

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

March 8, 2020

No. 10

"I'll Follow Jesus To The Top"

Tim Jennings

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

Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

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

Many in our culture believe that following Jesus means going to large, lavish buildings, with lively crowds, pulsating worship, exciting events providing an endless array of ministries to fulfill our every desire. We expect that following Jesus means going to the top, associating with the elite, and leaving with a smile.

But the way of Jesus doesn't lead where we think it leads. One day a student shouted from the thronging crowd, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go" (Matt. 8:18-19; Luke 9:57). You can almost hear him singing, "Anywhere with Jesus I will gladly go, anywhere He leads me in this world below." How could Jesus hope for a better volunteer? However, Jesus hears more than our words, He sees our hearts.

This student thought following Jesus meant being a part of the attractively trendy. He is really thinking, "Jesus, I'll follow you to the beaches of Hawaii, the slopes of Aspen, and even to the resorts of the Bahamas!" His shallow loyalty promised, "As long as it is pretty, popular and fun, I'll be there!"

Jesus painted a different picture of discipleship and invites us to contemplate its meaning.

"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Luke 9:58)

Following Jesus meant sleeping rough. Even more than that, it meant death. Jesus spoke these words "as they journeyed on the road" to Jerusalem where He would "suffer, be rejected, and killed" (Luke 9:57; see 9:51; Luke 9:22, 44). That is where Jesus is going. Will this smiley student follow Him there?

Like this student, we are tempted to judge the worthiness of our discipleship by the comfort of the road and the number of its travelers. This misses the point! Following Jesus is worthy, because He is worthy! Discipleship is not about crowds, but Christ. The places Jesus leads us will sometimes be lonely and rough, but they are worthy because He is there.

The first student was willing to follow Jesus if it led to the "right place," but a second disciple was waiting for the right time. Jesus invited

him, “Follow Me,” (Luke 9:59). The man was willing, he just wanted to bury his father first. We don’t know if his father just died, was sick, or would live many more years. At any rate, Jesus’ words are jarring.

“Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”
(Luke 9:60)

Jesus’ reply seems to be rooted in God’s command to the prophets not to bury or mourn the dead as a sign of judgement (Ezek. 24:15-24; Jer. 16:1-9; also Lev. 10:6). Israel had enough weeping, now it is time to proclaim life in the kingdom of God. Jesus calls us to higher commitments than even the dearest worldly concerns. “Nothing is to block the pursuit of discipleship and nothing is to postpone its start” (Bock, Darrell (1996). Luke (Vol. 2, p. 981). Baker).

We are not against following Jesus, there are just some things we need to do first. We have social obligations and business requirements, but after we secure our career, plan for retirement, and take some trips we really plan to follow the Lord. However, discipleship is not a matter of “someday” but of “today.” It supersedes earthly responsibilities and proclaims the reality of the heavenly kingdom.

Excited by the Lord’s invitation a third person yelled, “I will follow you Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home” (Luke 9:61). The irony in this statement is laughable if it weren’t so sad, “Lord, let me first.” If “me” is first Jesus is not Lord—I am! Jesus sees a danger in the man’s request and points to the field.

“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62)

The row Jesus plows is a hard one. We may find ourselves longing for the temporary pleasures that once ignited our senses. We see the time, money and fun others are having and want to cut and run. But remember, looking back when the row is rough is what Israel did after the exodus (Exodus 16:3), what Lot’s wife did at the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 19:26), and what many Christians did in the first century (2 Peter 3:20-22).

The distraction is not worth it! Luke follows these invitations with some motivation. The next verse reads,

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others ... And He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” (Luke 10:1-2)

Crowds surrounded Jesus, but only few were laborers. Our family, friends, and world need us to be laborers. Following Jesus does not mean going to a religious penthouse with the comfortable elite. It means labor!

But it is the path that leads to eternal life in the kingdom of God. So, “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2) and follow Him.

~via *Focus Magazine*; March 2020.



Hope Abides

L. A. Stauffer

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). And now, during earth life, it is man’s season of hope—a time when man looks to but sees not the reward his Maker has promised. “Hope,” Paul writes, “that is seen is not hope: for who hopes for that which he sees” (Romans 8:24). It is “now,” the apostle says, that hope “abides” (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Hope only abides when there is the reality of a reward and there is a longing expectation of that reward in the heart of a man. Take away the “mansion” in heaven that Jesus promised or the assurance of that abiding place in a man’s faith—and you no longer have hope (see Heb 11:1). Hope is a reality because of man’s expectant trust and God’s faithful promise. Hope abides because:

God Promised. Hope rests and is founded on God’s promise. He it is who announced through Jesus, “great is your reward in heaven” and “in my Father’s house are many mansions” (Matthew 5:12; John 14:1-2). The Hebrews writer takes his readers back to the time of Abraham to assure us that hope abides as an anchor of the soul—both “sure” and “steadfast” (Hebrews 6:13-19). Abraham hoped in God for years that he would receive a seed and become a great nation. The certainty of that hope was secured by the promise of God to which He added an oath. By these two immutable things in which it is impossible for God to lie—His word and His oath—Abraham waited patiently and the promise was fulfilled.

God Is Faithful. God, it is clear, must be true to both Himself and His word. Man’s lack of faith does not affect the faithfulness of God to His promise. Though every man be found a liar, Paul argues in a text highlighting the sinfulness of man, “let God be found true” (Romans 3:3-4). In the entirety of the oracles of

God from the promise of a redeemer to the promises to Abraham and to Israel—God has shown man that He “will in no wise fail” him and “will in no wise forsake” him (see Hebrews 13:5). Hope prevails because Jehovah, the God who promised, is trustworthy.

Man Believes. Yet despite the promises, faithfulness, and blessings from God, hope abides only in a man who by faith holds in his heart the “assurance of things hoped for” and the “conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Moses, when he decided to leave Pharaoh’s house, was by faith convicted “of things not seen” and “looked unto the recompense of reward” (Hebrews 11:26). It was the faith he embraced in his heart that housed the expectation of a reward from God. It was no different with Abraham who “in hope believed against hope,” looked “unto the promise of God,” and “wavered not through unbelief, but waxed strong in faith” (Romans 4:18-21).

These men of old are examples for God’s believing servants today. Jesus opened the way into heaven through the veil of His flesh when He entered the “most holy” place in heaven to appear before the face of God on behalf of believers in Christ (see Hebrews 9:23-26; 10:19-20). We, because of God’s promise and His faithfulness, have confidence in that unseen reward—in that abiding hope that anchors our souls, binds us to purity, moves us to fruitfulness, and upholds us in affliction (see Hebrews 6:18-19, 1 John 3:3; Colossians 1:5-7; Hebrews 11:24-27). There is victory in Jesus for men of faith and unmovable steadfastness (1 Corinthians 15:50-58).

~via *Kirkwood Church Bulletin*; Kirkwood, Missouri.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Marion Pepper	Dan Reed
Scottie Reed	Taylor Gregory
JoAnn Gilbert	Arvid McGuire
Helen Blankenship	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Loretta Warner
Alvis McLemore	Yvonne Strickland
Ann Bush	Lloyd Adams
Joyce Tucker	

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	Kevin Belue

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Marion Pepper; Madison Hospital; ICU - No visitors

Jessica Bost; Huntsville Hospital – SICU

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Betty Lovell, rm. 120	Mildred Lambert, rm. 3
-----------------------	------------------------

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
----------------------	-----------------------

Connie Brock, rm. 62	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
----------------------	-----------------------

Christine Hudson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
--------------------------	----------------------

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 117	Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
----------------------	-------------------------

Virginia Meyer, rm. 64	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:

Helen Blankenship is scheduled to have a pacemaker put in this Thursday in Huntsville...*Dale Adcock* had ankle surgery on Wednesday at Huntsville Hospital-Women’s and Children. She is at home now...*Ross Melvin* had surgery to remove a skin cancer on Thursday in Huntsville...*Marion Pepper* was taken back to the Madison Hospital on Thursday with pneumonia...*Steve Usery* hurt his knee and is going to need surgery to repair it...*Taylor Gregory* was unable to be at services last week due to some oral surgery she had done last week...*Helen Blankenship’s granddaughter, Jessica Bost*, was seriously injured in an auto accident and is in the Huntsville Hospital...*Lona Jackson’s son, Kevin Belue*, had successful surgery this past Tuesday in Huntsville. He received a good report about the cancer and will be

treated for it.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Ardmore church* in Ardmore is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Tim Sutton*... The *South Cullman church* in Cullman is beginning a gospel meeting and it will continue through Thursday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Tim Stevens*... The *Russellville church* in Russellville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Stacy Crim*... The *River Bend church* in western Lauderdale county is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Keith Stonehart*.

SINGING: The *South Cullman church* in Cullman will be having their annual singing on Friday, March 13th at 7:00 p.m.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coblenz's: Tommy and Marcella* have been at the land between the lakes in Kentucky this week... *Christian Usery* is in Long Beach, California with work.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: Remember the *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. This week they will be meeting at Limestone Manor.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* will be meeting March 16th at 7:00 p.m. We will be studying "Say Thank You" It is episode 66.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Joy & Loretta Warner* in the passing of Joy's daughter, *Cynthia Ann Smith*, who passed away on February 28th. The funeral was this past Friday afternoon in Fort Wayne, Indiana. May the Lord bless Joy and Loretta and all the family at this time.

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 the week of March 1st:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	149
	Morning Worship.....	191
	Evening Worship.....	114

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Harold Ash
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Larry Tucker
Serving	Kenneth Adams..... Clayton Hamm
.....	Matthew Vaughn..... Matthew Usery
Closing Prayer	Bill Eden

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of March 8th:

Ushers.....	Dwayne Allfrey/Steve Bradley
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, March 11th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading	Russ Wulfekuhl
.....	Hebrews 10:19-25
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, March 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Hunter Cox
Assisting	Albert Haraway
Serving	Christian Usery
.....	Harold Davis
.....	Sam Gregory
.....	Tim Griswold
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	David Barnett
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Harold Ash

Other Assignments for the week of March 15th:

Ushers.....	Heath Dollar/Landon Adams
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews