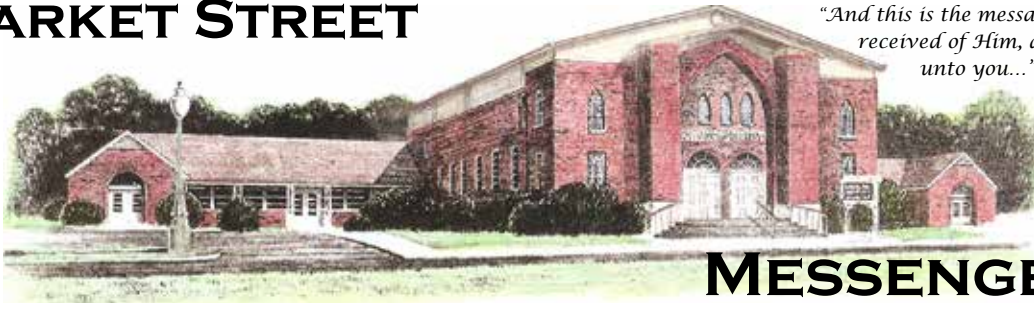


MARKET STREET

"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

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No. 41

The Lord Was With Joseph

Berlin R. (Buc) 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.*

Buc Chumbley, Editor

Genesis 39.2 says, "The LORD was with Joseph..." That is a astonishing statement when you consider all the things which had already happened to Joseph.

His brothers hated him and would have killed him if not for the intervention of Rueben, so they threw him into a pit instead. But "the Lord was with Joseph." He was sold into slavery and taken to a distant country, but "the Lord was with Joseph." While serving in Potiphar's house, he was framed by a wicked woman and thrown into prison, but "the Lord was with Joseph." While imprisoned for doing the right thing, he was forgotten by a man he had befriended, but throughout these terrible and tragic moments in his life, "the Lord was with Joseph."

Let me ask this. Are those the kind of things that happen when the Lord is with you? To me, it would be the things that would happen if the Lord was far from me. When the Lord turns His back on me.

Maybe we need to revise our notion of what it means when it says, "the Lord was with someone." Because the very kinds of things we think would never happen if the Lord is with you, happened to Joseph.

In Acts 10.38 while standing in the house of Cornelius, Peter says that Jesus, "went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Notice that Peter says that "God was with Him." I ask, was God with Jesus when He was being criticized? Was God with Him when He was being blasphemed? Was He with Him when Judas betrayed Him or when He was framed in Jewish court? Was God with Him when He was nailed to the cross? We would say no, but the Holy Spirit says otherwise. Again, maybe our idea of what it means to have the Lord with us, needs to undergo some serious revision.

I think part of the problem is that we only see a very small piece of the puzzle. We see ourselves and our little circle of influence, so we judge everything by what is happening to us. On the other hand, God sees the entire puzzle and He will use us in our small limited way to affect a much bigger picture. This is what Joseph came to understand.

In Genesis 39.5 because "the Lord was with Joseph" God blessed the Egyptian house. In Genesis 50.20 because "the Lord was with Joseph" God was able "to save many people alive." You see, it was much more than just about Joseph. It was the big picture God was looking at.

One thing we need to come to understand is that, God is working to save everybody. Sometimes He may put us into a situation that we don't understand. But He does so, knowing that He can use us in that situation to reach out and bless and hopefully save a soul.

GNOSTICISM

Mark Mayberry

By the end of the first century, the church of Jesus Christ faced serious challenges from without and within. The Roman Empire began persecuting Christians. Suffering and oppression were the common fate of believers. False teachers threatened to destroy God's people. The Judaizers were quickly followed by the Gnostics.

Gnosticism, which developed into a full-blown heresy in the second century, menaced the church for several hundred years. "By the beginning of the third century nearly all the more intellectual Christian congregations in the Roman Empire were markedly affected by it." [Renwick #1].

Gnosticism was a unique blending of Jewish legalism, Greek philosophical speculation and Oriental mysticism. It refers to "the thought and practice especially of various cults of late pre-Christian and early Christian centuries distinguished by the conviction that matter is evil and that emancipation comes through gnosis" [Webster].

"Gnosticism," stated Gwatkin, "is Christianity perverted by learning and speculation" (II, 73). The intellectual pride of the Gnostics changed the gospel into a philosophy. The clue to the understanding of Gnosticism is found in the Greek word from which its name is derived — gnōsis, "knowledge." The Gnostics claimed to be the elite, the wise, the philosophers, to whom was revealed a secret knowledge which the overwhelming mass of mankind could never know. [Renwick #2].

Until the middle of the twentieth century, most information concerning Gnosticism came from the church fathers who opposed it. However, in 1945 a collection of Gnostic scrolls were discovered at Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt which shed more light on this teaching. This discovery confirmed the accuracy of the church fathers in addressing this subject.

The Greek word gnōsis occurs 29x in the NT (Luke 1:77; 11:52; Romans 2:20; 11:33; 15:14; 1 Corinthians 1:5; 8:1, 7, 10, 11; 12:8; 13:2, 8; 14:6; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 4:6; 6:6; 8:7; 10:5; 11:6; Ephesians

3:19; Philippians 3:8; Colossians 2:3; 1 Timothy 6:20; 1 Peter 3:7; 2 Peter 1:5, 6; 3:18).

According to Thomas, it is derived from the verb ginōskō [to come to know, recognize, perceive], and is defined as "a knowing, knowledge" [1108].

BDAG say it describes "(1) comprehension or intellectual grasp of something, knowledge as possessed by God and humans; (2) the content of what is known, knowledge, what is known; (3) a dissident variety of knowledge, knowledge ... the oppositions of so-called knowledge (1Ti 6:20)."

Knowledge comes from God the Father (Romans 11:33-36, esp. vs. 33), Christ Jesus (1 Colossians 2:1-4), and the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:6-11; 13:8-10; 14:6).

John the Baptist (Luke 1:76-77) and the inspired apostles (2 Corinthians 2:14-17; 4:5-7; 6:4-7; 2 Corinthians 11:6) disseminated knowledge. Disciples of Christ should be filled with knowledge (Romans 15:14-16; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 2 Corinthians 8:7; Philippians 3:8-11; 1 Peter 3:7; 2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:17-18).

Dangers are also present with knowledge: rebellion (Luke 11:45-52, esp. vs. 52), hypocrisy (Romans 2:17-24, esp. vs. 20), pride (1 Corinthians 8:1-3), carelessness (1 Corinthians 8:4-13, esp. vs. 7, 10, 11), a lack of love (1 Corinthians 13:1-7, esp. vs. 2; cf. also Ephesians 3:14-19), and a reliance upon human speculation (2 Corinthians 10:1-6; 1 Timothy 6:20-21).

Gnostics believed that matter is wholly evil, and the physical body completely corrupt. However, this position denies repeated declarations of Scripture. The creation account repeatedly says, "God saw it was good" (Genesis 1:10, 12, 17-18, 21, 25) or "very good" (Genesis 1:31). According to the KJV translation of Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." "Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is gratefully received (1 Timothy 4:4-5).

Gnostics taught that the true God is unknowable and unapproachable, infinitely removed from the physical universe. How could One who is pure and perfect create a material world so corrupt and alien to the divine nature? "He did not," they answer. Gnosticism affirms the fullness of deity is separated

from the world by a series of emanations, aeons, or angels, "all of which are necessarily imperfect, the highest of them being more spiritual than the grade immediately below. Of these aeons there is a gradation so numerous that at length the lowest of them is almost wholly corporeal, the spiritual element having been gradually diminished or eliminated until at last the world of mankind and of matter is reached, the abode of evil. In this way the gulf is bridged between God and mankind. The highest aeons approximate closely to the divine nature, so spiritual are they and so free from matter. These form the highest hierarchy of angels, and these with many other grades of angelic hosts are to be worshipped." [A. M. Renwick, ISBE, Revised].

When one of these aeons was sufficiently remote from the Supreme God, and was on the borderland of light and darkness, he created the world, and did so badly. This was the Demiurge, i.e., the God of the Old Testament. Actively hostile to Supreme God, he created the evil material world. Therefore, according to Gnostic philosophy, Jehovah/Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Creator of the world, is not the ultimate Supreme Being. He is neither unique, good or competent.

A more blasphemous doctrine cannot be imagined. Holy Scripture affirms that God is singular, (Deuteronomy 6:4-5), good (Psalm 73:1), and also knowable (1 John 4:6-8).

Gnostics believed that Jesus was only one of many intermediaries between God and man. However, New Testament Epistles affirms that Christ holds a unique and supreme position (Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 1:1-4).

Gnostics denied the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Assuming the physical body is inherently wicked, they argued that God could not have come in the flesh. Therefore, Jesus was not fully human, but only appeared to be flesh and blood. Lacking a real body, he was a phantom, spirit, or ghost. However, Scripture declares "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Moreover, "the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:1-3, 14; cf. also 1 John 4:1-3). Proudful of their privileged class, Gnostics claimed to possess secret knowledge inaccessible

to the mass of humanity. Accordingly, the hope of salvation was not by grace through faith, but in esoteric understanding, mastering secret passwords and formulas, etc. However, the Bible says we must guard against human philosophy and speculation (2 Corinthians 10:5-6; Colossians 2:8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-4).

Gnosticism led to two extreme, opposite moral views: asceticism and licentiousness. Since the material realm is evil, one should withdraw from the world and abuse the physical body. Since the flesh is carnal, one may sin in the body, while serving God in the spirit. However, God's Word condemns both asceticism (Colossians 2:20-23; 1 Timothy 4:1-5) and immorality (Romans 6:1-7; 1 John 3:4-10).

Gnostics made drastic changes to the Bible. One Gnostic sect worshipped the serpent. One school turned the Scripture upside down and taught that Pharaoh and Ahab were saints while Moses and Elijah were sinners. In the Gospel of Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus is the hero of the plot rather than a villain. In contrast with such faithlessness, let us stand with the Psalmist, who said, "The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting" (Psalm 119:160). Let us agree with Agur, who said, "Every word of God is tested" (Proverbs 30:5-6), and Paul, who affirmed, "All Scripture is inspired by God..." (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

In historical terms, Gnosticism was an active religious movement during the 2nd and 3rd centuries. In comparative terms, it survives in the smorgasbord approach many today take toward religion. Recognizing the folly of trusting in human wisdom, let us be content with simple New Testament Christianity (Matthew 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31).

News & Notes

THE SICK:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Donna Wright | Winfred Corsbie |
| Helen Blankenship | Mildred Lambert |
| James Johnson | Loretta Warner |
| Doris Lovell | Jennifer Sellers |
| Linda Jones | Ann Bush |
| Damien Powers | |

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Janice Cagle | Jeanette Weir |
| Patsy Thomas | Ella Melvin |
| Marvin Putman | Lucille Craig |
| Cornelia Pepper | Al Pollard |
| Charles Burns | Ava Brooke Campbell |

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Cindy Glass | Una King Currier |
| Susan Cox | Wayne Gooch |
| Gene Carpenter | Cindy Walker |
| Elizabeth Howard | Wayne Wooldridge |
| Linda Ordonez | Phillip Harwell |

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Bobbie Adcock; Athens- Limestone Hospital – rm. 224
Dean Holt; Huntsville Hospital – MICU-17
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| JoAnn Gilbert, rm 117 | Kathleen Wales, rm. 110 |
| Mattye Murray, rm. 2 | Dorothy Draper, rm. 73 |
| Joyce Martin, rm. 63 | Christine Hudson, rm. 77 |
| Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36 | Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 |
| Leonard Clines, rm. 94 | |

Limestone Health Facility:

Doris Reid, 1600 W. Hobbs St. rm 108

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 Assisted Living
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison

UPDATES:

Continue to remember *Dean Holt* who is in serious condition in the STICU at Huntsville Hospital...*Betty Christopher* is in STICU at Hunstville Hospital.

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.

OUT OF TOWN:

David left for Grenada this past Friday morning and will be gone until the 23rd. Pray that he might be safe in his travels and bold in his preaching of Gods Word..*The Ash's* are in Kentucky today as well as *Brenda Haraway and Doris Fisher*

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Oct 7th

| | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Sunday: | Bible Classes..... 127 |
| | Morning Worship..... 172 |
| | Evening Worship..... 124 |

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| Wednesday: | Bible Classes..... 102 |
|------------|------------------------|

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 14th:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Tommy Coblentz |
| Song Leader | Joel Hamm |
| Prayer..... | Larry Mitchell |
| Preaching..... | Buc Chumbley |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding..... | Terry Andrews |
| Assisting..... | Harvey Nixon |
| Serving..... | Danny Johnson..... Sam Gregory |
| |Keenon Currier..... Tony Thomas |
| Closing Prayer | Danny Holt |

Evening Worship

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Announcements..... | Tommy Coblentz |
| Song Leader | Albert Haraway |
| Prayer..... | Bonnie Sutton |
| Preaching..... | Buc Chumbley |
| Lord's Supper | Terry Andrews |
| Closing Prayer | Harold Ash |

Other Assignments for the week of October 14th:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ushers..... | Heath Dollar/Ashton Gatlin |
| Work Sound System..... | Nathaniel Adams |

Wednesday, October 17th:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Song Leader | Tony Thomas |
| Bible Reading..... | Joy Warner |
| |Mark 9:14-29 |
| Prayer..... | Wayne Vaughn |
| Invitation..... | Harvey Nixon |
| Closing Prayer | Marion Mitchell |

Sunday, October 21st:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Dwaine Allfrey |
| Song Leader | Hunter Cox |
| Prayer..... | Albert Haraway |
| Preaching..... | Buc Chumbley |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding..... | Joel Hamm |
| Assisting..... | Larry Holt |
| Serving..... | Terry Andrews..... Kenneth Adams |
| |Matthew Usery.....Matthew Vaughn |
| Closing Prayer | Kenneth Adams |

Evening Worship

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Announcements..... | Dwaine Allfrey |
| Song Leader | Aston Gatlin |
| Prayer..... | Larry Tucker |
| Preaching..... | Buc Chumbley |
| Lord's Supper | Joel Hamm |
| Closing Prayer | Nathaniel Adams |

Other Assignments for the week of October 21st:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ushers..... | Steve Bradley, Danny Johnson |
| Work Sound System..... | Landon Adams |