

Volume XII

January 26, 2020

No. 4

Market Street church of Christ 514 West Market Street P.O. Box 388 Athens, Alabama 35612 Phone (256) 232-1525

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.
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Elders

Liuci	
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	
Larry Mitchell	
Marcus Morris	(256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl	

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 Essence of Fellowship with God

Jim Jonas

The essence of fellowship with God is not a slavish compliance with a set of rules and regulations. Yes, obedience to the will of God is fundamental to a fruitful, blessed life, for God's commands always foster the spiritual, emotional, moral and religious welfare of man. God is our Maker, and He knows what is healthy and good for us, and also what enhances our fellowship with Him. Truly, Christ is the "author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9).

But perfunctory obedience is not the essence of fellowship. Rather, the essence or core of fellowship with a living, personal God is establishing a relationship with Him. The things that God has done, the truths He has revealed to us, the blessings He has promised and the warnings He has issued are all for one essential purpose: to win man's affections and devotion, to bring us to the heights of love for God as our Heavenly Father, to secure a glad submission of our will to His as we learn about and come to trust and depend on Him.

Like any other personal relationship, we must come to know God. This can only be done as God reveals Himself, which He has progressively done in various ways throughout man's history. This process culminated in the sending of God's Son into the world in human form – Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us (Hebrews 1:1-2; Matthew 1:23). Christians in all ages, but especially today in Western culture, live with the clearest view of God's nature and will. God painstakingly spent a long time (by man's reckoning) to gradually bring to light the fullness of His revelation to us. We have every reason possible, yea, no others will be given to mankind before the end of all things, to seek out fellowship with God because of who we know Him to be.

Jeremiah foretold that the knowledge of God would be central to the new covenant to come: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah – not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord ... I will put my law in their minds, and write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:31-34; cited also in Hebrews 8:8-12).

Under the Mosaic covenant people were born into a covenant relationship with God by virtue of their genetic connection to Abraham. But still, God wanted every Israelite to come to know Him by the teaching of parents and priests (Dueteronomy 6:6-9; Leviticus 10:11). Ideally, they would be taught the wonderful character of God which distinguished Him from decadent, powerless gods of their heathen neighbors. They would be reminded of the great works of God in their history and the favored status they held as Abraham's offspring; they would be taught the laws that, if observed, would provide better lives, marriages, families, culture and religion than that of pagans. Unfortunately, Israel failed to keep the knowledge of God alive throughout their generations and rejected Him for idols, despising God and choosing to live as the unbelievers around them.

God did not want mere robotic, mindless compliance from Israel. He wanted them to love and honor Him:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might" – Dueteronomy 6:4.

"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments" – Dueteronomy 7:9.

"Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always" (Dueteronomy 11:1), and then Moses proceeds to outline the many things God did for them in securing their freedom from Egypt and His promise of prosperity in Canaan (Dueteronomy 11:2-32). This knowledge was to be constantly refreshed from generation to generation so that God would always have faithful men and women who love Him and show that love by their submission to His will.

It should not surprise us, then, that Jesus in explaining the nature of the kingdom spoke in similar terms:

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" – John 14:21. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" – John 14:23.

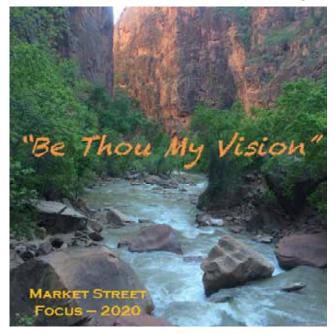
"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love" – John 15:10.

"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" – John 15:14-15.

Do you hear in these passages what Jesus wants from us? He is asking us to love Him and be His friend, and show in that relationship honor and trust in Him by obeying His laws and will. No, it is not a meritorious effort, linking confidence and peace of mind with some sort of self-absorbed performance. No one but the Lord Himself can find security and comfort in their own works; only Jesus could stand before God not needing grace.

Under the new covenant sinful men would first come to know God, learn His nature and ways, and then freely enter a covenant relationship with Him. While we teach our children about God and Jesus and Scripture, every child must at some point exercise their own mind to establish fellowship with God for themselves. They do this by internalizing what they have learned about God's love, mercy, grace and generosity and also about God's judgment, wrath and punishment on evildoers. They must have a burning desire to know and serve God. Anything less is empty ritualism.

~via The Centerville Journal; Centerville, Virginia.



Everyday Gratitude

Dan Lankford

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

The routines of life can be very healthy for us. Routine exercise strengthens the body, routine communication blesses relationships, routine generosity increases our compassion, and a routine day of worship strengthens our souls.

But even healthy routines always come with an inherent challenge: we are tempted to become accustomed to things and take them for granted.

In daily life, one symptom of this is a lack of gratitude. While the Spirit instructs us to give thanks in all circumstances, sometimes the familiarity of each day deadens our spiritual senses to how grateful we could (and should) be toward God.

But every day is full of gifts from him. It is a gift to be part of a loving family. Moms & dads, our kids are gifts from God. It is a gift to have health enough to be independent. A stable job, a comfortable home, a civilized and safe neighborhood, the ability to learn, the blessing of good food... It can all seem so basic, but it ought to routinely nudge our minds to be grateful to the merciful God who has given it all.

And that's why gratitude makes sense "in all circumstances." Even small, everyday blessings are good gifts from our Father. And so while there are times when grander things make our gratitude swell, God's people are defined by simple, everyday gratitude for his many blessings.

~via Path Lights, Bossier City, Louisiana.

Nínth Annual Síngíng

February 28, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Wiley Deason & Johnny Felker





News &

THE SICK:

Sherry Davis Barbara Ash Tommy Greene Helen Blankenship Beverly Sutton Loretta Warner JoAnn Gilbert Yvonne Strickland Ann Bush Vicki Stringer Mildred Lambert Betty Lovell Minnie Carter Bobbie Adcock Doris Lovell Alvis McLemore Lloyd Adams Angela Lava

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 Leyva; Vanderbilt Med. Center - Nashville *Norman Hamm*; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Johnnie Leigeber, rm. 45
Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 117 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:

Dwaine Allfrey is at home following his hospital stay

with pnuemonia... *Judy Vaughn* is scheduled to have surgery on Wednesday at Vanderbilt in Nashville... *Mildred Lambert's grandaughter, Angela Leyva*, is in the Vanderbilt Medical Center waiting as they contemplate removing her foot.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: Remember the *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium at10:00 a.m.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Pepper Road church* is engaged in a gospel meeting and it will continue through Thursday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Dennis Allan*.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* are in Houston, Texas.

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

PICTURES: We are continuing 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 wing

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* met this past Monday night. The next class will be February 17th. We will continue 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 Three will be meeting after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Jan. 19th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	131
	Morning Worship	175
	Evening Worship	126
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	96

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. *Come Join Us As We Study Together*

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
	Larry Tucker
Preaching	
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Marty Adams
Serving	Tommy BurnsKenneth Adams
	.Nathaniel AdamsKeenon Currier
	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

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

Other Assignments for the week of January 26th: Ushers...... Steve Bradley/Larry Mitchell Work Sound System...... Landon Adams

Wednesday, January 29th:

Song Leader	
Prayer Larry Mitchell	
Invitation Harvey Nixon	
Invitation Harvey Nixon Closing Prayer Landon Adams	

Sunday, February 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements		Keith Hinkle
Song Leader		Hunter Cox
Prayer		David Barnett
Preaching		David Cox
Lord's Supper		
Presiding		Larry Holt
Assisting		Mike Ogles
Serving	Sam Gregory	Clayton Hamm
	Danny Holt	Landon Adams
Closing Prayer		Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
	Harold Ash
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Holt
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of February 2nd: Ushers......Larry Mitchell/Danny Johnson Work Sound System.....Nathaniel Adams