

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 XII

January 19, 2020

No. 3

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 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 Righteous Shall Flourish Like Palm Tree”

Joshua Welch

We do not have the luxury of seeing many palm trees here in Columbus, Ohio. This time of year they are a welcome sight though. It usually means we have traveled to a warmer climate for a few days! The 92nd psalm uses a simile to compare “the righteous” to flourishing “like a palm tree” (Psalm 92:12). What a beautiful expression, but how might that be an accurate comparison?

The palm tree grows upwards. It is an erect tree with its aim pointing straight towards the heavens. What should be the “aim” of a Christian? “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:1-2, NKJV). Our focus ought to be on heavenly treasures!

The palm tree survives despite drought and flood. We see palm trees in areas that may go without rain in intense heat for days. Yet, we also see them enduring hurricanes and high winds and water. They even do so in a less, nutrient-rich soil than other crops. The righteous must also thrive despite the droughts and storms of life. The “wise man” is the one whose house is still standing when “the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock” (Matthew 7:25). Life’s storms may bend the righteous, but they will not break us.

The palm tree bears fruit. On average, date palms are known to yield between 300-400 pounds of fruit annually and sometimes as much as 600 pounds of fruit. Besides this, the trunk is used for timber, the leaflets can be used to make baskets, the leaves can be used for fuel and the fruit stalks can be used to make ropes or cords for packing material. The palm tree is a very useful and productive fruit tree. Likewise, “the righteous” ought to be people who “still bear fruit in old age” (as Psalm 92:14 says). Jesus would say in his parable of the Sower that those of the “good ground” are those who “bears fruit and produces; some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty” (Matthew 13:23).

The palm tree is constant throughout all seasons. While some trees

drop their leaves and lose their beautiful colors in the winter, the palm tree is unchanging. It is constant throughout all seasons in its appearance. What a beautiful picture of the consistency of the righteous. In any season of life, the righteous are dependable, steadfast and constant. Paul calls us to be no less. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Corinthians 15:58).

~via *Laurel Heights church*; Columbus, Ohio..



Man's Plight Without God

Jerry Fite

"For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). The deadly consequences of sin should alarm all men, for all have sinned. The results of sin may be observed with the eye or perceived with the heart. They will always affect man spiritually, and sometimes even physically. Sin's bitter fruit may be tasted in time, but most certainly in eternity. Sin has its season of pleasure, but always returns for just payment. Man always pays dearly: He exists separated from God (Isaiah 59:2).

Until one knows his condition without God, he cannot properly appreciate God's grace. The extension of grace implies need. As long as man feels self-sufficient, he has no need. But let him begin listening to the commentary of God upon man's sins. Let him start paying attention to the symptoms of emptiness that self-indulgence fails to fill. Then, grace will begin to glisten as never before.

Sin cannot appear without arousing God's judicial wrath. Because God is holy, He must punish sin. So when man sins, his relationship with God is one of enmity (Romans 5:8,10). No penitence nor renewed promise can change the fact that sin has occurred. Yet, after "missing the mark," what more can man offer God? Bondage in sin becomes his wretched fate (Romans 7:14, 24). God cannot overlook sin. He must be just. Man cannot plead innocence. He must have mercy.

When Jesus looked at men, He saw darkness, sickness, and death. These folks had the ability to see (Matthew 4:16). They possessed good appetites, and were physically active (Mark 2:15-17; Luke 9:62). But they

were lost in sin. No greater picture of man's helplessness could be drawn. For we never expect life to spring from a corpse, health to emanate from a disease, or light to issue from darkness. God wants us to know that we still need deliverance from above though we may be functioning well according to worldly standards.

Man can choose to live without God. He begins by eliminating God from his thinking and enthrones himself. Instead of a God-centered life, he possesses a Self-centered life. The result is never pretty. Obeying the mandates of his lust, he soon "waxeth corrupt" (Ephesians 4:22). His ways may be in step with the age, but he fails to perceive that Satan has inspired their direction (Ephesians 2:2). Man may become more sophisticated without God, but never better.

Without God, man's reasoning becomes so dark that God gives him up to experience the degrading consequences (Romans 1:26-32). Sexual perversion becomes worse until the worldly sages can distinguish between "softcore" and "hardcore" pornography. Man soon loses "natural affection." The worldly-wise will allow murder, if committed in abortion clinics. Making money takes precedence over creating strong families. Occasional lying finds acceptance alongside good business ethics. Man's values are twisted. His life is confused.

Living without God, man tends to finally view his life as God viewed it all along: "vain," void of lasting good (1 Peter 1:18). He views life as "living on the perfume of an empty vase"—or "a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities." His "good life" has become a facade hiding his crumbling hopes. Faith, hope, and love are borrowed words with empty sounds, because he has denied their true substance and power.

Such are the sad results when man plans his way without God. Man's road is paved with neglect and ingratitude. It always ends in degradation and despair. With sorrow, man can look at his road and honestly say, "I did it my way."

Helplessness and hopelessness characterize man's condition without God. But it is when he sees the vanity of man's wisdom that he longs for the grace of divine teaching. It is when he sees his true helpless condition before his Creator that he yearns for the terms of reconciliation from his merciful Judge. He follows closely behind his Deliverer, for he knows that without his gracious Savior, he is lost.

~via *Christianity Magazine*; June 1984; Vol. 1 No. 6.

Blinded to the Truth

Frank Himmel

2 Corinthians 4:4 presents the sad reality that “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

It is interesting that Paul calls Satan “the god of this world,” literally, the god of this “age.” He is not its rightful god, of course, but he is its deity in practicality because so many follow Him.

Satan does not blind us directly or forcibly. That would violate our free will, and if he could do that to one he would do it to all. He blinds, as he always does, by lies: lies about the gospel itself; lies about who and what Jesus is; lies about the Bible and its credibility; lies about people who believe; lies about the benefits of sin; lies about what awaits us beyond this life. People are easily persuaded by Satan’s lies because they promise so much and require so little. They parade as wisdom, but they are just so much foolishness.

Satan has convinced many in our age that it is far more reasonable to view ourselves as the product of an accident than of design. He has supposedly intelligent people so confused that they can’t figure out something as elementary as the difference between a male and a female. He has muddled our logic to the point that our society thinks it is wrong for a mother to impair her unborn child but it is perfectly acceptable for her to kill it. People who stand for something are castigated as arrogant bigots, whereas those who fall for anything are extolled for their openness and vision.

The antidote to Satan’s lies is God’s truth. “Therefore since we receive this ministry, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God” (vv. 1-2). Let’s be about the business of spreading the light of the gospel.

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

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	Mildred Lambert
Tommy Greene	Betty Lovell
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	Carrie Warner

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Angela Lava; Vanderbilt Medical - Nashville, Tenn.
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:

Bonita Dollar is at home following her hospital stay for a couple of days with pneumonia... **Matthew Usery** had

oral surgery this past Thursday...*Mildred Lambert's granddaughter, Angela Lava*, is in the Vanderbilt Medical Center for the amputation of her foot.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: Remember the *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium, at 10:00 a.m.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Marvella Adams*, in the passing of her uncle, *Buford Craig*, this past Tuesday. The visitation was Thursday evening and the funeral was Friday morning at Limestone Chapel. He was laid to rest in the Limestone Memorial Gardens... Also, we want to express our deepest sympathy to *Joy and Loretta Warner*, in the passing of Joy's son-in-law, *Larry Smith*. He passed a way in Fort Wayne, Indiana on Wednesday. The funeral will be Monday in Fort Wayne. May the Lord bless all these families during this time of sorrow

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

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college:
Kenneth Adams, University of Alabama - Huntsville
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

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 Jan. 12th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	128
	Morning Worship	162
	Evening Worship	106
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	102

Ninth Annual Singing

February 28, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Wiley Deason & Johnny Felker



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
 514 WEST MARKET STREET
 ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Dan Reed
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Albert Haraway
 Assisting Larry Tucker
 Serving Danny Johnson.. Roger Hammonds
 Marvin Putman Kenneth Adams
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Albert Haraway
 Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for the week of January 19th:

Ushers..... Hunter Cox/Dwayne Allfrey
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, January 22nd:

Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Bible Reading Landon Adams
 Hebrews 8:1-13
 Prayer..... Larry Tucker
 Invitation Marty Adams
 Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Sunday, January 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Larry Tucker
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Marty Adams
 Assisting Larry Tucker
 Serving Danny Johnson.. Roger Hammonds
 Marvin Putman Kenneth Adams
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Tony Thomas
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for the week of January 16th:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews