

# 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

November 26, 2017

No. 48

### 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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843  
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

### Evangelists

Buc Chumbley ..... (256) 777-1065  
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*

## *Be Thankful For God's Authority*

**T. Doy Moyer**

God is Creator. Because of Who He is, He has the inherent right to command and expect obedience. He has the right to tell us what to do, how to think, how to live, how to talk, and how to dress. Name it. God has the power to back it up. We, as His creatures have no right to kick back or demand answers from Him. Like it or not, we are under His authority. But now, why wouldn't we like it?

Rather than looking at this as some sort of drudgery, why not be thankful for God's authority? After all, if we wish to glorify God, we can only do so by recognizing the power that only belongs to Him.

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth;*

*Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.*

*Tell of His glory among the nations,*

*His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.*

*For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;*

*He also is to be feared above all gods.*

*For all the gods of the peoples are idols,*

*But the Lord made the heavens.*

*Splendor and majesty are before Him,*

*Strength and joy are in His place.*

—1 Chronicles 16:23-27

If we "seek the Lord and His strength" (v. 11), then we are necessarily seeking Him in all His authority and power. Shall we love the Lord and despise His authority as if it is a burden to us? May it never be!

Here, then, are some reasons we can be thankful for God's authority:

1. Because God's authority means He is the Judge, not me, or you, or anyone else. I don't have to worry about untangling all the sticky questions about eternity. I don't need to worry about pleasing other people, especially those in the world. I just need to concern myself with pleasing and glorifying Him based on what He has revealed (2 Corinthians 5:8-9; John 12:48). Consequently, we may say with Paul, "to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do

not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:3-4). In the final analysis, each of us as individuals will stand before God. What others think at that point will be irrelevant.

2. Because God's authority is what gives power to grace. Grace means nothing unless it comes from one who has the power to give it. Sometimes grace is pitted against a stress on authority, but the two go together. It is true that authority can exist without grace, but it is not possible for real grace to exist without authority. Recall Jesus' healing of the paralytic in Mark 2. When he saw the man's faith, Jesus told him that his sins were forgiven. The people reacted by saying that only God could forgive sins, to which Jesus responded, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home'" (Mark 2:8-11). Without the authority inherent in Jesus, the man's sins would have remained. God's authority means that He can provide the grace needed to forgive sins. Without His authority, our sins would remain.

3. Because God's authority means He has the power to fulfill His promises. People sometimes promise what they cannot give. Think of the empty promises given by fallible people who strive for political power, or the disappointment we feel when someone promised something without the ability to deliver. This will never happen with God. Because He has all authority, He has complete control over the promises that He has given, and He will not disappoint. Therefore, we may have the same faith as Paul when promised that the ship he was on would not lose anyone: "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told" (Acts 27:25). Paul began his epistle to Titus with these reassuring words: "Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago" (Titus 1:1-2). Our trust in God's promises is the reason we have hope as an anchor of our soul (Hebrews 6:13-20). All of this is possible because of the authority of God.

God's authority should never be seen as a burden.

Rather, we have every reason to be thankful for who God is and the authority He possesses and shows. "O Lord God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You" (Psalm 89:8).

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



## *Where Is Our Strength?*

**Richie Jenkins**

Nehemiah wrote to a people who had forgotten God. "Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength'" (Nehemiah 8:10).

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Strength is a fortress, a stronghold, a place where one goes to seek refuge. There are things that assault us in our life: fear, discouragement, turmoil. What Nehemiah is saying is that the joy of the Lord is a place we can go to hide, find strength and refuge, and be able to cope with life. As a Christian serving God, we must understand something about the joy of the Lord. Why do we, who belong to the Lord, have reason to rejoice? How does that joy provide us with strength? How is it a refuge for us in our daily living?

The joy of the Lord serves as a refuge against the fretfulness of the success and prosperity of evil doers. The Psalmist said, "Do not fret because of evil doers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity" (Psalms 37:1). Our English word for fret is derived from "to eat up," or something that eats and gnaws at you.

We can look around and see people who have no regard for God. We see them seemingly successful and healthy. They seem to prosper in everything they touch. Then we see Christians and their lives are filled with ill health, financial reversal and problems in their families. Does it bother you? Do not fret because of evil doers. Don't let that eat you up.

What gives us strength? It is one thing to say, but another to actually do. Again the Psalmist has the answer for us, "Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself

also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:3-5). Instead of concentrating on the success of evil doers, we should count our many blessings. Think about the Lord and what He means. Think about the well-being we presently enjoy, the prospect of possessing what we desire. Then we will not spend our time being eaten up because of evildoers. We will not even concentrate on that.

Consider this practical illustration from Paul. How did the power of concentrating on the joy of the Lord become a strength or refuge? In his last letter, he is probably in his late 60's. He is in prison because of preaching the gospel, because of unjust and ungodly men. He will not get out alive. Death is imminent and undeserved. What would be our attitude in a situation like that? Would we be angry, full of resentment, concentrating on those who put us there? "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Paul could face death with courage, be in prison and keep a stable mind. Why? The joy of the Lord was his strength in the face of an unjust arrest, imprisonment and death. He was not unaware of how he was being treated. Christians have a right to expect God to vindicate them, and there is nothing wrong with that. In the imprecatory Psalms, the Psalmist prayed for vindication upon his enemies. But, if we are not careful, we focus on that and turn it to personal vengeance. He left that in the hands of God. The Lord will take care of that.

Maybe Christians have bad things said about them. Paul also left that in the hands of God. How would you feel if you had devoted 30 years of your life to doing one thing, suffered, been deprived, afflicted, beaten and now at your last defense everybody leaves you? Would we be fretting, fuming, stewing in our own bitterness? "But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion" (2 Timothy 4:17). The joy of the Lord gave him strength. Joy came from understanding his well-being, his good fortune, and that he would possess the desires of his heart even in the face of these difficulties. Joy came in spite of

the fact the emperor would still be on the throne and Rome was thriving and taking his life. He didn't fret over that; the joy of the Lord was indeed his strength. Instead of focusing on the prosperity of success of those who do evil and yet seem to do well we should count our many blessings.

~via *Tri-Cities Edifier*; Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Jane Meredith  
Patsy Thomas  
Wayne Gooch  
Linda Jones

Grady Threet  
Doris Lovell  
Cindy Glass  
Ann Bush

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

Joe Leopard  
Janice Cagle  
Priscilla Tucker  
Jenny Pickens  
Phillip Christopher  
Linda Ordonez  
Cindy Walker  
Gene Carpenter  
Betty Christopher  
Al Pollard  
Elizabeth Howard  
Will Weir

Irene Inman  
Jeanette Weir  
Bobby McLemore  
Ella Melvin  
Everette "Bud" Dollar  
Wayne Wooldridge  
Brittany Bates Carter  
Charles Burns  
Una King Currier  
Ava Brooke Campbell  
Matt Poff  
Phillip Harwell

### *In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:*

*Margaret Carter*; Crestwood Hospital, rm. 366  
*Dale Adcock*; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 560  
*Norman Hamm*; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

### *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:*

Helen Trousdale, rm. 43	Nelva Reed, rm. 61
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Oneal Martin, rm. 81	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Mable Crafts, rm. 39
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77

### *Shut-In or Away From Home:*

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur  
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison  
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle  
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

### *Updates:*

**Bobbie Adcock** is scheduled to see her heart doctor about heart valve surgery this week... **Grady Threet** is not doing

well and hospice has begun to see him this past week... **Steve Usery** has oral surgery scheduled for December 8th in Birmingham... **Donna Wright's daughter, Laurie Wells**, is at home and doing well following her heart surgery... **Carol Dean's son-in-law, Matt Poff** has received a bad report on his cancer. Keep Matt in your prayers... **William Thomas** is at Madison Manor.

**AWAY AT SCHOOL:** Remember our young people who are away in college:

**Brettlyn Currier**, at Auburn University  
**Keenon Currier**, at the University of Alabama  
**Austin Hobson**, at the University of North Alabama  
**Griffin Holt**, at the University of Alabama  
**Drew Ogles**, at Auburn University  
**Christian Usery**, at LaGrange College  
**Elizabeth Usery**, at Mississippi State University.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathies to **Ida Nell Griffin** in the passing of Ida Nell's uncle, **J. W. Skipworth**. His funeral was yesterday in Florence... **Kim Rogers** in the passing of her aunt, **Hazel White**. She passed away this past Wednesday and her visitation and funeral will be this afternoon in Fayette.

**MARJORIE DUNNAVANT (1929-2017):** It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister **Marjorie Dunnavant** early Monday morning. She was a longtime member of the Market Street church and began attending in the mid 1940's. She loved the Market Street church and always loved to talk about and hear about the things going on. She lived an exceptional life and we have missed her presence among us in the last several years as her health declined. She was living in the Brookdale Assisted living for the last four years. Her funeral was on Wednesday afternoon at Limestone Chapel and she was laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery. May the Lord bless her family in her passing.

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

**CONFESSION:** Last Sunday morning, **Jennifer Threet** came forward confessing sin and asking for prayers. We appreciate Jennifer for the good heart she has and the desire to go heaven. May we all encourage Jennifer as she has encouraged us in living here so we may go to heaven when this life is over.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of Nov. 19th

Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 151  
Morning Worship ..... 180  
Evening Worship ..... 147  
Wednesday: Bible Classes ..... 107

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### Sunday, November 26th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer..... Keith Hinkle  
Preaching..... Buc Chumbley  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Larry Holt  
Assisting ..... Joel Hamm  
Serving ..... Steve Usery..... Matthew Vaughn  
..... Kenneth Adams..... A. J. Price  
Closing Prayer ..... Marcus Morris

#### Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams  
Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell  
Preaching..... Song Service  
Lord's Supper ..... Larry Holt  
Closing Prayer ..... Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 26th:

Ushers..... Marvin Putman/Russ Wulfekuhl  
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

### Wednesday, November 29th:

Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Bible Reading ..... 1 Timothy 3:1-7  
..... Danny Johnson  
Prayer..... Joel Hamm  
Invitation..... David Cox  
Closing Prayer ..... Clayton Hamm

### Sunday, December 3rd:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt  
Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox  
Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Joel Hamm  
Assisting ..... Keith Hinkle  
Serving ..... Tommy Burns..... Clayton Hamm  
..... Kenneth Smith..... Charles Vaughn  
Closing Prayer ..... Keenon Currier

#### Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt  
Song Leader ..... Tony Thomas  
Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Joel Hamm  
Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 3rd:

Ushers..... Terry Andrews/Hunter Cox  
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams