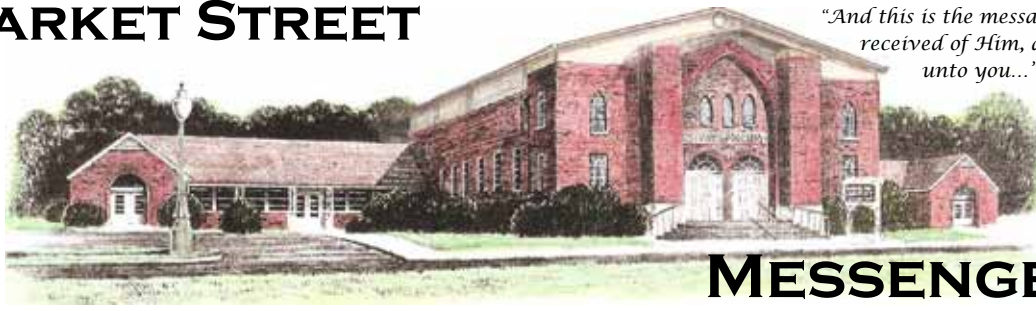


# MARKET STREET



*"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)*

# MESSENGER

**Market Street  
church of Christ**  
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Athens, Alabama 35612  
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## *Ignorance Is Not Bliss*

**David A. Cox**

It is common to hear people say that "Ignorance is bliss," but that is not always true. When I was in school and test day came, "ignorance was not bliss." The same is true with the knowledge of the Lord's will. God, speaking of the children of Israel said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Paul, speaking to those at Mars Hill said, "and these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men to repent" (Acts 17:30). From these two verses, surely there would not be anyone who would say, "Ignorance is bliss" when it comes to the will of God. Knowledge of the will of God is necessary for one to have faith (Romans 10:17) and please God (Hebrews 11:6).

In the letter Paul writes to the church at Ephesus, he said, "Therefore do not be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). Peter writes, "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Knowledge of the Lord's will is something all should be eagerly trying to acquire. There are several times in the New Testament where Christians are warned not to be ignorant of the following:

1. **Satan's devices.** Paul wrote, "lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). God's word warns us and gives the knowledge to be able to fight against Satan's attacks.
2. **Hope in Christ.** To the Thessalonians, Paul wrote, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Paul goes on to speak of the second coming of Christ and that all who are in Him will be raised to forever be with the Lord.
3. **God's plan for the future.** Peter wrote, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8). Peter is answering the scoffers of his day who were mocking the second coming of Christ, and he tells the Christians not to be ignorant.
4. **The righteousness of God.** Paul, writing about Israel said, "For they

### 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  
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Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871  
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### Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

### MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Christianity and to enhance the work of the  
Market Street church.*

*David A. Cox, Editor*

being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:3). The ignorance of Israel had led them to do "what was right in their own eyes" and had no concern for the righteousness of God.

Each individual needs to take time daily to read and study the word of God. It is a must that each one makes the time to meditate upon the teaching of the Lord and to make application to their life. The applying of God's word cannot be made until we know what God's will is, but merely knowing it will not change us either. We must grow! One thing is absolutely sure, if we do not spend the time to develop and grow in our faith, then we will be in the same condition as Israel of old.

Let each one of us determine that we will take time to be involved in Bible studies, both at public assemblies, as well as, personal private studies. In studying the word of God, we will learn what the "acceptable and perfect will of God" is. We will be able to make the will of God a part of our lives so that we will be found pleasing to the Lord.



## ***Are You Blessed?***

**Colly Caldwell**

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).*

There is a word in vogue in our society today that is used almost indiscriminately by people who identify themselves with Christ. It is the word "blessed" and you will hear it in several different settings. As you go through the drive through of your favorite fast food place or pass a kind hearted friendly stranger in the grocery store, she may say to you, "Have a blessed day." You may talk to your brother or sister in Christ at worship about your children, your work, or your health and say, "I am so blessed beyond what I deserve." Or you may even be thinking beyond this life and say with Paul, Blessed be God who has blessed me with all spiritual

blessings in Christ.

This word "blessed" can have a variety of meanings depending upon the context in which we think it. I am personally pleased when someone says, "Have a blessed day." I figure that is that person's attempt to express his faith and to show love because of his faith. And anyone who does not recognize the blessings of family, a good paying and fruitful job, and physical well-being ought to be more thankful. Surely we all want to thank God and praise Him for our salvation from sin and for our spiritual peace and joy in Christ. We are all blessed in ways we cannot even imagine and it all truly comes from our heavenly Father who loves us.

As with much good Biblical truth, people can get far afield from the things God wants us to appreciate the very most. For example, I read recently that numerous denominational churches are instituting a ceremony called "The Blessing of Animals." It provides an opportunity for animal lovers to bring their pets to their priest or pastor to lay hands on it, sprinkle some holy water, and give it a blessing. Some bring dogs and cats, of course, but others bring rabbits and horses. One American Eskimo dog was brought to see if a blessing would change his ways. He eats furniture, destroys rugs, and attacks people. His owner said he had truly earned the name "Devil Dog." Maybe that owner wanted an exorcism! Another animal, a cat named "Rusty," was so fearful of almost everything that she was compared to the lion in "The Wizard of Oz." The owner was hoping that the blessing would bring courage.

The Apostle Paul obviously had in mind "spiritual blessings" which ought to be the focus of our thoughts when we say to anyone that we blessed. What does it mean: "we are blessed?" Does it mean that everything is going our way? Maybe. Maybe not. Maybe not from a physical or earthly perspective at least.

Someone has told of a bag boy at the local grocery who has Down Syndrome. He insisted on carrying out this person's groceries to the car as part of his job. When he put them into the car, he turned and put his arms around the man, hugged him tightly, and said, "I like you." Al Keeney, the recipient of this expression of kindness, went home and wrote the following: "Now, some will say that when I see that young man in Heaven, he will have been made whole. In other words, they think he will be like the rest of us. But I wonder if, when by God's grace I am made whole, I won't be more like that young man than he like me. You see, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The bag boy was blessed with all those qualities and none of the pride or meanness that so often afflicts me.”

What a beautiful understanding of what it means to be blessed. Usually when we think of being blessed, we think of things like being blessed financially, with talent, or attractive appearance. Then we come to worship and run right into the Beatitudes: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad” (Matthew 5:4-12).

Is that what most people think when they say, “I am so blessed” or “Have a blessed day?” I don’t think so. Is it wrong to think or speak about the things we normally have in mind? Again, I don’t think so. But we must give thanks for all God’s blessings, and let’s remember that we are blessed most “**In Christ Jesus!**”

~via *Think On These Things*; Citrus Park, Florida.



## Gospel Meeting

September 16-19, 2018

(Sunday through Wednesday)

### Schedule of Services

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

Paul Sheehan, Speaking

**MARKET STREET  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

514 WEST MARKET STREET  
ATHENS, ALABAMA

# News & Notes...

### THE SICK:

Matthew Usery	Jewell Dean Kennemer
Danny Holt	Dan Lovell
James Johnson	Loretta Warner
Pat Nixon	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Ann Bush
Cornelia Pepper	Winfred Corsbie
Damien Powers	Linda Jones

### Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Patsy Thomas	Ella Melvin
Marvin Putman	Priscilla Tucker
Lucille Craig	Al Pollard
Cindy Glass	Una King Currier
Susan Cox	Wayne Gooch
Charles Burns	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Wayne Wooldridge
Linda Ordonez	Phillip Harwell
Cindy Walker	Gene Carpenter

### In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

*Jennifer Sellers*; UAB Hospital – Birmingham  
*Norman Hamm*; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

### Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

JoAnn Gilbert, rm 117	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 63	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Doris Reed, rm. 105

### Limestone Health Facility:

Stan Stanford, rm. 105

### 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  
Virginia Meyer, Traditions  
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

### Updates:

*Irene Putman* had a procedure done on her throat on Wednesday ... *Matthew Usery* has been recovering from his knee surgery last week ... *Drew Ogles* is doing bet-

