

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

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church.

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume XII

March 29, 2020

No. 13

Coping with Loneliness

David A. Cox

The recent pandemic of COVID-19 has brought on significant changes in the way Americans live their lives. The Center for Disease Control has made several recommendations to try to slow the spreading of the virus. One of the recommendations is social distancing. It is this recommendation that has led many of the activities that we are so accustomed to doing, for example, the suspension of church services. Hearing about the social distancing that is being recommended, it reminded me of an article I had recently read about loneliness. The article said that "loneliness and social isolation can be as damaging to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day." Indeed, loneliness can be a problem even in the society we live in with all the contacts on social media, the numerous activities that one may be involved in. It has been described as "crowded loneliness." Loneliness is often brought on in times of transition, separation, and rejection. Let's focus on how to cope with loneliness.

God created man for relationships. In Genesis 2:18, we read where God states, "It is not good for man to be alone." At this point, God created the family relationship with a husband, wife, and then children to come from that relationship. This began the process of filling the world with people that would result in relationships as we have them in our lives today.

The church is a relationship. As the scriptures describe the church, it is described as a family of God, brothers, and sisters in Christ. The brothers and sisters in the family of God care, share, and nurture one another. As life deals us sorrow and joy, there are our brothers and sisters to rejoice with us or to weep with us. The New Testament from the Sermon on the Mount through the epistles instructs us about our conduct in relationships. Notice a few of the many verses from the New Testament.

- *"Whatever you want men to do to you, do also unto them"* (Matthew 7:12).
- *"Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common"* (Acts 4:32).
- *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:2).

- “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).
- “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4).

Love one another. Within our relationships, there is something that must be present, and when it is, the verses noticed above will be readily followed. We must “love one another fervently with a pure heart” (1 Peter 1:22). Love is described as the “litmus test” for discipleship, and it will be evident even in times of hardship and adversity. How do I show my love? Put to practice the instructions of Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely; does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, love never fails” (vs. 4–8).

Love never fails, it can always be counted on. So, love causes us to focus on others, and for others to focus on us. Love is reciprocal; it will meet itself coming and going, there will be no time for loneliness.

Pray for one another. When we find ourselves alone, let us remember that we are not really alone. God is always with us, “for He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’” (Hebrews 13:5). God wants us to talk to Him, “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). We need to pray to God for the world and the troubles in it, for our nation, state, and community. Pray for our family at Market Street. We need to remember those that are sick, those unable to get out, for every member of our family that supplies to us the very things that we need from them.

There will be moments when we feel lonely. But we must remember that God has designed for us a relationship here on earth and a spiritual relationship that we are never really alone. Take time to think about those relationships and those that can be helped by you in some way. A phone call, a card, a visit, or whatever you can do. Talk to God and let Him help you.

Remember Our Facebook Study

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Market Street Private Group Page

April 1st — 1 Corinthians 14

Those of His Own Household

Russ Bowman

In any contest, a failure to fully appreciate the opponent can be devastating. If we do not properly measure an adversary — his strengths, his tactics, his thinking, his weaponry, his assets — then we can never be fully prepared to defend against nor successfully attack him. Such is true in athletic endeavors, in literal warfare, in games of skill and strategy. And it is also true in our spiritual battle.

It occurs to me that we tend to underrate Satan. He is often reduced in our world to some kind of caricature — an outlandish, grotesque cartoon figure with red skin, pointed features, forked tongue, horns, tail, and pitchfork. In such terms, he becomes ludicrous to us, and thus not someone to be feared. We dismiss his strength, his cleverness, his strategy, and his tactics. He almost becomes a joke — a minor annoyance upon which to blame our frustrations and failures. “Old Scratch” is out to get us, and when he does, we laugh it off as if it were little more than a bee sting or a mosquito bite. Such thinking is dangerous.

The Bible always presents Satan as powerful. Isaiah 53:12 portrays him as “the strong one” with whom the Messiah divides the spoils of human souls. In 1 Peter 5:8 he is portrayed as a “roaring lion.” Those are not images to be lightly dismissed. Moreover, he is more than once described as clever (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11) and we are naive if we do not appreciate his time-tested tactics for tempting us. It behooves us to be aware, to take note, to appreciate the ways that Satan attacks us. He does not walk up to us wearing a t-shirt that boldly pronounces “I am Satan and I’m here for your soul.” Instead, he approaches by means that often take us by surprise, or play upon our affections and emotions in ways that tempt us to either overtly sin, or at least lose our confidence in our God. One such strategy that he has employed successfully again and again is the use of other people.

Jesus warned the apostles in Matthew 10:34–39 that discipleship would involve difficult sacrifices because “a man’s foes will be those of his own household” (v.36). Nothing — or perhaps more accurately no one — can tempt us to sin/faithlessness like those whom we love.

And Satan is really, really good at using our affection for others to test our faith. He used Eve against Adam, Job's wife and friends against him, Sarah against Abram, Jacob's sons against Joseph, Delilah against Samson, Absalom against David, Solomon's wives against Solomon, Jezebel against Ahab, Simon Peter against Christ, John Mark against Paul, etc. It's hard to stand up and stand against those that we love when it comes to right and wrong, service and sacrifice. Time and again people sacrifice their soul on the altar of relationships. We defend our loved ones in their sin. We maintain fellowship with old friends even when they defy God's Word. We change our convictions to support family in their ungodliness. We give lip service to the words of Jesus—"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:36-37). But when Satan enlists those same people to oppose us in our faith, it is often the case that we side with the enemy. Yes, the enemy.

Part of "identifying the enemy" is identifying those whom the enemy uses. Be it "principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12), or be it my family and friends, anything or anyone Satan uses to try and turn me against my God is the enemy. And the sooner we recognize that, the more effective we will be in our defense against him, and in our victory over him.

~via *The Folsom View*; Folsom, California.



Gospel Meeting

April 26-29, 2020

(Sunday through Wednesday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday through Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.

Gerry Sandusky, Speaking

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

514 WEST MARKET STREET

ATHENS, ALABAMA

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Gina Werka
Dale Adcock
Steve Usery
JoAnn Gilbert
Helen Blankenship
Doris Lovell
Alvis McLemore
Ann Bush
Joyce Tucker

Barbara Carter
Delmer Carter
Ragan Hamm
Arvid McGuire
Bobbie Adcock
Loretta Warner
Yvonne Strickland
Lloyd Adams

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright
Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir
Wayne Wooldridge
Kenneth Fisher
Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell
Matt Poff
Carrie Warner

Freddie Mae Elmore
Anita Wheeler
Janice Cagle
Ella Melvin
Cornelia Pepper
Cindy Walker
Al Pollard
David Collier
Una King Currier
Gene Carpenter
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. 7
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36

Mattie Murray, rm. 2
Connie Brock, rm. 62
Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 117
Virginia Meyer, rm. 64

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
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:

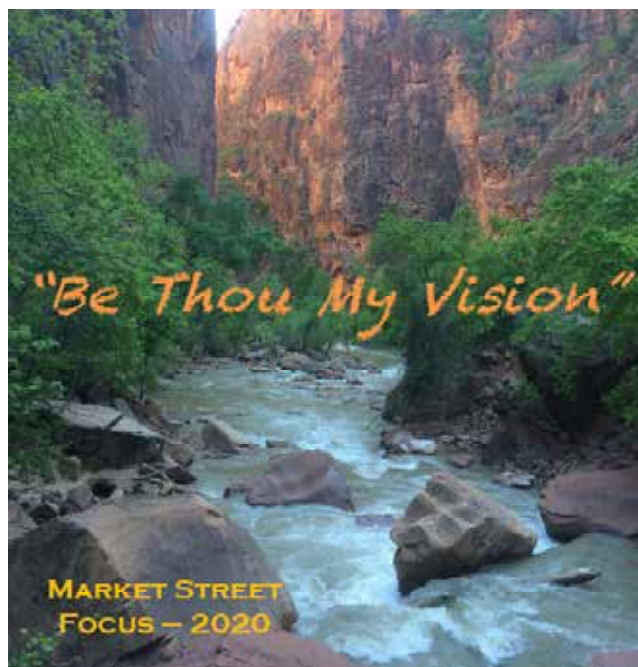
Joe Hinkle was injured in a grease fire last Saturday evening. He is at home recovering... **Ragan Hamm** has been sick with flu this week, but doing better ... **Steve Usery** knee surgery has been delayed until after the Coronavirus is past ... **Betty Lovell** is at home continuing her therapy and dialysis treatments... **Meredith Parks** is nearing her delivery date. The doctor is limiting her some due to her blood pressure.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Stiles:** *Chuck & Benita* are home this week for some doctors appointments... **Christian Usery** is in Long Beach, California with work.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Gayle Ball** and **Crutcher Trousdale** in the passing of their uncle, **Albert Johnson Trousdale**, this past Thursday. He had battled the virus since March 6th. There will be no funeral, but remember all the family at this time.

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 continued to alter many things about our daily lives. I appreciate the way in which so many have continued to think about others and to focus on the way you may serve them. This is indeed a shining light in the world of panic we seem to be in. Due the coronavirus we will not be meeting Wednesday night. We will be on the Market Street Facebook Private Group on Wednesday evening. We will be studying 1 Corinthians 14 this week. Hope you can join us.



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....
Song Leader
Prayer.....
Preaching.....
Lord's Supper
Presiding.....
Assisting
Serving
.....
Closing Prayer

Evening Worship

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

Other Assignments for the week of March 29th:

Ushers.....
Work Sound System.....

Wednesday, April 1st:

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

Sunday, April 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Albert Haraway
Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Roger Hammonds Harold Davis
..... Tommy Burns Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Larry Holt
Prayer..... Joel Hamm
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for the week of April 5th:

Ushers..... Steve Usery/Christian Usery
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams