

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

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 Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

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

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 12

The Secret of Contentment

Paul White

The British poet Frederick Langbridge (1849–1923) once wrote,
*Two men look out through the same bars:
One sees the mud, and one the stars.*

These words seem especially relevant as we read Paul's letter to the saints at Philippi. No matter where life took Paul, and in spite of all he was called to endure, the apostle wrote with a heart of joy and with a spirit of optimism—"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation" (Philippians 4:12). Notice he said, "I have learned the secret of being content." Which leads us to wonder: What is this secret of contentment, and why is it a secret?

The secret seems to relate to the fact that most people seek contentment in the wrong way. Aren't we all inclined to believe that we would be happy and content if we could have all the material things we wanted and engage in any activity that we considered pleasurable? Countless witnesses throughout human history testify to the fallacy of such an idea. J. Paul Getty (1892–1976) was one of the wealthiest men of his time. After becoming a millionaire at age 23, Getty decided to live it up and for many years lived the life of the "rich and famous." Yet, in the distress and discontent of his later life, he found himself looking back upon five failed marriages and poor relationships with his children. At age 75, he wrote:

A man can attend only so many parties and dances without getting bored. He can drink only so much champagne and paint the town red only so many times before he wakes up to the realization that he's wasting a very great deal of time and energy on meaningless things.

How true! But, we didn't need to hear from Mr. Getty to get a sense of the vanity of trying to find ultimate peace and happiness in the pleasures and pursuits of this life. Solomon wrote,

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I

had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun (Ecclesiastes 2:11–12).

Like Solomon, J. Paul Getty and many others have learned from experience that pleasure, power, fame and fortune do not ensure contentment.

Have you found yourself expressing discontent over the fact that you had been deprived of something you either wanted or felt you deserved? Truthfully, this disposition has little to do with what we actually have or may not have. Those who study human behavior refer to this as “relative deprivation.” Relative deprivation can be illustrated as follows: A peasant in a poverty-stricken country is forced to walk everywhere he goes. He sees his neighbor riding a bicycle and complains, “If only I had a bike.” In another part of the world, a wealthy oil tycoon regrets he has only one Lear jet while one of his neighbors has two. Get the point? In both instances the men feel deprived and are discontented ...yet their conditions in life are worlds apart!

Which brings us to the secret of contentment. It may be stated rather simply:

Contentment is not achieved by obtaining more,
but by learning to be satisfied with less.

One must learn to discipline his desires so as “to be content” with what he has (Hebrews 13:5). It’s worthy to note that Paul said he had “learned” to be this way. Contentment was not infused into Paul at his conversion, but became something he learned in the schoolhouse of experience. He went through manifold trials and a maze of cities while preaching the gospel, and through it all he learned to be content. He came to realize that God could be trusted; that God really did keep His promises. Therefore, Paul was able to accept all things and do all things “through Christ” (Philippians 4:13).

The apostle did not have to be pampered to be content, but found his self-sufficiency and strength in Christ! What a comfort when we finally realize that all of life’s misfortunes and disappointments are “not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

It is possible. We can be content even while living in a depraved and disillusioned world. But it begins and ends with us finding our sufficiency in Christ and in the hope of eternal life. Learning to be content... we must! Will you?

~via *The Encourager*; Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Who Is the Hero of Your Story?

Eric Reynolds

The book of Jonah ends abruptly with a rhetorical question from God to Jonah. “Should I not pity Nineveh?” No response from Jonah is recorded. The book leaves him sulking on a hot hillside—a decidedly unflattering picture of a prophet!

But whose story is this? Jonah is obviously the author and main character of the book, but the Hero of the story is none other than God. It is God who determines to send his prophet to wicked Nineveh, who mercifully answers Jonah’s prayer from the belly of the fish, who graciously forgives the penitent Ninevites, and who continues to patiently teach Jonah even as the book ends. God’s defining character, first revealed to Moses in Exodus 34:6 and quoted in exasperation by Jonah (4:2), is on full display: “you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.” Even though Jonah rails against him, God is the one who is glorified throughout.

What true prophet would have it any other way?

It seems likely that Jonah did indeed learn his lesson; how else would the book have come into being? Yes, all Scripture is breathed out by God through his Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21), but we assume that he worked through willing authors, Jonah being no exception. If that is so, we may further assume that Jonah was willing for the story to be written as it is, recording his sinful actions and attitudes for all to see, thereby giving the glory to God. Jonah does not make himself the hero of his own story.

Jonah’s apparent self-effacement goes against normal human behavior. The natural tendency, so to speak, is to emphasize one’s successes and accomplishments while glossing over one’s weaknesses and failures. The same can be seen at the national level, as the old saying attests: “history is written by the victors.” To glorify self is at the heart of the “pride of life.”

God has a different plan for our lives. He is the true and only Hero, and our highest purpose is to find our place in his story. We see this most clearly in his Son. Jesus allowed himself to be disgraced and humiliated because he put the glory of the Father above his own

self-interest.

When Jesus Christ was slandered, he responded, "I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge" (John 8:49-50, ESV). Jesus despised the shame of the cross (Hebrews 12:2), yet he allowed his own story to lead to that dreadful death because he believed in a higher purpose than seeking his own glory. By humbling himself, Jesus shows us the only true path to glory: "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me" (John 8:54, ESV). "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11, ESV). This is God's story; he is the Hero to whom all glory belongs, and he will glorify those who seek his glory instead of their own.

We must have the same mind that we see in Christ, putting the glory of God and the interests of others above our own (Philippians 2:3-5). Paul himself gives us a good example of this. Before finding his true purpose in Christ, Paul had an impressive storyline going, as measured by the men of his day. But when he discovered Christ Jesus, he threw his old story in the trash, so to speak (Philippians 3:4-8). His only boasting from that point onward was in the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:14).

If I am the hero of my own story, I will seek the approval and recognition of my peers. I will protect my legacy by hiding any flaws and failures while magnifying my supposed accomplishments. And I will be doomed to fail.

If, however, I discover that the true Hero of my story is God, I will let him use me however he sees fit. If others can see his strength in my weakness (2 Corinthians 12:8), if they can see the glory of his grace in the forgiveness of my sins (1 Timothy 1:14-16), then I should not concern myself with how I am perceived, so long as God is glorified. "To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (1 Timothy 1:17, ESV).

~via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama.

Gospel Meeting

April 26-29, 2020

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Gina Werka	Barbara Carter
Dale Adcock	Delmer Carter
Steve Usery	Ragan Hamm
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 -
Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

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:

Elese 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:

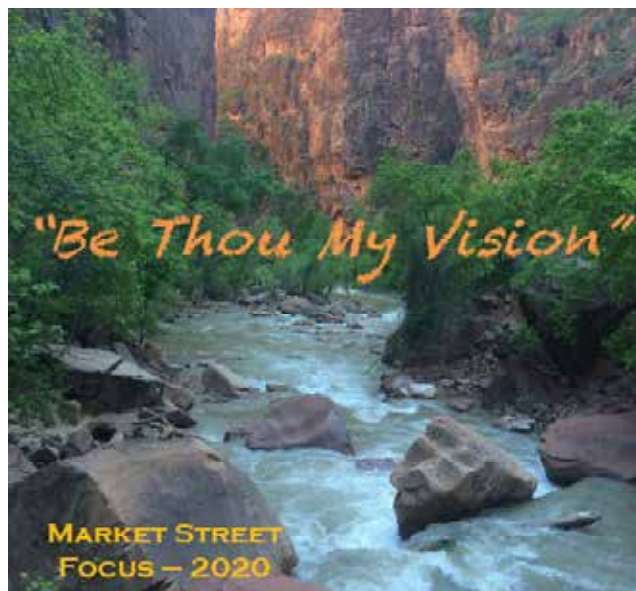
Gina Werka had her needle biopsy on Monday and the results were great. The biopsy was benign ... **Joe Hinkle** was injured in a grease fire last Saturday evening. He is at home recovering... **Ragan Hamm** has been sick with flu this week, but doing better ... **Steve Usery** was unable to see the doctor on Monday about his knee surgery due to having sinus trouble with a fever ... **Ross Melvin** is doing better with his pneumonia... **Helen Blankenship** is doing well following her heart procedure last week... **Betty Lovell** is at home continuing her therapy and dialysis treatments... **Margaret Carter** received a good report on her PET scan Friday... **Meredith Parks** is nearing her delivery date. The doctor is limiting her some due to her blood pressure.

OUTOFTOWN: **The Stiles:** *Chuck & Benita* continue to be in Mississippi with Chuck's work... **Christian Usery** is in Long Beach, California with work.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* that was scheduled for this past Monday was postponed until Monday, April 20th. We will be studying "Say Thank You" It is episode 66.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: Remember the *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday mornings has been postponed for a couple of weeks.

THE CORONAVIRUS: The *COVID-19, the Coronavirus*, has altered many things about the way people are going about their daily lives. It is good with all the things that seem to be in upheaval to know that we serve a God who is a constant source of strength and help. Due to coronavirus, we will not be meeting tonight or on Wednesday night. We pray this will soon be past us.



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... Bob Broadus
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Marcus Morris
Assisting Albert Haraway
Serving Matthew Vaughn..... Landon Adams
..... Heath Dollar Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....
Song Leader
Prayer.....
Preaching.....
Lord's Supper
Closing Prayer

Other Assignments for the week of March 22nd:

Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

Wednesday, March 25th:

Song Leader
Bible Reading Hebrews 10:26-31
.....
Prayer.....
Invitation.....
Closing Prayer

Sunday, March 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Terry Andrews
Assisting Joel Hamm
Serving Kenneth Adams..... Clayton Hamm
..... Matthew Usery..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Larry Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for the week of March 29th:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams