

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 IX

January 15, 2017

No. 3

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

Evangelist

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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

What Makes You Special?

Shawn Jefferies

How do you view yourself? Are you happy with who you are? Do you have high self-esteem? Or, do you have low self-esteem and wish you were someone different?

We currently live in a society where for so many people they have a low view of themselves. For so many they evaluate themselves and wish they were smarter, or taller, or prettier, or skinnier. For so many they think very little of themselves.

There are several reasons for this:

- For some it is because they didn't grow up in an environment where they had a mother and father to speak positively to them and make them feel special.
- For some it is because they were constantly bullied and made fun of in school (maybe they were bullied because they were short, or overweight, or poor).
- For some it is because they have spent time in abusive relationships (maybe they dated, or were married to, someone who talked down to them all the time and was verbally abusive).
- For some it is because they have been brainwashed by culture. They look at the models and celebrities on T.V and in the magazines and feel they have to strive to look like them. Since our culture has deemed these people as the ultimate standard of beauty, for many they make it their life's goal to imitate them.
- The question is: what does God see when He looks at you? What makes you special and unique in the eyes of God? Is it any of these superficial things that our society deems as significant and important? Or, is it something else?

Here are three things that make you special before the living God:

God created you. This is one of the first things revealed in the Bible (Genesis 1:26-27). You are not some grand cosmic accident. You did not get here just by chance. No, God created you! He designed and breathed life into you (Genesis 2:7). He made you special and unique. You are the product of His creative handy work. Whenever you start having a low

view of yourself, please remember this!

God created you in His image. This is in fact the main thing that separates man and makes him superior to anything else God has made (Genesis 1:26-27). God didn't just make you, but He made you in a very specific and unique way. He made you in His image! Being made in the image of God includes a couple of very important things. First, it includes the fact that you have the ability to make choices. You have the ability to choose who you want to date and marry. You have the ability to choose your profession and where you want to live. You even have the ability to choose whether or not you want to serve God (Joshua 24:15). You are not a programmed robot. Neither do you live off instinct like animals. Like God, you have the ability to make conscious and rational decisions. Second, being made in the image of God means that, like God, you are eternal. You are eternal not in the sense that you have no beginning (like God), but in the sense that at some point you will dwell in eternity (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 6:9-11). Unlike with animals, this life is not the end for you! You have an eternal soul and after the day of resurrection you will abide in either heaven or hell forever (Matthew 25:31-46). This is why it matters how you live right now.

Jesus died for you. Whenever you start to doubt if God really loves and views you as special, think about the cross. Jesus went to the cross because of His deep love for you (John 3:16). Even when you were at your worst (when you were lost in your sins) Jesus left heaven, lived a perfect life as a man, suffered, and was crucified on the cross (Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:1-5). Always remember that when Jesus looks at you, He looks beyond the things our society judges you by. He looks at your soul and He died so your soul can have an opportunity to rest in heaven when your life on this earth is over (Revelation 14:13).

It is easy to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. It is also easy to do the opposite. But remembering what makes you special in the eyes of God will give you balance. It will help you appreciate what really matters about yourself and maintain a positive outlook on your life.

~via *The Family Report*, Columbia, Tennessee.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Remembering

Randy Harshbarger

It is hard sometimes to let go of the past. We often continue to experience remorse because of something we did or did not do. Regret can rob the present of much needed time and energy that could be devoted in a constructive way to building for the Lord. We see unhappiness in the lives and faces of others, and we know that at least in part, we are the cause of such feelings. Sometimes when we think about the past, we want to get even with those who hurt us. We blame others for what they did or did not do. Maybe we are refusing to forgive someone for what they did to us.

All of these thoughts and ideas are involved in the process of remembering. The ability to remember is a precious gift. With this ability we recall many good times that were spent in the company of loved ones. We can reflect on the past with a view to doing better in the future. The children of God learned a much needed lesson about remembering. In fact, they were told to build a memorial as a reminder of what God had done for them.

“Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath Jehovah helped us” (1 Samuel 7:12). The Philistines defeated the Israelites and took the ark of Jehovah back to their own land for twenty years. It was only after the people of God forsook their idols and destroyed the high places, that God delivered from the oppression of the Philistines. Israel acknowledged her sin and then offered animal sacrifices to the Lord. Then and only then did the Lord deliver them. A stone was set up in the place of deliverance to remind Israel that their salvation had come from the Lord.

It should be noted that Israel had to renounce everything that stood in opposition to God. Idolatry is anything that stands between us and the Lord. Idols in the heart, unless forsaken, always spell spiritual defeat. The Lord says put away your sin! Renounce it right now! Confession of sin is also a needed element in the forgiveness process. David finally acknowledged his sin with Bathsheba by saying: “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned...” (Psalms 51:4).

Part of repenting is the resolve to do better in the future. Israel determined to serve only the God of Heaven. This simply says that we must **want** to do better in the future. It is true that we have to do this,

but we should also want to do better before the Lord. Prayer can help in this regard. Israel continued to pray unto the Lord for His help. As we escape the clutches of sin, let us constantly pray for strength and guidance.

The Lord promises to help us live a better life. By following after idols, the children of Israel were defeating God's purposes for them as His chosen people. They were the people of God! As such, they had to engage their enemies in battle. They could win the contest, but only with the Lord's help. We cannot sit idly by, for in doing so, we help Satan accomplish his purposes.

Israel was to remember the stone names Ebenezer, as a reminder of the Lord's help. We are to remember the "stone which the builders rejected." It is only by the power of the sacrifice of Christ that we can let go of the past and press on to the future in joyful service and eager anticipation of a home in heaven. Lord help us to never forget that!

~via *Power Talk*; Lexington, Kentucky.



Examine Yourself

Paul C. Keller

When one disregards the sacredness of that which belongs to God he can hardly be expected to be reliable in his word and in his dealings with others. He can be depended upon only so far as business policy, public sentiment or some such motive may seem to him best in promoting his own selfish interest.

To some, these statements may seem extreme. But, are they? Can you expect one who does not respect that which belongs to God to respect that which belongs to man? Why should you? A man who will sacrifice his religious principles for profit will also sacrifice his honesty in his dealings with others. And the man who has no religious convictions, but makes a pretense of religion for policy's sake is no better than one who sacrifices his religion for policy's sake.

Are you honest? Can your word be depended upon? Is this true in every instance? Try to be honest with yourself in answering these questions. One who is not honest with God will find it hard to face himself honestly.

The kind of person you are is determined by your

attitude toward God and the things God requires of men. It is not determined (necessarily) by what you say your attitude is but by the action of your life.

When you slight the Lord's church and its assemblies for worship, the study of God's word, giving as the Scriptures direct, prayer, the practice of self-control, etc. you are revealing your real character. No amount of argument can change this fact. "Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?" (Proverbs 20:6). Are **you** really faithful? Each of us will do well to make a careful and searching self - examination. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." (2 Corinthians 13:5).

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Vickie Brown	Marcus & Bonnie Morris
Mary Will Johnston	Cornelia Pepper
Patsy Thomas	Doris Lovell
Cindy Glass	Ashley Sims
Shelly Scruggs	Linda Jones
Al Bush	Shaun Carruth
Everette "Bud" Dollar	Ann Bush
Wayne Bolton	Wayne Gooch

Updates:

Robert Beasley had shoulder surgery on Wednesday in Birmingham...**Mot Beasley** spent three days in the Decatur General Hospital this past week...**Delmer Carter** is scheduled to have surgery on...**Sara Ogles, Mike and Nikki Ogles' daughter-in-law**, fell and fracture her ankle this past week...**Matt Poff, Carol Dean's son-in-law**, went to the Vanderbilt for a Photopheresis treatment on Friday...**Bryan Adcock, Paul & Dale Adcock's son**, is now home from hospital following his accident.

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Ella Melvin
Reba Byram	Irene Inman
Gayle Ball	Janice Cagle
Jeanette Weir	Daniel Ogles
Diane Kilpatrick	Linda Ordonez
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Jenny Pickens	Gene Carpenter
Charles Burns	Betty Christopher
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff

