

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

June 4, 2017

No. 23

You Are Who You Choose To Be

Eddie J. Caskey

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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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

Imagine the scene: the nation of Israel has conquered Canaan and each tribe has received its inheritance. The great leader, Joshua, has become an old man and is giving a final encouragement to the people to serve the Lord (Joshua 23:1-2). Near the conclusion of his speech he exhorts them saying, "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." At the center of Joshua's words is the key to the whole endeavor...choice! One of the greatest powers God has given to us is the power to choose.

These choices are made daily and have an accumulated effect. Each choice is added to another, and then another, and another, until eventually we have established a way of life. Our character is defined by that pattern. More over, our eternal destiny is determined by these choices.

Notice the words of our Savior in Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Jesus' cry for men to "enter" is a plea for men to choose to enter. We should choose to live our lives according to the disciplined principles of God's most holy way. To do otherwise is akin to building a mansion upon shifting sands (Matthew 7:24-27).

So, let us choose Jesus, and Him alone, "...for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Let us choose to seek out Godly wisdom. After all, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The

fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.” (Psalm 19:7-11).

The most important choices in life are the spiritual ones. You can be a wise godly person, but it demands making the proper choices. Remember Joshua’s bold invitation, “choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15). You are who you choose to be!

~via *Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas.



What Is Grace?

Ferrell Jenkins

It’s probably just a preacher’s story, but it conveys the right idea about grace. I heard the lamented Jack McElroy tell it when I was yet a teenager. An old Indian was asked to explain grace. He made a circle of dry straw around a bug and lit a fire. The bug moved first one way and then another, but there was no way he could escape. Then the wise old man took a stick and placed one end within the burning circle. The bug soon climbed on the stick and was lifted to safety. Said he, “That’s grace.”

Most illustrations have their weaknesses. God did not start the fire around man; man sinned in violation of the clear law of God and is responsible for his own lost condition. It is God who provides a way of escape when man is incapable of devising one for himself. The word “grace” means undeserved or unmerited favor. Grace is the opposite of merit. God’s mercy, grace, love and kindness are closely associated in providing salvation for man (Ephesians 2:1-10).

The grace of God makes possible all kinds of blessings, both physical and spiritual. In Him we live, and move, and have our very being. In this sense God blesses all, sending rain, sunshine, and fruitful seasons upon the just and the unjust. It is the spiritual blessings, however, in which we are most interested now. Perhaps no passage of Scripture more clearly demonstrates what grace is than Ephesians 1:3-14.

In Ephesians chapter one the apostle Paul shows the ways in which God has shown His grace toward man. It must be observed that Paul is writing to saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus (verse 1). The things he says are true of those who are already Christians. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (spiritual or heavenly realm) in Christ (verse 3). Notice some of the ways in which He has blessed us.

1. **He chose (or elected) us *in Christ*** before the foundation of the world (verse 4). This election took place in Christ who is God’s elect (Luke 9:35; 1 Peter 2:4). We may choose whether to be in Christ. Without God’s grace there would have been no choice.

2. **He foreordained (or predestined) us** (verse 5). This was not done on an individual basis, but in Christ. The saints have been foreordained unto adoption as sons of God through Christ.

3. **He provided redemption (forgiveness of sins) through the blood of Christ** (verse 7). Note that this was according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us.

4. **He made known to us the mystery of His will** (verse 9). God’s secret plan for the salvation of man, which had been hidden for ages, is now revealed to the saints.

5. **He made us a heritage** (verse 11). Rather than the concept that we have obtained an inheritance, the footnote (and the American Standard translation) seems to be the correct idea. God has made us His own possession. This same thought is brought out in verse 14, “the redemption of God’s own possession.” What a tremendous thought! We belong to God. Out of all that He created, only the saints will live with Him throughout eternity.

6. **He sealed us with the Holy Spirit** (verses 13-14). As a result of our having heard the word of His grace, and having believed it, God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit. This means that He has marked us as His own. From our view-point the Holy Spirit is a pledge or earnest of the inheritance we will someday receive.

It is no wonder that Paul three times exclaims that all of this is according to the grace of God (verses 6, 7, 14). “Amazing grace! How sweet the sound.” Joseph Scriven said it for many of us in his beautiful song:

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’ve first begun.

~via *Christianity Magazine*; June 1984, Vol. 1. No. 6.

God Will Take Care of You

Wiley Deason

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). One of the greatest things about serving our Lord is the confidence we can have in knowing that He will always take care of us. And that means that regardless of your circumstances, God understands who you are, what you are dealing with daily, and He knows what you need. Therefore, as long as you faithfully serve Him, at the end of the day, everything is going to be just fine. Why? Because God will take care of you. He is going to make sure that, when all is said and done, it's going to be ok.

The challenge for us is to trust in Him when it feels like our lives are falling apart. And that is easier said than done. It's really **hard!** But, why? Because we like to be in control. We like to know the end of the story before we ever open the book. We like to live by our Plan A and we try to avoid Plan B. But, have you ever considered that our Plan B could be God's Plan A? In fact, our Plan A & Plan B may not even be in God's plans at all. You see, there lies the problem. Sometimes we are so busy planning for the worst case scenarios, that we fail to give God complete control of our lives. We are so busy trying to figure everything out, that we fail to have real faith. As a result, we allow ourselves to be ruled by fear, absorbed by anxiety, and consumed with worry.

I don't know about you, but I would rather choose to have some peace in my life. And do you know how you get that peace? You must give God complete control and have confidence in Him. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

~via *Eastside Bulletin*; Indianapolis, Indiana.

Vacation Bible School

July 17-20, 2017 — 10:00 a.m.

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Nancy Abernathy	Paul Adcock
Kim Rogers	Patsy Thomas
Doris Lovell	Cindy Glass
Linda Jones	Ashley Sims
Sara Ogles	Shaun Carruth
Ann Bush	Everette “Bud” Dollar
Wayne Gooch	Shelly Scruggs

Updates:

Steve Usery has been having complications from his recent oral surgery... **Joel Hamm** had a follow-up procedure on his shoulder surgery Wednesday. He is feeling better now.

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Gayle Ball
Irene Inman	Janice Cagle
Jeanette Weir	Priscilla Tucker
Jenny Pickens	Ella Melvin
Daniel Ogles	Diane Kilpatrick
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Brittany Bates Carter
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Bobby McLemore
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Eli Williams	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Mot Beasley; River City Health & Rehab. – Decatur
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Reba Byram, rm. 93	Nelva Reed, rm. 61
Helen Trousdale, rm. 43	Judith Groce, rm. 10-B
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Oneal Martin, rm. 81
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 39	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert 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

SINGING AT NURSING HOME: Remember the singing at *Athens Rehab & Senior Care* on Tuesday evening at 5:30.

MEETINGS/VBS: The *Eastside church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. There will be morning sessions at 10:00 and evening services at 7:00. *David Maxson* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur been is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. They will have a VBS in the morning at 10:00 and services at 7:00 in the evening. *Tim Stevens* will be the speaker... The *Jackson Drive church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00. *Will Hamilton* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *South Cullman church* will be engaged in a VBS through Thursday evening with services starting at 7:00. *Wiley Deason* will be the speaker in the adult class... The *Oakland church* will be engaged in a VBS this week through Friday 10:00. *Joe Corley* will be the speaker in the adult class.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* are in Texas with family... *The Holts: Larry, Sheila, Griffin and Addison* have been on vacation in California this week... *Mike Ogles* has been in Florida this week with his work... *Kerry Cox* has been out of town this week... *The Smiths: Kenneth and Peggy* have been in the mountains this past week... *The Coblenz: Tommy and Marcella* have been out of town on vacation this week... *The Carters: Delmer and Margaret* were back home Wednesday after being out of town last weekend... *The Whites: Jason, Joy, Addison, Mason and Dawson* have been in the mountains this past week.

CONFESSION: This past Sunday evening, *Jay Baker* came forward asking for forgiveness of unfaithfulness and past wrongs in his life. Jay stated that he had not been the kind of influence in his life that he should have been and is determined to do better. We appreciate Jay and his desire to please God. May we all encourage Jay as he has us in our lives together as children of God.

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 tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of May 28th

Sunday:	Bible Classes	126
	Morning Worship	154
	Evening Worship	134
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	103

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Steve Usery
Song Leader	Ashton Gatlin
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Dwaine Allfrey
Serving	Danny Johnson..... Marcus Morris
.....	Charles Vaughn..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Steve Usery
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	A. J. Price
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 4th:

Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Marty Adams

Wednesday, June 7th:

Song Leader	Griffin Holt
Bible Reading	Colossians 2:20-23
.....	Danny Johnson
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Invitation.....	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Sunday, June 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Ashton Gatlin
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Kenneth Smith
Assisting	A. J. Price
Serving	Matthew Vaughn..... Landon Adams
.....	Marvin Putman..... James Johnson
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 11th:

Ushers.....	Keenon Currier/Steve Usery
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews