the tabernacle. That was their inheritance, rather than a block of land as the other tribes received (Numbers 18:21-24). The Levites, in turn, were required to give a tithe of the tithe (Numbers 18:25-32).

The prophets addressed abuses in tithing. Malachi 3:8-10 indicates that some cheated, not bringing the whole amount. God said that was robbing Him. Ironically, Amos 4:4 addresses an opposite situation: people who gladly brought their tithes. The problem was, they seemed to think such worship, which they loved, would somehow offset the fact that their day-to-day lives were filled with ungodliness.

Jesus made only two references to tithing. In His parable about prayer, He depicted the self-righteous Phari-see as boasting about his tithing (Luke 18:12). Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for being meticulous tithers, including even garden herbs, while ignoring fundamental principles of conduct: justice, mercy and love (Luke 11:42; Matthew 23:23).

The only other New Testament reference to tithing is Hebrews 7, where the author refers to the case of Abraham to argue the superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood to Aaron's.

What about tithing today? The Christian is to give "as he may prosper" (1 Corinthians 16:2) "bountifully" (2 Cor.inthians 8:6) "just as he purposed in his heart" (2 Corinthians 8:7). No percentage is specified. Does that automatically mean less is acceptable? What if more is needed (e.g., Acts 4:32-35) or you can do more (e.g., Mark 12:41-44)? The key to determining how much to give is the same as in all aspects of Christianity: "they first gave themselves to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8:5).

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

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Mary Will Johnston	Cornelia Pepper
Bettye Harrison	Patsy Thomas
Doris Lovell	Cindy Glass
Peggy Pepper	Shelly Scruggs
Al Bush	Shaun Carruth
Everette "Bud" Dollar	Ann Bush
Wayne Bolton	Wayne Gooch
Ashley Sims	Pamela Simon (Grenada)
Linda Jones	

Updates:

Ivis McLemore continues his recovery from pneumonia...

Frances Bowers fell last week and broke her thumb...

Steve Carpenter, Lona Jackson's brother, has been diagnosed with a tumor on his spine. He is scheduled to have surgery on December 16th... *Cindy Glass* went to Nashville for a treatment on Wednesday.

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Ella Melvin
Reba Byram	Irene Inman
Gayle Ball	Janice Cagle
Gilbert Hardy	Jeanette Weir
Diane Kilpatrick	Daniel Ogles
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	Eli Williams
Anita Willis	Brittany Bates Carter
Betty Christopher	

In The Hospital:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	William Thomas, rm. 82
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 40
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. 73	Sharon Parker, rm. 10

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55

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

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Tri-Cities church* in Muscle Shoals is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Jeff Archer*.

E-MAIL MONTHLY BIBLE LESSONS: I would like to start sending email Bible lessons out to everyone that would like to receive them. If you would want to do this, please indicate it on the Member's Card you fill out. I will start sending the first lesson out next week for December.

NEW BABY: We rejoice with *Jason and Joy White* over the birth of their baby boy this past Tuesday night. His name is *Dawson* and he was born at 11:07. Dawson weighed 7lbs 15 ozs. and was 19 inches long. Dawson is at home with his parents and older sister, *Addison* and older brother, *Mason*.

OUT OF TOWN: *Harvey Nixon* is out of town this week due to his work. *Jim Whitt* has been travelling this week due to work. *The Ogles: Mike and Nikki* have been in Auburn this past week. Mike has been working there. *Tyler Cox* is in Peru for the next week or so, with his schooling. *Lousie Melvin* is in North Carolina this weekend.

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

WORK GROUPS: Work Group three will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Nov. 27th

Sunday:	Bible Classes	134
	Morning Worship	180
	Evening Worship	115
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	107

Remember Our Service This Evening at 4:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting.....	Mike Ogles
Serving	Marvin Putman
	David Terry
	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Steve Usery
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 4th:
Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, December 7th:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading.....	Ephesians 3:1-13
	Kenneth Smith
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Invitation	A. J. Price
Closing Prayer	Joy Warner

Sunday, December 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Dwayne Allfrey
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting.....	Marty Adams
Serving	Danny Johnson.....
	Bonnie Sutton
	Matthew Vaughn.....
	Jason Conn
Closing Prayer	Russell Melvin

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 11th:
Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews