

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 X

January 21, 2018

No. 3

God Is the God of...

Frank Himmel

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 Coblentz..... (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

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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

God is often said to be the God of various people: of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Israel, Jews, Gentiles, Jesus, etc. But the Bible also presents Him as the God of . . .

Glory. Stephen began his famous speech, "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham . . ." (Acts 7:2). That is literally "the God of the glory." God's glory surpasses all. We see glimpses of it in His creation and more of it in His word (see Romans 11:33-36), but only in eternity will we fully comprehend it.

Hope. "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13). Paul had just quoted Isaiah's prophecy about Messiah bringing hope to Gentiles (Isaiah 11:10). God gives hope to all who will come to Him through His Son.

Peace. The expression the God of peace occurs several times. In Romans 15:33 its focus is on peace between Jews and Gentiles in Christ. In Romans 16:20 it points to our victory over Satan's temptations and errors. In Philippians 4:9 it occurs in a context of conquering anxiety. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 13:20 it encourages Christians who were facing active persecution. An especially interesting occurrence is in 1 Corinthians 14:33, where it emphasizes God's will for calm and orderliness in our assemblies, in contrast to the Corinthians noisy and conflicted practices.

Comfort. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3). God comforts us through His power, His provisions, His promises, His providence, and His people (cf. 7:6-13).

Grace. "After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" (1 Peter 1:10). God's grace may allow us to suffer on occasion, but He will surely provide along with that

the strength we need to endure it. Never question God's favorable disposition toward you.

Love. "Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Corinthians 13:11).

~via *Patlights*; Bossier City, Louisiana.



Become Such As I Am

Adam Litmer

Acts 26 describes a striking scene. The great men of the city of Caesarea, along with King Herod and his wife, gazed upon a man in chains. This man was the apostle Paul. He was prepared to make his own defense for none stood with him. When the king gave him permission to speak I doubt anyone present expected to hear what they heard. If he was ashamed of his predicament he did not show it. If he was awed by the fame and influence of the people before him it was not evident. In fact, if these people were expecting groveling along with desperate pleas for mercy, they were disappointed. What they heard was gospel preaching.

Due to Paul's words, manner, or both, governor Festus eventually cried out, Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind. Paul was not acting the way a prisoner was supposed to act. He was addressing these lofty officials with uncanny boldness and confidence. His manner was respectful, yet bereft of the wheedling flattery and quaking fear such people were accustomed to. What's more, Paul was speaking of things carnal people simply cannot understand (1 Corinthians 2:13-16). To Festus, his words sounded insane. Perhaps he thought that his outburst would rattle the chained apostle and cause him to duck his head in shame. Rather than cowering in his chains at the governor's outburst, likely met with several murmurs of agreement from other officials in the room, Paul addressed him respectfully, yet with his boldness intact. I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.

After having testified to the integrity of his words one might imagine Paul would have dropped his head (Acts 26:1b) and stood in dignified silence. Instead, he turned his attention to the most powerful man in the room and addressed him directly. "For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe" (Acts 26:26-27). Make no mistake: this was an invitation for Agrippa to become a Christian. That's what this entire scene was about. Agrippa simply wanted to hear Paul's case out of curiosity (cf. Acts 25:21-22); Paul had appealed to Caesar and to Caesar he had the right to go (Acts 25:12). Agrippa did not have the authority to prevent Paul traveling to Rome so he simply wanted to hear a case he found interesting. The result was that several of the highest dignitaries in the land heard the gospel preached.

Agrippa himself was taken aback by Paul and exclaimed, In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian? It is difficult to determine whether Agrippa was sincere or mocking. Was he claiming that Paul nearly convinced him to become a Christian? Was he mocking Paul for the effort? Could the truth be somewhere in between? Regardless, there was nothing ambiguous in Paul's response to him. Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains. Paul wanted every person in that room to become what he was, only unchained.

What was Paul? He was a Christian, a saint washed and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:7). He understood the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:8) and thus could gaze upon all the pomp and pageantry in the room, all the expensive clothes and signs of great wealth, all the fancy titles and honorifics, and count them as rubbish (Philippians 3:8). Paul's eyes were locked on their souls because he knew that at the foot of the cross all men stand on level ground. Whether king or servant, all need Christ equally.

To ask how Paul could have spoken as he did before such people is to ask the wrong question from the wrong perspective. The right question is how could he have spoken differently believing as he did (2 Corinthians 4:13)? Recall Peter's words and heed them. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you... if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name (1 Peter 4:14, 16).

In the days to come I believe Christians will be called before officials to answer for their faith more than has previously occurred in this country. As our nation moves further into its “post-Christian” era, Christians will be put on “trial” before friends, family, classmates, and coworkers like never before to explain their actions and beliefs. Let us use those times as Paul used them. His primary concern was not to appease the crowd so all the attention would turn from him, but to move all that attention to Jesus Christ by explaining the reason for the hope that was in him (1 Peter 3:14- 15).

Be prepared for what’s coming, brethren. Yet see in it the extraordinary opportunities to spread Christ’s gospel among those who have never heard it. Let them see a Christian who is not rattled by false accusation or made to crumble at mocking. Let them see what a room full of powerful officials saw in Paul all those years ago.

~via *University Heights Messenger*; Lexington, Kentucky



Real Comfort

Brian Messerli

When our brethren, friends, or family members are suffering, do they find real comfort from us? When Job needed comfort, his friends felt compelled to explain why he was suffering. Job said, “I have heard many such things; sorry comforters are you all” (Job 16:2). When Hannah was saddened by her barrenness, her brilliant husband tried to cheer her up: “Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?” (1 Samuel 1:8). Proverbs 25:20 says, “Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day...is he who sings songs to a troubled heart.” When David suffered, he said, “I looked for sympathy, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none” (Psalm 69:20b).

Here’s real comfort: “Then they sat down on the ground with Job for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great” (Job 2:13). “Jesus wept” (John 11:35) “Weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15).

“If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26a). Real comfort doesn’t give advice or explanation, doesn’t try to cheer up, to tell them to look on the bright side or that we know exactly how they feel. Real comfort sits silently alongside the sufferer and says, “I am so sorry you’re hurting and I’m here for you.”

~via *Plam Springs Drive Bulletin*; Altamonte Springs, Florida.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Nell Barksdale	Harvey Nixon
Lucille Craig	James Adams
Nikki Ogles	Kenia Adams
Loretta Warner	Bobbie Adcock
Dwaine Allfrey	Judy Brown
Doris Lovell	Marion Mitchell
Chuck Stiles	Ann Bush
Linda Jones	Wayne Gooch
Adrian Maynard	Cindy Glass

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Jeanette Weir
Janice Cagle	Patsy Thomas
Priscilla Tucker	Ella Melvin
Bobby McLemore	Matt Poff
Phillip Christopher	Everette “Bud” Dollar
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Brittany Bates Carter
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Phillip Harwell
Will Weir	Susan Cox

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Arvid McGuire; Athens-Limestone, rm. 213
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
Flossie Smith, rm. 102	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur

Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
 Irene Inman, at home
 Elvin Stoffregen, at daughter's in Rutherford, Tennessee
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Judy Vaughn had surgery on Thursday in Huntsville...
Mildred Lambert fell this past Wednesday and is bruise
 and sore...**Priscilla Tucker** is under-going her radia-
 tion treatments ...**Tracy Hodges, Paul & Dale Adcock's**
daughter, is taking treatments for her cancer.

OUT OF TOWN: The Curriers: Kewyn, Mary, Brettlyn
& Keenon are in Birmingham today... **The Bradleys: Steve**
& Marilyn are in Houston, Texas.... **Christian Usery** is
 back home after being in Europe... **Martha Chumbley**
 is back home after being in Texas last week.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group One will be meet-
 ing after our evening service. If you are in group one,
 remember to meet with your group tonight.

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

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Jan. 14th

Sunday: Bible Classes 119
 Morning Worship 145
 Evening Worship 115

Seventh Annual Singing

February 23, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Jeff Warnke



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Terry Andrews
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Steve Usery
 Assisting Larry Holt
 Serving Matthew Usery..... Russ Wulfekuhl
 Heath Dollar Matthew Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Ashton Gatlin
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Steve Usery
 Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 21st:

Ushers..... Terry Andrews/Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, January 24th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Bible Reading 1 Timothy 6:1-11
 Clayton Hamm
 Prayer..... Marty Adams
 Invitation..... Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer Tony Thomas

Sunday, January 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
 Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Landon Adams..... Clayton Hamm
 Marvin Putman Charles Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer..... A. J. Price
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 28th:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews