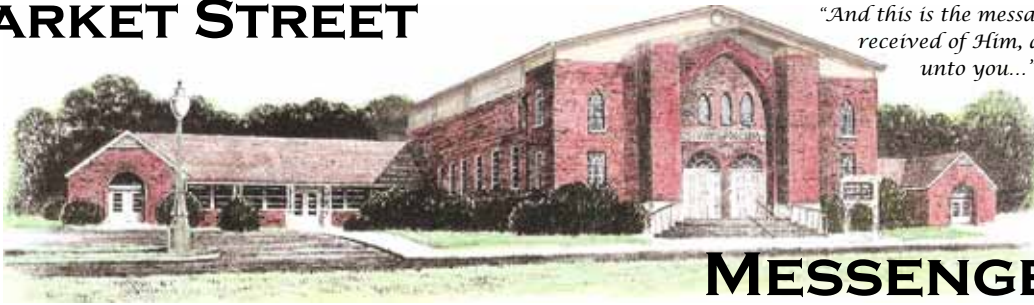


MARKET STREET

"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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume X

March 18, 2018

No. 11

The Curious Third Appearance

Kenny L. Chumbley

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) 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

In the Gospels, the third appearance of the resurrected Christ is barely mentioned—"The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Peter" (Luke 24:34)—and I find this remarkable, considering it was this appearance, rather than the one to Mary Magdalene or the other women (Luke 24:11), that finally got the apostles' attention. As to what transpired between Christ and Peter, Barclay wrote "That must ever remain one of the great untold stories of the world," but I think this is an overstatement. Even without knowing the specifics, Maclaren was right to say, "We know nothing of what did pass; we know what must have passed." We are not without record here, and I don't hesitate in saying there were three things that must have passed from Christ to Peter during their meeting.

There passed a reason for faith. Christ's third appearance became the defining moment of Peter's life, the realest thing he ever experienced. Faith shattered by the horror of the crucifixion was restored by the fact of the resurrection. And this faith explains things Peter later did that would otherwise be inexplicable. Uninfluential and unknown, but certain of what he had seen (2 Peter 1:16-18), Peter preached the resurrection where Christ's greatest enemies lived, proclaiming victory where they claimed defeat (Acts 2:22-39). When told by the men he once cowered before to shut up, he said he couldn't (Acts 4:20); when beaten by them for speaking, he rejoiced (Acts 5:41). After Christ appeared to him, nothing could shake Peter loose from the certainty of what he had seen. A master of men was the Goodly Friend, / A mate o' the winds and the sea; / If they think they have slain our Goodly Friend, / They are fools eternally (Ezra Pound, Ballad of the Goodly Fere).

There passed a reason for hope. If we have reason for faith (Mark 2:10-11), says the writer of Hebrews, we have reason for hope (11:1). The old commentators called Peter the apostle of hope (Paul was the apostle of faith and John the apostle of love), and hope is clearly a keynote in his writing. "Blessed be the God ... who has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1.3). Hope—the unflinchable belief that God will keep His promises—lives because Christ

lives. When life clobbers us and grinds us in anguish, hope enables our spirit to stand on tiptoe (Romans 8:19, JBP) to where we can see above the present sorrow to the coming glory. Faith saves us from sin (Romans 1:17), but hope saves us from despair (Romans 8.24). Because of the resurrection, we know the best is yet to come.

There passed an expression of love. Hebrew numbers often symbolized a principle or quality, and it is generally agreed that the number seven, signifying completeness, was the most sacred number to the Jews. But there are times, Christ told Peter, when even seven isn't enough. "How often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21-22)—Christ doesn't mean 490 times but completely × fully × totally; that's the math of forgiveness (ten also symbolized completeness). If Peter didn't understand this before the Lord's appearance, I'm confident he did afterward. Don't you know there were lots of tears and sobs of remorse over his denials and unbelief... which were quieted by a love that does exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think?

Our Christianity hangs on the resurrection. By it, Christ gave every man a reason for faith, hope, and love. And by it, Christ gave every man a reason to walk the more excellent way (1 Corinthians 12:31, 13:13).

~via *Praire Papers*; Rantoul, Illinois.



Pride's Connection To Envy

Ken Mars

A neighbor comes over to your house to show you their new car. Your boss wants to tell you about his vacation in Hawaii. A friend tells you their daughter just received a full scholarship from three different universities. Are you happy for them? Can you "rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15)? Some can... and some cannot.

Why is it that some of us find it difficult to genuinely feel glad for our friends and brethren when some good fortune comes to them? Could it possibly be that when we see our neighbor's new car we are really saying to ourselves: "Why can't I have a new car too?" "I deserve it just as much as they do!" Or, try this one on for size: "What a shameless waste of money. Don't they have anything better to spend their money on than some fancy car/house/vacation? Why couldn't they have bought something cheaper and given the difference to the poor?" Shades of Judas.

You see, when we find ourselves criticizing someone's good fortune, it may be that we are not really critical of what has been done, but that someone else has prospered rather than us. We may even find it easier to say, "I'm so sorry," to one who has experienced some misfortune, because we are in fact quietly content that someone else is suffering and not us.

The real problem here is not just a weak spirit, but a dominating sense of the flesh... our flesh... our welfare... our own exclusive world of "me." When someone else prospers, it's not fair if we don't prosper also, and when another suffers, at least we are not suffering!

Few things could be as un-Christ-like as the inability or unwillingness to feel and show true compassion for a brother. The humble heart will naturally empathize with a brother's lot in life, whether prosperous or calamitous (1 Corinthians 12:24-26), but a proud heart will be impotent to understand another's circumstance. A Christian life without compassion is inconceivable. A Christian life without humility is impossible.

Envy

Envy is more than just wanting to have what others have or be as someone else. Envy seems to involve a measure of hatred. Paul enjoined envy with malice (Titus 3:3). Envy is married to resentment, and resentment is hard to hide. Pilate recognized the Jews and chief priests were moved with envy when they demanded that Jesus be crucified (Mark 15:10). The chief priests and rulers were not really concerned with the truth of Jesus, but with a self-centered heart they saw our Lord as a threat to their place in the Synagogue and with the people.

Several years ago a gospel preacher was fired. Over ten years later, that same preacher received a phone call one Sunday afternoon. The man on the phone was from the congregation that had earlier "terminated" this preacher. The caller was crying as he explained that he was the reason for the preacher's dismissal. He had

been a “favorite” of the congregation for several years until the new minister came. Everyone loved the new preacher and his wife, and they became the new favorites of everyone at the church. This brother couldn’t stand it so he began to secretly spread false rumors among the brethren about the new preacher.

The caller had made a public confession that morning at worship services and was now asking for forgiveness from the one he had wronged. What a tragedy! What a burden to carry for over a decade of one’s life! All because of selfish pride which conditioned this brother’s heart to envy.

Pride is insidious. It strips us of reality – the reality of ourselves and the reality of others. When we start comparing ourselves to others, we are faced with the never-ending task of explaining to ourselves why we don’t have or didn’t accomplish what others have. How torturous. How self-defeating. How foolish. Surely, selfish pride is the driving force in much of man’s disapproval of other men.

SOLUTION

The problem of envy could be solved in our lives if we would just humble ourselves toward each other as we do the Lord. Just think about this for a moment; we do not envy our Lord... why? Because we readily see that He is greater than ourselves. Likewise, we would not envy our brother if we would “esteem others better than [ourselves]” (Philippians 2:3).

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

Gospel Meeting

April 22-26, 2018

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:45 a.m; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday- 7:00 p.m.

Jim Deason, Speaking

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jo Dunnavant	James Johnson
JoAnn Gilbert	Cornelia Pepper
Marion Mitchell	Chuck Stiles
Bobbie Adcock	Doris Lovell
Ann Bush	Linda Jones
Cindy Glass	Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Jeanette Weir
Irene Inman	Janice Cagle
Patsy Thomas	Priscilla Tucker
Ella Melvin	Bobby McLemore
Matt Poff	Susan Cox
Elizabeth Howard	Al Pollard
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Ava Brooke Campbell	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville
Esther Jernigen; Huntsville Hosptial, rm. 791

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Flossie Smith, rm. 102
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Mable Crafts, rm. 39

Limestone Health Facility:

Larry Owens, rm. 114

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at City Center, 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
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Levi Terry is home from the hospital, but will return for some tests in a couple of weeks ... *Robert Beasley* fell recently and broke some ribs ... *Sherry Davis* was able to be back at services ... *Lenna Ruth Bates* was able to be back at services on Wednesday night.

GOSPEL MEETNG: The *Eastside church* in Scottsboro is beginning a meeting today and it will continue

through Wednesday. The speakers in the meeting are as follows: *Sunday—Keith Stonehart; Monday—Rhodes Davis; Tuesday—Justin Roberson and Wednesday—Jonathan Perz.*

SYMPATHY: We want extend our deepest sympathy to *Ashton and Bailey Gatlin* in the passing of Bailey's grandmother, *Jewel Mitchell*. She passed away on Tuesday morning. Her funeral was on Friday at the Ardmore Chapel. May the Lord bless all the family at this time...Also, we want to express our sympathy to *Bonita Dollar* and *all the family* in the passing of Bonita's brother-in-law, *Everett Dollar*, this past Wednesday evening. His funeral was in Gardendale at the Rideout Funeral Home on Saturday.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are thrilled that *Harold and Barbara Ashe* have let it be known that they want to join us in the work here. We are also thrilled that *Larry and Theresa Tucker* have let it be known that they desire to be a part of the work here. We look forward to working with them. Let us extend a warm welcome to Harold, Barbara, Larry and Theresa.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Chumbleys: Buc, Martha and Molly* are in Florida this week...*The Tuckers: Larry and Theresa* are in Memphis, Tennessee this week...*Jim Whitt* is in Seattle, Washington...*The Hamms: Joel, Sharma, Clayton and Ragan* are on vacation this week.

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

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning, *Kenia Adams* came forward asking for prayers for strength and forgiveness for not living her life as a Christian should. We appreciate the good heart that Kenia demonstrated and her desire to please God. May we all encourage Kenia as she has, and will encourage us.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of March 11th*
 Sunday: Bible Classes 132
 Morning Worship 176
 Evening Worship 126
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 113



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting A. J. Price
 Serving Charles Vaughn Landon Adams
 Clayton Hamm Danny Holt
 Closing Prayer Ashton Gatlin

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 18th:

Ushers..... Hunter Cox/Keith Hinkle
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, March 21st:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Bible Reading 2 Timothy 4:9-22
 Matthew Usery
 Prayer..... A. J. Price
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Sunday, March 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Steve Usery
 Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Keith Hinkle
 Assisting Larry Mitchell
 Serving Matthew Vaughn..... Keenon Currier
 David Terry Christian Usery
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Steve Usery
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Hunter Cox
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Keith Hinkle
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 25th:

Ushers..... Tommy Coblenz/Danny Holt
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams