

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 XI

September 1, 2019

No. 35

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

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 Step of Death

Ken Weliever

C. R. Nichol was one of the great preachers, teachers and religious writers of the late 19th and early 20th century. He was known, not only for his scholarly work but for his wisdom and quick wit.

One morning, while taking a walk, a friend cheerily greeted him, "Good morning, Bro. Nichol, I see that you're still in the land of the living."

Without missing a beat, Nichol quickly quipped as he walked on, "No. I'm in the land of the dying. But I hope one day to go to the land of the living."

I've been thinking about living and dying a lot lately. Especially since I've been preparing this summer to speak about death at the Charlestown Road church in New Albany, Indiana. The theme of their annual summer series was "Each Step I Take."

Previous preachers have addressed what it means to walk in the steps of the Savior. Last night I presented the final lesson in the series, appropriately entitled, "The Final Steps with the Lord." To prepare and present the lesson was a sobering assignment. It reminded me personally that there is a final step to be taken. And my job was to impress on others the seriousness of living life with a view to that final step.

David's statement, as he was constantly dodging the daggers of King Saul who sought to take his life, is a good reminder. "There is only a step between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3).

The step of death is certain. The Bible teaches it is a divine appointment that none of us will escape (Hebrews 9:27). The Psalmist expressed this reality we all must face.

*The days of our lives are seventy years;
And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,
Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;
For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
So teach us to number our days,
That we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Ps 90: 10,12)*

However, paradoxically, there is also uncertainty about death. When

will it occur? Where? How? We don't know. Some live well past 80 to 90. More and more people are living to 100. Yet, others take this final step in infancy. Or in the bloom of youth.

Since, we don't know "what will be on the morrow," every day and all of our plans ought to be made with the caveat, "if the Lord wills" (James 4:13-14). Furthermore, we must entrust our lives to the Shepherd who leads us, so we will not fear as we "walk through the valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23:4).

Death is a natural step. We often act as if something strange or unnatural has occurred when someone dies. But it is a part of God's eternal purpose. "A time to be born, and a time to die (Eccl. 3:1-2). It is a step we must accept. Not only in the lives of our loved ones. But in our lives as well.

Death is our final earthly step. There's no coming back. No second chance. No return. So, the wise man's advice is well taken. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Eccl. 9:10).

Death can be a step that encourages others. When we live a faithful life and face death with courage, confidence, and calmness, we become a powerful witness to the world regarding the Christian hope. Recently we attended a celebration of life for our departed friend Nancy Wyckoff. She requested a celebration, not a funeral. Among the songs she picked was "Sing and Be Happy Today." What an encouragement Nancy was, both in life and in death.

Death is a victorious step. Paul's attitude toward life and death is summed up in a single sentence. "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). When we live a faithful Christian life, in the Lord, death becomes a step of victory. We can look forward to the transformation of the resurrection day that Paul discussed in 1 Corinthians 15. We will be given a better body. To dwell in a better home. And live in a better land.

Through Christ, the enemy of death is conquered. And we can look forward to leaving the land of the dying and going home to the land of the living.

~via *The Preacher*, Homosassa, Florida.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

"Have I Become Your Enemy?"

Frank Himmel

Paul once asked his audience, "Have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16). It's a great question. It's one we would all do well to consider because when someone tells us we are wrong in some way, we often don't like it, and sometimes we don't react well. Truth is truth, however, and we need to hear it.

Was Nathan David's enemy for telling him the truth about his sin with Bathsheba? David had coveted his neighbor's wife and committed adultery, then utilized deceit, drunkenness and murder in the coverup. He may have known this was all wrong (see Psalm 32:3-4), but he was unrepentant and acting as though nothing had happened. Nathan tactfully confronted him, then denounced his wrong in the plainest of terms, resulting in a much-needed confession (2 Samuel 12:1-15).

David never had a more valuable friend than Nathan. Neither will I, if, when my attitude or conduct is not what God says it should be, someone cares enough and is courageous enough to tell me the truth about myself. Unmasking sin is not "hate speech;" it is love.

Was Paul the Athenians' enemy for telling them the truth about their false religion? The Athenians, as Paul noted, were very religious people (Acts 17:22), but they were idolaters. They worshiped in ignorance, making numerous wrong suppositions about who God is and how we serve Him. Paul explained how they were wrong, then called on them to repent (vv. 23-31). Some did, some put him off, and others sneered. In other cities Paul was treated far less kindly for preaching the truth.

No matter how religious I am, if I believe what is false, even if I do so ignorantly or sincerely, I need a friend to tell me the truth.

The context of the question in our opening paragraph is Paul warning the Christians at Galatia against false teachers. Those who followed their teaching were "severed from Christ" and "fallen from grace" (5:4). Too often, faithful preachers who expose error are accused of being "troublers of Israel" (1 Kings 18:17). The truth is, they are faithful friends; it is those who advocate something other than God's standard who are the troublers of God's people.

We must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and seek to restore in a spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1). Those who do that are not our enemies; they are our greatest friends.

~via *Path Lights*, Bossier City, Louisiana.



Winning Souls

Paul C. Keller

Winning Souls “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”

(Proverbs 11:30)

Let us not forget our responsibility to the lost. We have been saved by the gospel of Christ. It is ours to take that gospel to others. Truly we have been saved to serve. Paul felt himself a debtor to all men — not because of what they had done for him but because of what the Christ had done for him. He could pay his debt by preaching the gospel to others. (Romans 1:15, 16) He said, “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” and was “made all things to all men,” that he “might by all means save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:16, 22). But, what debt did Paul owe that WE do not owe? Did not the same Christ who saved Paul save US? Is not the gospel by which Paul was saved the gospel by which we are saved? Is not the gospel still “the power of God unto salvation”? (Romans 1:16) And is it not our responsibility to take this gospel to others? (Mark 16:15, 16; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Timothy 3:15) What are WE doing about it? What are YOU doing about it?

Yes, “he that winneth souls is wise.” He is working with the most valuable material (Matthew 16:26). He is doing a work that is far reaching and lasting — reaching into eternity itself. He is doing his duty — a duty enjoined upon him by the Lord and a duty that love for his fellowmen requires. (Mark 16:15; Matthew 22:39; 7:12) He is working with God. What an honor! What a privilege!

Let each of us give himself to faithfully teaching God’s truth to others, taking advantage of every

opportunity to speak to our associates of the Christ and His truth, leading them to become obedient to the gospel. Let us work at the job of “winning souls.”

~via *The Beacon*, Columbia, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Beverly Sutton	Arvid McGuire
Sherry Davis	Gayle Ball
Kenia Adams	Joy Warner
Loretta Warner	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Bobbie Adcock
Ann Bush	Lloyd Adams
Yvonne Strickland	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Arvid McGuire
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Janice Cagle	Judy Vaughn
Ella Melvin	Jeanette Weir
Cornelia Pepper	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier	Matt Poff
Gene Carpenter	Brittany Bates Carter

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Alvis McLemore, rm. 107	Flossie Smith, rm. 120
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Brenda Wilson, rm. 73
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Limestone Health Facility:

Robert Beasley, rm. 110	Mot Beasley, rm. 110
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Shut-In or Away From Home:

Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 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:

Donna Wright completed his treatments this week chemo and radiation treatments this week...**Beverly Sutton** has not been as well this week...**Arvid McGuire** fell Wednesday morning and was not able to be at services Wednesday night.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class*, will meet next Monday evening in the East Auditorium.

LADIES' BIBLE CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* that meets monthly on Monday night will resume meeting in the fall.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care.

DOORTODOOR: We will plan to go out this coming Saturday morning, September 7th, to knock on doors to meet and invite people to our gospel meeting. We will meet at the building at 9:00 a.m.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college:

- Keenon Currier*, Auburn University
- Clayton Hamm*, University of North Alabama
- Griffin Holt*, University of Alabama
- Elizabeth Usery*, Mississippi State University
- Matthew Usery*, University of North Alabama

OUT OF TOWN: *Will Chumbley* is in Illinois this weekend visitng with family...*Mike Ogles* has been in Auburn with his work...*Jim & Jackie Whitt* are in Pine Bluff, Arkansas with his work...*Christian Usery* continues working in Connecticut.

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

THE RECORD: *Average for the month of August:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	141
	Morning Worship	180
	Evening Worship	124
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	103



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Holt
Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting	Mike Ogles
Serving	Marvin Putman
	David Terry
	Kenneth Adams.....
	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Holt
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Larry Tucker
Preaching.....	Ossafa Gordon
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Bill Eden

Other Assignments for the week of September 1st:

Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, Septembert 4th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading	Danny Johnson
	Titus 3:1-8
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Sunday, September 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Marty Adams
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Charles Vaughn
	Sam Gregory
	Christian Usery
	Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Albert Haraway

Other Assignments for the week of September 8th:

Ushers.....	Landon Adams/Steve Bradley
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews