

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

February 9, 2020

No. 6

How Do We Take Up Our Cross?

Dale Smelser

This is to put in writing a thought that has been presented from the pulpit. It is presented here for more methodical contemplation. It has to do with Jesus' requirement to take up our cross (Matthew 16:24), and what that means. The thought has been made difficult because of a popular and general interpretation. A prevailing concept seems to be that Jesus was telling us we all have burdens and problems in life that we must endure. They are our crosses to bear. I believe there is something much more profound here.

In the first place Jesus requires that we actively "take up" something, not that we just endure or put up with something. In the next place it is accompanied by denying ourselves, and losing our lives. In every passage but one, that mentions taking up our cross, it says, "Whosoever would save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:24-25; 10:38-39; Mark 8:34-35; Luke 9:23-24). The one that does not say that, requires one to hate his own life (Luke 14:26-27). Denying one's self and forfeiting life accompanies and explains taking up one's cross.

The idea is this. Jesus said this before He had died upon the cross. But that does not mean a reference to the cross meant nothing to his listeners. The Romans had employed crucifixion when they wanted to send a powerful message to discourage rebellion. And one of the features of dying on a cross, was the humiliating requirement of having to carry that upon which you were going to die. In requiring that His listeners take up their cross, He was requiring them to voluntarily die. But in doing that, He promised they would actually gain their lives.

There are other passages to help us. Paul said he gloried in the cross of Christ through which "the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Galatians 6:14). Paul was alive and speaking, but he had been crucified. He had taken up his cross. In one of the Luke passages, Jesus said we must take up the cross daily. Similarly, Paul said, "I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31). If Paul laid down his life, and did so daily, according to Christ's promise he should have gained a life. He did.

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

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

He said, "It is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me," thus the life he lived in the flesh he now lived in faith (Galatians 2:20).

Putting all this together, in requiring that we take up our cross, Jesus requires that we take up that which will put us to death. We will deny self and live for something greater. We will put to death the exercise of passions which otherwise would kill us spiritually, and become new people (Colossians 3:5-10), new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). We take up our cross and die on it. "He that hath died is justified from sin... Even so reckon yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:7, 11). And thus we remain, taking up that cross daily. Jesus said, "Take up your cross daily." Paul said, "I die daily." The cross is not simply some problem we bear, it is a whole way of life and commitment to another, Christ, instead of the selfish indulgences of this life. We die upon the cross we take up, and are given a new life by Christ. Jesus required us to put the old self to death. Thus in baptism, being forgiven at that moment, the old person dies, we bury it and arise to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-5).

~via *Northwest Church Bulletin*; Germantown, Maryland.



What Is That Smell?

Steve Niemeier

"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?" (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

Paul describes the knowledge of Christ as a fragrance in this passage. In particular Paul is describing himself as a sweet smell pleasing to God. The reason for this sweet aroma was Paul's faithfulness in preaching the gospel.

In a Roman procession the leader was followed by priests who dispersed incense, officers, soldiers and those who had been captured by the soldiers. The aroma of

the incense represented victorious life to the soldiers and slavery or death to the ones captured. In the same way, the good news of Jesus Christ, the gospel of Christ, gives life and is a "sweet aroma" to those who accept it and obey it. On the other hand, this same message of the good news of Jesus Christ, the gospel of Christ, represents destruction and rejection to those who do not accept it and obey it. This is obviously an annoying odor much as the odor of a decaying body that is without life and not prepared for a proper burial.

What odor am I expelling? If I have not obeyed the gospel of Christ by repenting of my sins (Acts 2:38), confessing that He is the Son of God (Romans 10:10), and being baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27) then I am not an appealing aroma to God. Many expel this aroma because of loyalty to grandparents, parents or others who they feel they will betray if they obey the gospel of Christ. It may be that someone who was influential to them believed that Christ was the Son of God but did not obey His commandments. Instead they obeyed another form of doctrine that is foreign to the words found in the New Testament. As a result they continue to cast an odor that is unpleasant to the Almighty God.

There are those who have obeyed the form of doctrine Romans 6:17 speaks of. However, after obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ they have failed to remain faithful to their commitment (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58). As a result they have fallen even though they think they are standing (1 Corinthians 10:12). One such as this might even be occupying the pew at all the worship services but may be worshipping in vain because their heart is not right with God. It could be that their speech is not as it should be or their priorities are not according to what God commands (Matthew 6:33). There is a possibility that it could even be a preacher who is thinking more of himself than he should and is leading others away because of them "following him" instead of the gospel of Christ (Galatians 6:3).

Today one who has obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ must be as aware of their aroma to God just as those were in the first century who obeyed this same gospel. James tells us in the 2nd chapter that man is not justified by faith alone. Yet, today just as in the first century there seems to be some who believe that by just obeying the gospel it is enough for them to be heaven bound. Yet, it takes faith and works to receive the mercy God has promised us. If one holds the thought that they can get to heaven with a minimal effort they have failed to un-

derstand what James says in that 2nd chapter. Certainly the aroma of the ones who are trying to get by with a minimal effort is not pleasing to the God of heaven. What is the aroma that I am expelling?

~via *The Greenwood*; Greenwood, Indiana.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Harvey Nixon	Arvid McGuire
Sam Gregory	Dwaine Allfrey
Vicki Stringer	Mildred Lambert
Betty Lovell	Helen Blankenship
Minnie Carter	Bobbie Adcock
Loretta Warner	Doris Lovell
JoAnn Gilbert	Alvis McLemore
Yvonne Strickland	Lloyd Adams
Ann Bush	Jewel Nagle

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
Carrie Warner	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Virginia Lovell, rm 115	Brenda Wilson, rm. 73
Christine Hudson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Connie Brock, rm. 62	

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 117	Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
Virginia Meyer, rm. 41	Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Elise 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:

Helen Blankenship had an appointment this week with her heart doctor. She is staying in a fib and they adjusted her medications. She will return to the doctor this Wednesday. If she is still in a fib, she will go to the hospital for the cardiac conversion... *Dwaine Allfrey* is scheduled to see his heart doctor on Thursday... *Harvey Nixon* is at home following his surgery last week. He is still recovering and requests no visitors at this time ... *Judy Vaughn* is recovering at home from her surgery last week. She is to return to the doctor on Wednesday... *Mildred Lambert* did not move to the Athens Rehab and Sr. Care this past Monday as scheduled. The plans are for her to move this Tuesday ... *Mildred Lambert's granddaughter, Angela Leyva*, is at home following her surgery at Vanderbilt.

TUESDAYMORNING LADIES' CLASS: Remember the *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning. This week being the second Tuesday of the month, the class will meet at Limestone Manor at 10:00 a.m.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Oakland church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Don Miller*... The *Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Buc Chumbley*.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Ashes: Harold and Barbara* were visiting in Indianapolis, Indiana last weekend... *The Edens: Bill and Brenda* have been in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this week.

BAPTISM: We rejoice over the decision that *Jeremy Williams* made to be baptized into Christ on Monday evening. *Joel Hamm* has been studying with Jeremy and rejoice in the seed that was sown into a good heart. May we all encourage Jeremy.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want congratulate *Tony Thomas* and *Sue McLaughlin* on their recent marriage. We wish a long and happy life together for Tony and Sue.

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

BEVERLYJEAN SUTTON (1935 – 2020): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister *Beverly Sutton* last Saturday afternoon. She passed away at her home. Sister Sutton was always very friendly, kind and encouraging to everyone that she was around. She and Bonnie began attending Market Street shortly after their marriage in 1953. Throughout the years, Beverly was always faithful in serving in any way that she could. The funeral service for sister Sutton was held on Tuesday morning at the building here. She was laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery. May the Lord bless the Sutton Family.

MONTHLY LADIES' BIBLE CLASS: The *Ladies' Bible Class* that meets monthly in homes will be meeting on Monday at *Theresa Tucker's* home at 6:00 p.m.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* will be meeting on Monday, February 17th at 7:00p.m. 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 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 Feb. 2nd:*

Sunday: Bible Classes 136
Morning Worship 181
Evening Worship 116

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, February 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
Song Leader Larry Holt
Prayer..... Albert Haraway
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Joel Hamm
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Heath Dollar
..... Landon Adams..... Matthew Vaughn
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Bill Eden
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Bob Broadus

Other Assignments for the week of February 9th:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/ Marvin Putman
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, February 12th:

Song Leader Albert Haraway
Bible Reading Tommy Coblentz
..... Hebrews 9:11-22
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
Invitation Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Sunday, February 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Clayton Hamm ... Kenneth Adaams
..... Matthew Usery..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Bill Eden
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Bob Broadus

Other Assignments for the week of February 16th:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System..... Larry Holt