

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 28, 2018

No. 4

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
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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

Bitterness

B. G. Echols

A bitter taste in one's mouth is bad, but worse is bitterness of heart or soul. Part of the definition of bitterness is "to embitter, irritate, or to make bitter." Part of the description of those who are under sin is the quotation by Paul from Psalm 10:2. "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness" (Romans 3:14). Paul is describing the depravity of mankind (Romans 3:10-18). One aspect of wickedness is "bitterness" which leads to depraved speech. The consequences of bitterness are "tongues that use deceit," poisoned lips, and cursing (Romans 3:13,14). Bitter words come from bitterness of heart. "Ye offspring of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34).

Sometimes Christians become bitter "who have whet their tongue like a sword, and have aimed their arrows, even bitter words" (Psalm 64:3). Most are bitter because of evils which befell them. Their bitterness may be addressed to God. "Why did He allow this to happen to me? What have I done to cause God to turn away from me in this way?" Although we may not always give a clear cut answer, it is not because God has selected you with malice. Part of the answer to the questions may be where you live. You live in a sin-sick world. While God sends rain on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45), the world lost its perfection when Satan deceived Eve. We all suffer the consequences of the earth being cursed. When we read the life of Paul we are amazed at what he suffered, but always found a satisfactory answer. While in prison in Rome, unable to travel and preach, he wrote to the Philippians. "Now I would have you know, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the progress of the gospel; so that my bonds became manifest in Christ throughout the whole praetorian guard, and to all the rest; and that most of the brethren in the Lord, being confident through my bonds, are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear" (Philippians 1:12-14). Seeing the bravery and faithfulness of Paul under evil conditions, brethren drew strength to keep the word going. What we can learn from this is that the gospel can be preached anywhere, and

if it can, it can be preached everywhere. Why be bitter? The gospel is still good news. The brethren were emboldened to “speak the word of God without fear.” Their boldness led others to be bold and fearless. Why be bitter when you can spread the word? What could be better?

Others are bitter at people who have hurt them. Many of us who have lived many years have had people dislike us, abuse us, cheat us, or in some other way, harm us and make our life miserable as they could. Some find it difficult to forget. Any remembrance of what happened brings a surge of anger. Whatever happened has become an incubus that distorts their outlook when that person’s memory is brought back. Like a repeated nightmare, its return distorts their thinking and their reasoning ability so they cannot cope with present realities. The past is too overwhelming. What is the way of escape? How can one free himself from being consumed in bitterness?

“We remember best, not what we have labored to memorize; but the things we see so vividly with such understanding and interest, that we do not realize we are memorizing them” (Learning From Jesus, Seth Wilson, p. 24). We sing “Standing On The Promises.” Once you see yourself in the mind’s eye standing on what God has promised, a firm, secure base: you can release yourself from any burden of the past. “Whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust” (2 Peter 1:4). The divine nature does not include remembering the past with bitter anger. The essence of the gospel is to follow Jesus. Simple faith in Christ and devotion to His Way can give one the strength to overcome whatever makes him feel again all the hurts of the past. The truly wise man has learned that Christ came, not to save us from earthly trials, but to save us from ourselves. Read the beatitudes of Jesus. The first seven are pronouncing blessings upon states of mind (Matthew 5:3-9). Nothing that is truly worthwhile comes easy. The easy way is usually the wrong way. The past is past. Start anew with “the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2). Why be burdened with resentment when God is still in heaven. “Forgetting the things which are past, and stretching forward to the things which are before. I press on” (Philippians 3:13,14).

~via *The Berean*; Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

It's In Your Hands

Ken Weliever

Once upon a time there lived high in the Himalayan mountains an old man known for his wisdom. Periodically, he ventured down into the local village and amazed villagers with his knowledge and insight.

He knew when it would rain, and thus when the village should plant crops. He could predict the frost, and thus when crops should be harvested. He knew how to treat illness and prevent impending illness. Being so well respected, people would flock to him to seek his advice and counsel. They would bring questions and the wise man provided answers.

One day a young lad wise in his own eyes, devised a plan to trick the old man into a wrong answer. He would catch a bird and ask, “What’s in my hand?” When the old man said, “A bird.” Then he would ask, “Is it dead or alive?” If he said, “dead,” the boy would open his hands and let the bird fly away. If the old man said, “alive,” he would crush it in his hands and let it fall to ground dead.

The following week, the wise old man came down from the mountain into the village. The boy quickly caught a bird and cupping it out of sight in his hands, walked up to the wise old man and asked, “Old man, what is it that I have in my hands?”

The wise old man said, “You have a bird, my son.”

The boy then asked, “Old man, tell me: Is the bird alive or is it dead?”

The wise old man looked at the boy, thought for a moment and said, “Son, the answer lies in your hands.”

This old story reminds us of a never changing and always relevant truth. We hold in our hands the freedom of choice. “The greatest power a person possesses is his power to choose,” wrote Psychologist and author, Dr. J. Martin Kohe. We have the ability to choose right or wrong. Good or evil. God or the Devil.

Moses, in his final days before handing over the mantle of leadership to Joshua, offered a stirring challenge to Israel before they entered the promised land. “This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

In a similar vein Joshua called the nation together

Remember Our Service This Evening at 4:00.

in his days with this rousing exhortation: “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

William Jennings Bryant was right when he observed, “Destiny is not a matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.”

God has given you and I this day. It can be used for His glory, or to our shame. It can be filled with goodness, or wasted with wickedness. Its hours can be invested in deeds that will produce divine dividends, or they can be squandered, leaving us spiritually bankrupt. It can be a day that will leave good memories, or end in bitter regrets.

It’s your choice. It’s in your hands.

~via *West Main Church Bulletin*; Lewisville, Texas.



When All Seems Lost

Jeffrey L. Smith

At no time in history have God’s people comprised a majority. ajectory. Well, that’s not quite accurate. After Noah disembarked he and his family were the only eight souls on earth and, assuming they were all faithful, they were a majority. But that was the last time.

Jesus said that a broad road and a wide gate lead to destruction and most souls go there (Matthew 7:13). David proclaimed this a thousand years before Christ in Psalm 14. David described a world as ungodly as that which God years earlier destroyed with the flood. Some things never change.

God’s people are profoundly and negatively affected by ungodly neighbors. David said that the ungodly eat up the faithful as they eat bread (Psalm 14:4). To him it was amazing that the ungodly had no idea of the trouble they were in for, having rebelled so. Their disobedience would surely bring God’s wrath upon them.

David reminds the faithful that even though they can’t see it God is on the side of the righteous generation (Psalm 14:5).

So, the next time you’re overwhelmed by unrighteousness all around you, and the next time you echo Elijah’s lament (1 Kings 19:10), remember that as long as you are on the Lord’s side the Lord is on your side. And if it’s only you and the Lord, in a very real sense that is a majority. Until the faith becomes sight and day star arises in your heart comfort each other with the words of Psalm 14.

~via *Haymarket Bulletin*; Gainesville, Virginia.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Gayle Ball	Arvid McGuire
Mildred Lambert	Jewel Dean Kennemer
Lucille Craig	Dwayne Allfrey
Nikki Ogles	Kenia Adams
Loretta Warner	Bobbie Adcock
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:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Helen Trousdale, rm. 43 Nelva Reed, rm. 61
 Mattye 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:

Arvid McGuire had gallbladder surgery on Wednesday in Athens ... **Dan Lovell** had cataract surgery on Thursday in Athens ... **Ruby Dean Ezell** has been feeling well. Her oxygen has been low ... **Jewell Dean Kennemer** has been having back trouble and unable to be out this week ... **Mildred Lambert** continues to recover from her fall ... **Priscilla Tucker** is under-going her radiation treatments ... **Tracy Hodges, Paul & Dale Adcock's daughter**, is taking treatments for her cancer.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Bradleys: Steve & Marilyn** are in Houston, Texas. ... **Jim Whitt** has been in Oklahoma this week with his work.

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

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

Sunday: Bible Classes 133
 Morning Worship 164
 Evening Worship 111
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 93

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 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..... Song Service
 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

Wednesday, January 31st:

Song Leader Larry Holt
 Bible Reading 1 Timothy 6:12-21
 Kenneth Adams
 Prayer..... Steve Usery
 Invitation..... David Cox
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Sunday, February 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Keith Hinkle
 Assisting Harvey Nixon
 Serving Danny Holt Roger Hammonds
 Matthew Vaughn..... Clayton Hamm
 Closing Prayer Keenon Carrier

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Keith Hinkle
 Closing Prayer Christian Usery

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 4th:

Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams