

# 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

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### 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

### Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

**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*

## *"He Was Heard"*

**Frank Himmel**

The author of Hebrews says of Jesus, "In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety" (Hebrews 5:7).

This is a reference to Jesus' experience in Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion. Jesus prayed three times—intensely—that the Father would remove the cup He was about to drink, the suffering He was about to undergo.

Our text says, "He was heard." Jesus' experience that night teaches us several important lessons.

First, Jesus was heard because of His piety, His "godly fear" (NKJV). While Jesus prayed for what He, as a man, desired, He did so with a disposition to submit to whatever the Father's will was. "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will" (Mark 14:36).

When we pray, we must pray with confidence in the Father's wisdom as well as His power. Our perspective is limited. Just as a parent knows better than a child, our heavenly Father knows far better than we what is best. We must pray with a heart that is ready to accept whatever the Father's will is.

Second, though Jesus was heard, the Father's answer was no. Too often people view a prayer as "heard" only when the answer is yes, when the thing prayed for comes to pass just as the petitioner wished.

The Father said no to Jesus' request that He not have to drink the cup. At the same time, the Father said yes to Jesus' request that the Father's will be carried out. That teaches us that "heard" prayer is not necessarily granting the specific petition we have in mind, that which we assume is the best way to an end; it is, instead, granting what will most effectively accomplish God's greater purpose. Jesus' suffering, as difficult as it was for Him, brought infinitely greater blessings, both to Himself and to others, than the immediate relief of avoiding His crucifixion ordeal.

Third, while the Father did not grant Jesus' immediate desire, He did do what He could that was consistent with His will. He sent help. "Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him" (Luke 22:43). The Father did not take away the burden; instead, He strengthened the bearer. Surely that is as great an indication of "heard" prayer as granting the actual petition would have been.

May we grow in our understanding, and in our use, of the marvelous blessing of prayer.

~via *Patblights*; Bossier City, Louisiana.



## *Radical Surgery*

**Paul Earnhart**

"Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery" (Matthew 5:28). These are radical words and even kingdom citizens must struggle not to resist. Their severe probing of the heart brings pain as the Son of God touches the raw nerves of our moral diseases. Jesus, having dealt with the problem of hate and malice, now addresses the problem of lust. The Pharisees had certainly treated the issue of adultery, but only superficially. Their concern was to avoid a capital offense (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22). One can almost hear the way they said, "You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Jesus, in contrast, tracks the sin of adultery to its lair (Matthew 15:19). As the hatred of the heart is murder, so is the unbridled lust of the heart adultery.

This principle was not an obscure part of the Mosaic covenant. The tenth commandment pointedly said, "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife" (Exodus 20:17). Paul, while still a stranger to the gospel, and a Pharisee, had been severely penetrated by this command (Romans 7:7). Even Job, a man who apparently lived before the law, understood this ethical truth. "I have made a covenant with my eyes," he said, "Why then should I look upon a young woman?" (Job 31:1).

Though some extended application might be made from this passage to the raw and unprincipled carnal desire which some single person might harbor for someone similarly unattached, Jesus' use of the word "adultery"

makes clear that His present concern is with that illicit desire which violates the very spirit of the marriage covenant (2 Corinthians 11:2-3). The Lord's concern in this whole section is with our duty to love others. No married person can do justice to his mate while given over to unrestrained desire for another. Though yet a matter of the mind it is called what it is – sin.

The Lord is not dealing here with the mere momentary passing of desire through the mind; otherwise there would be no distinction between temptation and sin. (We should not be aghast at the suggestion that the lust of the flesh might have made its approach to the mind of our Savior while He remained sinless, Hebrews 4:15.) The words, "looks at a woman to lust for her," help us to understand the exact nature of the transgression. This is not a fleeting thought but the gathering up of one's mind for the purpose of lusting. The Greek text describes a person who directs his thoughts or turns his mind to a thing; in this case, lusting after a woman (or a man). Obviously, we do not look at everything we see. The eye takes in a vast panorama and it is left for the mind to focus the attention. David's sin was not in seeing the unclothed Bathsheba but in looking upon her, setting his mind and ultimately his unbridled lust upon her (2 Samuel 11:2-5). David wanted the opportunity to possess Bathsheba, and found it. His violation of Exodus 20:17 would have been no less had that opportunity never presented itself.

Although the English word "lust" accurately connotes the sensual overtones of the Greek verb (*epithumeo*), it may lack the attendant thought of possession which is inherent in it (Guelich, *The Sermon on the Mount*, p. 194). The sin being described by Jesus is the calculated cultivation of the desire to possess one to whom you have no right. If this sin is to be escaped, the very first approach of such thoughts must be decisively rejected, before they can take possession of the mind and will. In the language of an old proverb: "You cannot keep the birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair." If we find difficulty in distinguishing between the temptation and the sin in this case it is far wiser to err on the side of caution than on the side of recklessness.

The war of the kingdom citizen with lust in these times is destined to be severe and hard-fought. We are not going to easily escape the miasma of lasciviousness, fornication and adultery that has descended on this generation. Let no disciple be smug (1 Corinthians 10:12). There are no societal restraints to lean on. Our strength and defense must reside wholly in our own deep and

unshakable resolve to keep ourselves pure for the Lord's sake. In the final analysis that is where the issue of our faithfulness in the kingdom has always been decided. "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

~via *DAppying God's Word*; Louisville, Kentucky



## *Looking to the New Year*

**David A. Cox**

Today is the last Sunday in 2018. As we come to the end of another year, I can't help but reflect on the past year and the blessings that God has so richly blessed us with this past year.

The greatest blessing is the relationship we have with God. The forgiveness of sins that is possible due to the gift of God's Son and Christ's willingness to die on the cross for our sins.

Associated to this blessing is the blessing and privilege to share with one another the relationship of brothers and sisters in Christ. As children of God and members of the family of God, we have not only shared sorrows and trial but also experienced joys of one another. Indeed to be a part of the church at Market Street is truly a blessing for the Cox family.

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Buc, Martha and Molly Chumbley. It has been great working with Buc and it has been a hand and glove fit. I appreciate Buc and the work he does and will continue to do.

I hope that as we look to the new year, each one will take time to build their faith stronger in the coming days. There is a great work to do and the Market Street church has an excellent opportunity to see the lost taught and converted to the cause of Christ. The Market Street church has long been a church that loves the truth and loves the souls of men. As we enter the new year may we continue to love one another looking with hope to the promises waiting for God's children. May we look intently to the saving of the souls of men.

## *Farewell*

**Berlin R. (Buc) Chumbley**

Joshua, the great leader of Israel, was "old and stricken in years" when he delivered his farewell address (Joshua 23:1ff). It is very likely, this was his last public appearance because it wasn't long after that he would die at the ripe old age of 110 (Joshua 24:29). In Joshua's remarks before his kinsmen, he reminded them of their past, and challenged them regarding its future.

Today marks the last time I will stand before you as one of the "local evangelists." Time has seemingly flown by since September of 2017. Over these past sixteen months I have seen baptisms and restorations, words of encouragement and prayers for the discouraged. Most of all I have seen a congregation dedicated to the spirit of unity, for the greater glory of God.

As I look back over these months, there are so many personal things I could mention. I could mention about the men who gave up their Saturday to come to Hueytown and loaded us up for our move back to Athens. I could mention the numerous words of encouragement that have been said to me directly or through text, email, or snail mail.

I could mention the five Godly men who serve as Shepherds of this flock, that I have had the pleasure of working with. The deacons who have taken care of the "nuts and bolts" of worship service, making David and my job so much easier. I could mention the times we have laughed together and grieved together, and times when we reminisced about those who have gone on before us.

So many things I could mention, but most of all, I want you all to know that when we think back about our short time spent with the church at Market Street, nothing but fond memories and warm thoughts will fill my heart.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

Paul Adcock

Peggy Mitchell

Tony Thomas

Loretta Warner

Bobbie Adcock

Myrtle Ruth Barnett

Tena Wells

Betty Bollton

JoAnn Gilbert

Ann Bush

Doris Lovell

