

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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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Volume XI

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Drawing Nearer To God

David A. Cox

This week we will enter a new year. The year 2020. As we enter the new year, it reminds of the old song we sometimes sing that says,

*"Swiftly we're turning life's daily pages,
Swiftly the hours are changing to years.*

Indeed, life is passing by quickly, and the past year is a memory now and forever. As we think of the past year, let each of us ask ourselves the question in the song, "How are we using God's golden moments? Shall we reap glory, or shall we reap tears?" The question is sobering but true. Each day our lives are spent either being what God desires us to be or being what the world would have us to be. Let each one determine that this year will draw us closer to God and helping others to do the same.

It is indeed the greatest blessing to have a relationship with the Lord. What can I do to make that relationship more meaningful and stronger? There are four things I will suggest that will help you in your relationship with God.

- 1. Take Time to Pray.** To draw closer to God, one must give more time to God in prayer. Jesus taught that "men ought always to pray" (Luke 18:1). Prayer does not just happen. Each one must determine to make an effort and to take the time to pray. As one prays, he draws closer to God. Prayer is essential if one is to remain close to God.
- 2. Read and Study God's Word.** Drawing closer to God will require that one spend time reading and studying the word of God. Getting to know the mind of our Father in heaven will help one to be more like Him. The world will not give us this standard, but the word of God provides us with the standard and reveals the mind of God to us (John 12:48; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16). When one is drawn closer to God, then necessary virtues will be added to our lives (2 Peter 1:5-7). The qualities mentioned here will replace the problems that hinder spiritual growth, such as selfishness, worldliness, and a lack of commitment.
- 3. Submit to God.** As we read the scriptures, let us submit ourselves to the ways of God. In James 4, we read, "Therefore submit to God.

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
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (v. 7-8a). When you submit to God, you will be resisting the devil, and this will allow God to draw near to you. Submitting to God then is not passive but active. It is not just stating, “I believe,” but actively living your faith.

4. **Grow in Faith and Service.** The growth of faith does not just happen; it must be cultivated. If one is to grow in faith and service, one thing that he must do is to be present and involved in the assemblies of the church. The Hebrew writer is encouraging Christians to grow in faith and service. In Hebrew 10:24-25 he tells them, “to consider one another so as to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..., but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.” The writer connects the growth of faith and service that comes from the assembling together. We must understand the value in study, prayer, teaching in song, giving and reflecting upon God’s will, and His marvelous grace has upon my life, causing me to be drawn nearer to God.

Let us each resolve to draw closer to God and to encourage those around us to do the same. We shall only live for a brief time (James 4:14) and time is swiftly passing. Let us not misuse “God’s golden moments” and reap tears for eternity. Instead, let us use them diligently doing His will and enjoy the blessings for eternity.



Face Reality

Dan Lankford

Here’s a piece of practical advice straight from the Bible: It’s healthy to attend a funeral once in awhile (Ecclesiastes 7:2). That’s not to say that it’s pleasant, but it is healthy for the young, the middle-aged, and the aged to face the reality that it presents us with. Namely, that life is finite. Everyone dies, and knowing that increases our consciousness of how we live (see Psalm 90:9-12).

It’s often not very fun to face reality, but God calls us to do it. He wants us to live with a firm intellectual grasp on the hard facts of existence. And there are plenty

of areas where it’s necessary for believers.

Authentic confession and repentance of sin requires a hard look at what we’ve actually done with our hands and thought in our hearts.

Godly family life requires a hard look at our own habits toward our spouses and our children, and it also occasionally demands that we face the reality of their lives (e.g. not making excuses for our kids, etc).

Biblical money management calls us to face the reality of how we use our money. Are we living beyond our means? Are we slaves to debt? Are we using money mainly for our fulfillment or for God’s things?

The list could go on for a long time, but our job would be the same for each item on it: to face the realities of life, the Bible, God, and ourselves and determine whether they match up as they should. It’s always easier to let life pass us by in a haze of half-awareness, but it’s always healthier to face reality and adjust to live a better life as a result.

~via *Eastland church of Christ*; Louisville, Kentucky.



Truth, or Party, Which?

James W. Adams

Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of the Church of England (1613-1617), was one of the most gifted scholars of his time. He was also one of the most controversial by reason of his independent thinking and outspoken views. He was the author of the following challenging statements regarding the apostolic age of the church: “There was at first no distinction of sects and opinions in the church. She knew no difference of men but good and bad. There was no separation made but what was made by piety or impiety, or which is all one, by fidelity or infidelity. The kingdom of God did not then consist in words but in power, the power of godliness. Now, we are fallen into another method. We have turned all religion into faith, and our faith is nothing but the production of interest or disputing. It is adhering to a party and a wrangling against all the world beside. If it is asked of what religion one is, we understand the

meaning to be: What faction does he follow? What are the articles of his sect? Not, What is the manner of his life? And if men be zealous for their party and that interest, then they are precious men, though otherwise they be covetous as the grave, factious as Dathan, schismatical as Corah, or proud as the fallen angels.” While there are some of Mr. Taylor’s statements with which I would find difficulty agreeing in all of their implications, the main thrust relative to the party spirit is both true and challenging.

However, I sincerely doubt that he intended to deprecate the necessity or value of a zealous attachment to truth in religion. He was too much the controversialist himself for this to be true. He was warning against a real danger which not only existed in his time, but it continues to plague religion to this hour. In the past twenty-five years, churches of Christ have passed through a period of great controversy and consequent division. In times of controversy, the party spirit is always rife. Even those on the side of truth must be careful lest they make the standard of orthodoxy and fellowship to be: agreement with them on the issues which are the subject of controversy, and, as Mr. Taylor suggests, disregard the fact that many who agree with them on the current, controversial issues are: “as covetous as the grave, as factious as Dathan, as schismatical as Corah, and as proud as the fallen angels.” And we might add to that: as worldly as Demas, as arrogant and overbearing as Diotrephes, and as sensual as the Corinthian fornicator. An individual can become a sectarian through an inordinate desire to be victorious in controversy. Victory for truth neither demands unethical methods of warfare nor undue emphasis on one facet of Divine truth to the practical disparagement of another equally important facet of Divine truth. If I am willing to condone by toleration obvious violations of the Lord’s teaching on the part of an individual simply because he happens to be sound on current issues (i.e., agrees with me), I am a sectarian. In the Lord’s service, we are not to seek for sectarian conquests over others, but to “save ourselves and others” (1 Timothy 4:16).

~via *Plain Path*; Katy, Texas..

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.
 Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Larry Holt	Barbara Ash
Tommy Greene	Janice Cagle
Vicki Stringer	Helen Blankenship
Minnie Carter	Beverly Sutton
Bobbie Adcock	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	JoAnn Gilbert
Alvis McLemore	Yvonne Strickland
Lloyd Adams	Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	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	Denny Smith
Carrie Warner	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Johnnie Leigeber, rm. 45
Brenda Wilson, rm. 73	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Flossie Smith, rm. 96	

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 105	Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
Virginia Meyer, rm. 99	Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Elease Barksdale, Limestone Lodge
 Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Irene Inman, at home
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Charles Vaughn continues to recover from his recent knee surgery... *Barbara Ash* was not able to be at services last week due to blood pressure... *Vicki Stringer* started a series of treatments on Friday... *Arvid McGuire* is at home following his hospital stay last week.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium, will resume their regular weekly meetings on Tuesday, January 7th at 10:00 a.m.

THE MONTHLY LADIES' CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* that meets monthly in homes will be meeting on Monday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m. They will be meeting at *Scottie Reed's* home.

PICTURES: We are needing to finish the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. If you have not had your picture made yet or have not updated it, please do so this week or next. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* will meet January 20th at 7:00p.m. We will be studying "*Be An Encourager*".

OUT OF TOWN: *Tena Wells* has been in Seattle, Washington for the holidays... *The Tuckers: SLarry & Theresa* are in Kansas City, Missouri this week... *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* are in Houston, Texas... *The Hamms: Joel, Sharma, Clayton & Ragan* are on vacation in Florida this week... *The Coblentz's: Tommy & Marcella* were in Birmingham this week for Christmas.

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 Dec. 22nd:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	132
	Morning Worship	183
	Evening Worship	114
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	98



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Harold Davis
	Christian Usery
	Matthew Usery.....
	Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Kenneth Adams
Preaching.....	Nathaniel Adams
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Other Assignments for the week of December 29th:

Ushers.....	Heath Dollar /Danny Johnson
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, January 1st:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading	Clayton Hamm
.....	Hebrews 7:1-10
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin

Sunday, January 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Holt
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Heath Dollar
	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Roger Hammonds ..
	Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer	Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Holt
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for the week of January 5th:

Ushers.....	Steve Bradley/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Marty Adams