

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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No. 25

Prepare for the Race

David A. Cox

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 Coblenz.....(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

Evangelist

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

The World Police and Fire Games is an event that takes place every two years. Police officers and firefighters from around the world gather at the city chosen to host the games to compete for the typical athletic competitions as well as, contests that are tailored to the specific function of their work. For example, firefighters are timed while carrying various equipment items while wearing heavy attire for their work. The purpose of these competitions is to help them practice the skills they need in their work and to help prepare them when the emergency call comes to them.

In Hebrews 12, the Hebrew writer is reminding Christians that they must prepare for the race they are running. "Therefore, seeing we also are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Lay Aside the Weights. The Christian's preparation to run the race of life, the analogy is that in a long distance race, like a marathon. No one would run a long-distance race carrying around extra weight to burden them as they run. In the race of life, many things serve as distractions to our entirely devoting our lives to the service of Christ. Some of these things may not actually be sinful in and of themselves, but they hamper us as we strive to serve. We must honestly look at our lives and see if there are things which are hindering us in being fully committed to serving Christ. It may be in our work, hobbies, etc. We must shed any excess baggage as we run the race of life.

Lay Aside the Sin. The rejection of sin is an absolute must if we are to finish the race with the victory. Sin will destroy us spiritually, taking us away from God. We must stand against sin and do all we can to avoid it. We must not let sin and the weights of life be reattached to us in the race we run.

Let us remember the exhortation of the Hebrew writer to prepare and remain focused on the long-term race, and not be turned away by short-term distractions.

He Took The Initiative

Ryan Goodwin

What has God done for us? That is the question that many ask when confronted with the Gospel. Some choose to never obey because they do not believe God has done anything – others see God as an inactive being who, though He is the apparent impetus behind creation, remains aloof with His creation. But the very first words of Genesis 1:1 speak of an entirely different God. “In the beginning God...” These words tell us of a God who acts, who takes initiative, who creates, speaks, and intimately involves Himself in the affairs of the world beneath Him. The Bible is, in fact, the religion of an initiating god. “Before man existed, God acted. Before man stirs himself to seek God, God has sought man. In the Bible, we do not see man groping after God; we see God reaching after man. Many people visualize a god who sits comfortably on a distant throne, remote, aloof, uninterested, and indifferent to the needs of mortals, until, it may be, they can badger Him into taking action on their behalf. Such a view is wholly false” (Basic Christianity, Stott, p. 11). Long before man thinks to seek God, before it even occurs to him, the Father is actively seeking him. God takes the initiative, leaves His throne, and stoops to our level so that He might lift us up (Romans 5:6-8). “Even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 2:5-6).

What has God done for you lately?

God Has Created You – We seem to forget how very much we need God, even in the most basic way. Without His creative force, we would not exist. We owe our lives to Him. Every time we breathe, every glass of water we drink, every night of sleep, every sunset, every meal – our lives are in His hands. We owe it to Him to seek after Him. For as much as He does for us, is it really that much to worship, love, and obey the Heavenly Father? We could not have created ourselves, and we cannot create anything new now (Ecclesiastes 1:10).

God Has Spoken To You – God will never leave us in the dark without answers. He longs to reveal to us what we need – and it is only our stubborn, unrelenting, dull hearts that prevent us from hearing every word of life (Hebrews 5:11-14). Friends, we need His words. No

words will guide us as His do. In them we have everything we need (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We have insights into the mystery of Christ (Ephesians 3:3-5).

God Has Acted On Your Behalf – “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost” (1 Timothy 1:15).

Jesus Christ is our propitiation, which means that He is our intercessor before the throne of God (1 John 2:1-2). If that is not enough, then what more would you ask of your Savior?

He died on a cross on our behalf.

He left His place of power and glory to be a human and endure all things we do (Philippians 2:6-7, Hebrews 4:15-16).

~via *Spiritual Thinking*, Collierville, Tennessee.



Quiet Moments with Jesus

Wilson Adams

Staying connected is big business in our technoculture. Smart phones, e-mail, Facebook, Texting, and Twitter give us instant access 24/7/365. And while that has its advantages, it has equal disadvantages.

For example, how much time do we spend building face-to-face relationships? Have we become addicted to phones and laptops to the point that a keyboard or I-Pad is the same to us as a nicotine fix is to a tobacco addict? Some can't seem to live without them! To some, the very idea of “unplugging” and spending quiet moments with real people is unnerving. That's sad.

And how much time do we spend in quiet moments with God? Is God some distant Deity or is He your friend and confidant with whom you walk each day? That's not a hard question. Do you know about Him or do you know Him? That's not a hard question either.

The majority has little understanding of how the Creator seeks intimacy with the created (Isaiah 3:7; John 3:16). It's equally sad how a great number of believers

engage in a shallow “Sunday-only” relationship with Him—as if God lives in a box we drag out on the first day of the week. Jesus said, “This is eternal life that they may know Him” (John 17:3). How well do you know Him?

- How many times have you talked on the phone this week versus how many times you have talked with Him?
- How often do you connect with friends on Facebook versus how often you connect with Him in His Book?
- How many quiet moments have you had this week when you allowed yourself to find peace in His presence?

Do you need to unplug? It’s amazing how quiet music (or quiet nothing) can calm frazzled minds and restore a sense of calm and well-being. How many times did Jesus get away from the hustle-bustle of the day’s busyness and find a quiet place to pray? Luke 5:16 says He did it often. Was He less busy than you? There never has been One with more to do and less time to get it done than Jesus. Yet He made time for what mattered. Do you? Unplug the cord, hit the “OFF” button on the remote, open your Bible, find your prayer closet, and enjoy some quiet moments with the Lord.

~via *Veterans Parkway Church*, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Elease Barksdale	Peggy Pepper
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Kennedy Pepper
Bobbie Adcock	Ann Bush
Lloyd Adams	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Donna Wright	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Robert Beasley	Jeanette Weir
Cornelia Pepper	Pat Wulfekuhl
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier

Matt Poff	Susan Cox
Gene Carpenter	Cindy Walker
Wayne Wooldridge	Brittany Bates Carter

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Myrtle Ruth Barnett; Athens-Limestone Hosp, ICU
Bonnie Sutton; Athens-Limestone Hosp, rm. 211
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Deanie Britton, rm. 123	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Eva Lovell, rm. 117
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Randy McConnell, rm. 90

Limestone Health Facility:

Robert Beasley, rm. 109

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Mot Beasley, at City Center, Decatur
 Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Bettye Harrison, Traditions
 Irene Inman, at home
 Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Ross Melvin had to spend the night in the hospital in Huntsville due to some bleeding issues following his heart cath last week ... *Donna Wright* had a PET scan done on Monday... *Louise Melvin* had cataract surgery done this past Monday on her second eye... *Jewel Dean Kennamer’s granddaughter, Brittany Bates Carter* continues to take treatments for her cancer in Huntsville.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Bradleys: Steve & Marilyn* are in Houston, Texas... *Joe Hinkle* has been in Michigan visiting with family... *Christian Usery* is in Waterbury, Connecticut for a work assignment... *The Whitts: Jim & Jackie* are in Iowa with Jim’s work... *The Wulfekubls: Russ, Lisa & Ali* on vacation this week... *Chuck Stiles* is in the United Arab Emirates with his work.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The *Midway church* in Lauderdale county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Jeff May* will be the speaker... The *Underwood Heights church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Dwight McGee & Stacy Crim* will be the speakers... The *Mt. Zion church* will be having a VBS Monday through Friday evenings... The

Jordan Park church in Huntsville will be a VBS Monday through Friday mornings.... The *New Georgia church* in Lauderdale county will be having a VBS Monday through Friday. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in the adult class... The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee will begin a VBS today through Thursday evening. The speaker in the adult class will be *Adam Jones*.

LECTURES: The *CEI Lectureship at Athens Bible School* begins Monday evening. It will be at the New Campus. The speakers, times and topics are on the bulletin board in the vestibule..

WEDDING SHOWER: There will be a wedding shower for *Brettlyn Currier*, the bride elect of *Josh Miller*. The shower will be this afternoon at the *home of Sheila Holt* from 1:30 to 3:30.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies Bible class will only be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Limestone Manor at 10:00 a.m.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: We are looking at starting a men's Bible class. We are wanting to see the interest in the class. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the west wing or in the front vestibule. If you are interested in the class, please sign the sheet.

PICTURES: We are in the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing.

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 June 16th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	139
	Morning Worship	190
	Evening Worship	135
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	107



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Harold Ash
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Matthew Vaughn.... Clayton Hamm
.....	Tim Griswold..... Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Kenneth Adams
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for the week of June 23rd:

Ushers.....	Steve Bradley/Danny Holt
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, June 26th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading	Marcus Morris
.....	Philippians 2:12-18
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Invitation	Dan Reed
Closing Prayer	Larry Holt

Sunday, June 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	Zack Howard
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Marty Adams
Assisting	Steve Usery
Serving	Charles Vaughn Will Chumbley
.....	Kenneth Adams.... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching	Brendon Kirby
Lord's Supper	Steve Usery
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of June 30th:

Ushers.....	Danny Holt/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams