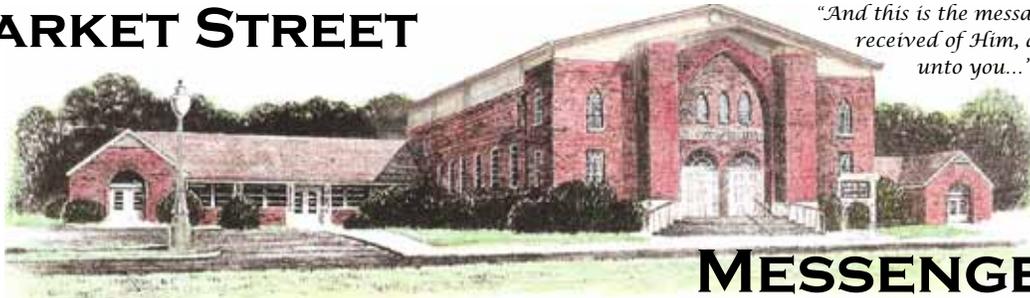


MARKET STREET

"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

February 26, 2017

No. 9

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web
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

Pierce My Ear

Heath Robertson

In the last half of the book of Exodus, after the Israelites escaped from the clutches of the Egyptians, we read about God enacting some of the first laws of His covenant with Israel. As we look deeper into these laws we can clearly see that the Law of Moses foreshadowed the principles behind the Law of Christ (Galatians 3; Hebrews 10). In Exodus 21:1-6, we find one of God's laws concerning the relationship between slaves and their masters.

"Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out alone. But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever."

Why would a slave pass up freedom and commit to staying with his master forever?! God knew "love" could cause one to do that. Now, this is not the concept of love that we are familiar with; most people only know a watered down perverted version of love. The popular idea of love would assume that the master must be paying the slave a six-figure income or providing him with a house as big as his own. This is the concept of love that drove Demas out of the service to God (2 Timothy 4:10). Working with Paul for his Savior just wasn't giving him the success and wealth he had hoped. Demas "loved" the world because it paid out just the way he wanted. Many people serve the world for this reason. Unfortunately, the Devil has them greatly deceived because they are receiving a reward that is not spiritually fulfilling and will soon vanish away (1 John 2:15-17).

No, here we find love in the true sense. This love developed out of six years of respectful, kind commanding from the master and zealous, committed obedience from the slave. Though the master knows the slave

is his possession, he is very loving, merciful, understanding and considerate of the slave's needs. When the slave recognizes all this about the master, he sees no better choice than committing to serve his master forever. The slave's greatest desire becomes diligently completing all the things his master requires of him. When his ear is pierced, it means something: "I love my master... I will not go out free."

If you are a Christian, what did it mean to you when you were baptized? If you're thinking about becoming a Christian, truly contemplate what you will be committing to when you confess your faith and are baptized. Are you more concerned with what you can get out of your relationship with God or are you committed to your Master in gratitude for the forgiveness and hope He has provided through His Son (John 3:16)? Are you even thankful for what He has done for you (Luke 17:11-19)? Do you consider what your Master provides for you today and everyday (Luke 12:22-31)? Who listens and cares for you more than He (1 Peter 5:6-7; Psalm 34)? Is being a Christian something that will only remain important as long as it fits into your schedule and plan in life (James 4:13-15)? How do you respond to the things He asks you to do (Luke 6:46)?

"Pierce my ear O Lord, My God. Take me to Your door this day, for I will serve no other God. Lord, I'm here to stay. For You have paid the price for me and with Your blood You ransomed me. A free man, I'll never be."

While pondering on this passage, Steve Croft penned these opening words to his hymn, *Pierce My Ear*. Each day when we wake, may we consider the love of the Master and recommit ourselves to being "slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" (Ephesians 6:6). Because of our Master's great love, we can joyfully cry, "A free man I'll never be!"

~via *Edwards Lake Bulletin*; Birmingham, Alabama



The Gospel Is Good News

Jim Deason

If someone discovered a foolproof cure for cancer you would expect him to shout it from the highest mountain. It would be criminal to keep such good news a secret. You

would expect even the most greedy of money-mongers to share his knowledge with folks whose lives are on the line. It is true that bad news often travels faster than good, but when good news is of such a critical nature it must be shared.

The best of all news is not of a remedy for some physical malady. Rather, that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners. The angel announced to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Jesus commanded that this gospel or good news be preached "to all creation" (Mark 16:15). He wanted everyone to know about His plan to redeem man.

In a day in which we are bombarded from every direction with bad news, we need to hear something good. We need good news. And the gospel of Jesus Christ is good news.

The gospel is good news because it settles our past. Is there something in your past that you wish you hadn't said or done? Is there something that you hope no one ever comes to know because of the shame it could cause you? Something you have a hard time letting go or forgiving yourself for? Are you not able to do your best today because yesterday just won't let you go? There's good news! The gospel settles all of that! When the people of the New Testament city of Corinth looked back they saw an ugly past; a past filled with fornication, adultery, homosexuality, theft, drunkenness, and a host of other shameful sins. But in hearing, believing, and obeying the gospel they had been washed, sanctified, and justified in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). In Christ they had become new creatures with their past behind them. Friend, it can be with you just like it was with them. No matter what is in your past, with the gospel you can put it behind you.

The gospel is good news because it gives meaning for the present. The volume of bad news that we hear today is testimony to the fact that we live in the midst of masses who have no direction and no purpose in their lives. The gospel gives us a reason to live. We are saved to serve. After Jesus had washed the disciples' feet he commanded them, "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). Jesus was commanding his disciples to be selfless servants. This was the badge of identification that they would wear before all men. It was what set them apart from the rest of the world (John 13:34-35).

Serving one another gives us a purpose, a reason for living. It is more than what we do, it is who we are! No matter how shallow or meaningless you may feel your life to be, Jesus can give you meaning and direction for a rich, rewarding life.

The gospel is good news because it assures our future. Peter rejoiced in that he had been born again unto a "living hope" which included "an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven..." (1 Peter 1:3-4). There were certainly things in his life that had brought him a lot of shame. Yet, having obtained forgiveness in Jesus, he was looking to the future. Jesus had gone to build an eternal home for his people (John 14:1-3) and Peter was confident that one of those rooms was reserved in his name. That's why he kept his faith in Jesus Christ. And herein is the good news- we can anticipate that same reward. Friend, your life, like that of a lot of folks, may look a little bleak sometimes. You may not know how tomorrow's bills will be paid. You may be in fear of what the doctor's report will tell you. But faith in and obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ can help us look beyond things here and give us an eternal perspective. And that's good news.

What about you? What's your life like? If you haven't obeyed the gospel your past is unsettled, you have no meaningful purpose or direction in life and there's no future to which to look forward. But with Jesus Christ there's a better way. If you want to learn more about the gospel and God's plan for your life, I'm always available. Let us be of service to you.

~via *South Cullman church of Christ*, Cullman, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Cornelia Pepper	Pat Nixon
Patsy Thomas	Nikki Ogles
Doris Lovell	Cindy Glass
Ashley Sims	Linda Jones
Shelly Scruggs	Sara Ogles
Wayne Gooch	Shaun Carruth

Everette "Bud" Dollar Ann Bush
Wayne Bolton

Updates:

Marion Mitchell is back home now recovering from his recent fall... **Mary Will Johnston** has been diagnosed with Acute Lukemia ... **Lucille Craig** fell this past Wednesday night. She was cut but did not have to have any stitches and the CAT scan was clear... **Nikki Ogles** had oral surgery done on Friday.

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
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Eli Williams
Brittany Bates Carter	Bekka Martin

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Bobbie Adcock; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm. 201
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	Betty Brackeen, rm. 118
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Joyce Martin, rm. 73
Terry Camp, rm. 82	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 39	Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Morningside, Decatur
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
William Thomas, at home

SERVICE TIME CHANGE: This coming Sunday, March 5th, our Sunday evening service time will move back to 5:00 p.m.

OUT OF TOWN: The Stiles: Chuck & Benita left Monday with Chuck's work in South Dakota... **The**

McLemores: *Alvis & Ann* are in the mountains for a few days... **Steve Usery** spent a couple of days at the end of the week in Kansas with work... **Harvey Nixon** has been out of town this past week.

ANNUAL SINGING: Our Sixth Annual Singing was a great success. We had 382 present for the singing and it was thrilling to be assembled and to lift our voices together in praise to God. I appreciate the work of **Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Jeff Warnke** in leading the singing. I want to thank each member that worked hard and diligently in helping to prepare and to make the singing what it was: parking lot workers, audio/visual area, ushers greeters and parking lot workers. Also, I want to thank all who extend invitation to others to come join us and the elders for their leadership and support in this effort. I truly appreciate the work of all and it was noticed by all who attended..

SIXTH ANNUAL SINGING CD: If you would like a CD of the Sixth Annual Singing, please note that on the member's card you fill out this morning.

RESPONSES FOR PRAYER: This past Sunday morning, **Steve Usery** wanted to let it be known that he desired be the kind of influence in his life that he should and we prayed for him. We appreciate the good heart and the good desire that Steve possesses... **Tim Griswold** came forward asking for prayers for his family as Brandon is dealing with trials to his faith. We appreciate the Griswolds and their determination to be strong in faith relying on the strength that comes from God. May the Lord bless them.

BAPTISMS: There was great cause to rejoice this past Sunday evening after our evening service as **Matthew Usery** was baptized into Christ. We wish a long and faithful life for Matthew. May we all encourage him... On Monday morning, we rejoiced again as **Charles and Janice Turner** let it be known that they wanted to be baptized into Christ. May the Lord bless them with years to faithfully serve Him.

WORKGROUPS: Work Group three will be meeting this evening after our evening service. The work groups have been modified, so please check the announcement loop to see if this is your group.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Feb. 19th
 Sunday: Bible Classes 125
 Morning Worship 168
 Evening Worship 139
 Wednesday:
 Bible Classes 100

Remember Our Service This Evening at 4:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer..... Terry Andrews
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Russell Melvin
 Assisting..... Keith Hinkle
 Serving Steve Usery..... Russ Wulfekuhl
 Danny Johnson..... Keenon Currier
 Closing Prayer James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Russell Melvin
 Closing Prayer Arvid McGuire

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 26th:
 Ushers..... Marcus Morris/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Marty Adams

Wednesday, March 1st:

Song Leader A. J. Price
 Bible Reading..... Philippians 1:12-18
 Joy Warner
 Prayer..... Steve Usery
 Invitation..... David Cox
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Sunday, March 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Terry Andrews
 Assisting..... Mike Ogles
 Serving Heath Dollar Tommy Burns
 Matthew Vaughn... Marvin Putman
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Steve Usery
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
 Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 5th:
 Ushers..... Marvin Putman/Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams