

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

July 9, 2017

No. 28

When 'Nothing' Became 'Something'

Karl Diestelkamp

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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell..... (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
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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

It took place several billions of years ago—or, so we are told. Make that trillions of years or even quadrillions, if you will. After all, when was the beginning of “Nothing”? Never mind such trifling details—one nanosecond before “time” existed, “Nothing” rolled out of its non-existent bed and decided to become “Something.”

There is wild speculation about its beginning. Maybe “Nothing” produced non-existent chemicals and caused a gas explosion that solidified into lifeless matter to become “Something.” We are told that eventually, over multiple eons of “time,” this chaos of lifeless matter experienced enough upheaval and collisions to become the now-known universe with its billions of stars, moons, and planets.

Squeeze out a few more billions of “years” and lifeless “Something” experienced “life.” Theories abound—a combination of chemicals floating around in a primeval soup of some sort—or the result of electrically-charged subatomic particles making accidental contact—or you name it! Somehow some of these were thrown together and began billions of years of evolution into all the varied life forms, extinct and living. We are told, “That’s it—it’s a fact—there’s no need for debate —get with the program.”

However, there are some nagging questions that do need answers before we believe “Something.” For instance, how did the lifeless matter that “evolved” into the mosquito “know” to use its proboscis to pierce and suck blood from life forms with blood rather than sucking sap from trees? And then, what process stamped out evolution and allowed consistent reproduction of all living things to take over so that everything reproduces “after its kind”? “Nothing” obviously died. “Something” spawned by “Nothing” provides no answers —just theories (guesswork).

So where does man go for believable answers to the origin of “Something”? The answers are not in some distant planet or galaxy! “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (Hebrews 11:3). “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world

stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalm 33:8,9). “And God said...” (Genesis 1:3,6,9,13, 14,20,24,26,28,29).

Psalm 90:1,2 — “Lord, You have been our dwelling placed in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from ever- lasting to everlasting, You are God.”

Isaiah 40:28 — “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. There is no searching of His under- standing” (Isaiah 40:28).

“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’...” (Psalm 14:1). Pity the poor atheist and unbeliever whose god is “Nothing,” and whose hope ends at the grave.s more, and we welcome it! “...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21).

~via *Think On These Things*; Cortland, Illinois.



The Secret Things

Jeff Himmel

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 29:29, NIV)

These words, spoken by Moses to Israel long ago, still carry an important message for God’s people. Consider three concepts that are emphasized in this verse.

The Danger of Speculation

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God.” There is much that God has not revealed to us. While it’s interesting to think about such things, it isn’t really profitable. In fact, speculating about unrevealed matters can be dangerous. Paul warned Timothy of some who had “turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions” (1 Timothy 1:6-7). He told him to “refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels” (2 Timothy 2:23). And he encouraged Titus to “avoid foolish controversies

and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless” (Titus 3:9).

Speculation is at its worst when it becomes the basis for belief and practice. Much of what men call “theology” is just conjecture about unrevealed matters. And much of what men call “worship” or “ministry” or “religion” is action without divine authorization. God warns against adding to His revelation. “Every word of God is tested... Do not add to His words, or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar” (Proverbs 30:5-6). Instead of speculating where God has not spoken and presuming to act where He is silent, we need to apply ourselves to what He has revealed.

The Blessing of Revelation

“The things revealed belong to us and to our children forever.” A “secret” or “mystery” is something covered up or hidden; a “revelation” is something uncovered. In His revelation, God is sharing His mind with us. “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law” (Proverbs 29:18). Without God’s revelation we’d be groping in darkness, unable to know what He has done, what He has promised, or how we should live. “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?” (1 Corinthians 2:16).

God has communicated His will to us. What a great blessing! In Christ, God has revealed to us what even the prophets of old did not understand (Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:10-12). We should be thankful for God’s revelation and diligent in learning it. Praising the commandments of God’s law, David said, “They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:7-10).

The Responsibility of Those Who Hear

“That we may follow all the words of this law.” Since God has revealed His will, we have a responsibility to know it and obey it. His law defines right and wrong conduct. Without such a standard, sin would not exist (Romans 5:13). But since we have access to the revelation of God’s standard, we are without excuse when we violate it (see John 15:22).

God promises to hold us accountable for our response to His revelation. Our text in Deuteronomy 29 comes just after a list of blessings on obedience and curses on disobedience (chapters 27-28). And Jesus promised, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48).

~via *Plant City Planter*; Plant City, Florida.



July 17 – 20, 2017

(Monday through Thursday)
10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

“They Were Cut To The Heart”

Kyle Pope

On the day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts chapter two, we are given a glimpse into the heart and soul of the Jewish men and women who first heard the gospel preached to them on that monumental day. Acts 2:37 tells us—“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and Brethren, what shall we do?’”(NKJV). What resulted from this condition of heart was the conversion of some three thousand souls (Acts 2:41) who “...continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers”(Acts 2:42).

In our day we have become very familiar with the story of Jesus’ death by crucifixion. Gold crosses hang from the necks of athletes and musicians, celebrities and models.

On these ornamental crosses may be portrayed the anguished artistic representation of the dying Christ—yet people most often focus on the music, athletic skill, or beauty of the model or celebrity, not the reality of the One who died for us. God forbids the worship of images whether of true Deity or idols (Exodus 20:4-5), but what does it reflect about our culture that such images have become a casual accessory with no thought of the event portrayed?

In the church we assemble each Lord’s Day and celebrate the solemn memorial that commemorates Jesus’ death. Around a nicely polished table we break bread, which is to represent the body of the Son of God surrendering to death. From a clean cup arranged in a shining tray, we drink a sip of juice, which is to represent the blood stolen from the Savior’s veins by

the stakes and spear of His filthy executioners. As we observe this memorial, we must constantly chase from our minds thoughts of the meal at home after services, the past week’s activities, the television program of the past night, an assignment at school, or the unpaid bills waiting for us. Yet, how often can we truly say we are “cut to the heart?”

Is the world so unfamiliar with the truth of the death of Christ that it is untouched by its horror? Have we as Christians become so familiar with the account that we are callused to its cruel heart-stirring realities?

When David sinned by committing adultery with Bathsheba and then conspired to have her husband die in battle, the horror of his own behavior escaped him. Only when the prophet Nathan came and told him a veiled story about a rich man’s cruelty in taking a poor man’s lamb was his heart stirred to anger, then repentant sorrow (2 Samuel 12:1-7).

Are we like David, when it comes to our attitude towards Jesus’ death? Does a news report about some tragic loss of life cut us to the heart more than the message of the crucified Christ? Can we be captivated by a heartbreaking drama in a book, movie or TV show and yet remain untouched by the drama of the gospel?

The challenge for us is to realize everyday the reality of Christ’s death for us. This is not about emotionalism, but about the rational realization of what Jesus’ death was and should mean to each of us. We must keep it from becoming something that we accept casually and unemotionally and instead let it stir our hearts daily to greater faithfulness to the Lord and to His people. If Christians in this age would allow the message of the crucified Messiah to touch us as it did those on the day of Pentecost it might be that the message of the gospel would again “turn the world upside down” (Acts 17:6) today as it did when it was first preached.

~via *Faithful Sayings*, Amarillo, Texas.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

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 tonight.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Doris Lovell	Patsy Thomas
Cindy Glass	Linda Jones
Ashley Sims	Sara Ogles
Shaun Carruth	Shelly Scruggs
Wayne Gooch	Ann Bush

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	Everette "Bud" Dollar

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Reba Byram, rm. 64	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	

Limestone Health Facility:

Opal Conn, rm. 117

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Marjorie Dunning, 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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Lenna Ruth Bates and all the family* in the passing of her brother, *Tommy Gatlin*, July 1, 2017. There was a graveside service yesterday at Hester Cemetery. You are in

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Ashton Gatlin
Prayer.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching.....	A. J. Price
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Mike Ogles
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Danny Johnson.....Matthew Vaughn
.....	Charles Vaughn.....Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty R. Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	Mike Ogles
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 9th:

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

Wednesday, July 12th:

Song Leader	Larry Holt
Bible Reading	Colossians 4:10-18
.....	Danny Johnson
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Sunday, July 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Marty R. Adams
Assisting	Steve Usery
Serving	David Terry.....Danny Johnson
.....	Marvin Putman.....Matthew Usery
Closing Prayer	James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Steve Usery
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 16th:

Ushers.....	Tommy Coblenz/Keenon Currier
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams