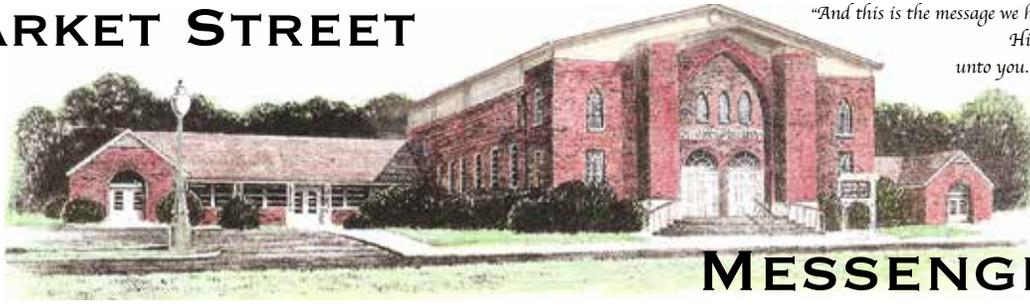


MARKET STREET



"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 Coblentz..... (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

April 19, 2020

No. 16

Living for Christ

David A. Cox

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21)

What are you living for? The answer to this will say a lot about your attitude in life. Paul's statement to the church at Philippi expresses an attitude by which he lived his life. Paul lived his life for Christ. Paul made similar statements in other letters he wrote. To the Colossians, "... Christ who is our life..." (Colossians 3:4). To the Galatians, "...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). Let us consider three things from Paul about living for Christ so that dying will be gain.

It Will Make the Circumstances in Life Better. As we remember, Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison. Things in his life were not going well physically. There had been many times in Paul's life, as a Christian, that it was far from easy (2 Corinthians 11:23-ff). The circumstances of his life were made better by his desire to tell the story of Jesus to others. Earlier in Philippians 1, Paul speaks with joy about the gospel being preached and to people that would not be hearing if Paul was not suffering (Philippians 1:12-18). Paul's circumstances were better because his life was about giving glory to Christ. Paul's whole life was absorbed in serving Christ. Indeed, his life was a life of devotion and sacrifice to Christ (Romans 12:1).

It Will Allow Us To Let Go of the Past. In living for Christ, Paul did not have time to consume himself with the problems of his past. There is no doubt that Paul remembered his past life, the time before becoming a Christian, but he did not dwell in the past. Paul writes, "Forgetting those things which are behind" (Philippians 3:13a). Paul did not live in the past. Many sins, many regrets no doubt Paul had, but he put them behind him and did not live with them. Paul goes on to say, "reaching forward to those things which are ahead; I press toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13b-14). He said, "to live is Christ," which means to make Christ the focal point of his life. Christ was not just a part of Paul's life; Christ was the center,

the focus, the aim of his life. In thinking about Paul's life in Christ reminds me of what Dale Oldham wrote:

*Life was shattered, and hope was gone
Crushing the load that I bore;
Then out of the depths I cried "O God,
Please give me something worth living for."*

*O the joy of sins forgiv'n
Nothing's the same as before;
My life overflows since Jesus came
And gave me something worth living for."*

*Something more than my yesterdays,
More than I had before,
Something more than wealth or fame –
He gave me something worth living for.*

It Keeps Your Mind on the Things Above. Jesus taught, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19-20). In Paul's life, we do not see his mind consumed on the things going on around him, but on the eternal or heavenly things. He was looking to the eternal. Paul writes, "we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the thing which are not seen" (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). Here we see Paul's attitude was on things in heaven and not on earth. He went about in his life "seeking things above" and living for things above. It is this attitude that says, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

May we all let Christ live in our lives, forgetting the past and focus on eternity. May we replace our fears, our doubts, and trials in this life with the promises of God for our future with Him.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Sunday Mornings

on WVNN 770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m.

The Power God Grants Us

Leland R. Ping

Christians are commanded throughout scripture regarding the importance of humility. Additionally, God repeatedly tells His followers about the dangers associated with haughty attitudes and "Too Big For Your Britches" mentalities. At the same time, God has endowed each of us with incredible power that, although it comes from Him, is ours to use for good purpose. In giving us such power, God expects great things. Consider one simple sentence tucked into the New Testament book of James wherein the inspired writer records the following simple, to-the-point words:

"Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

If we're not careful, this is one of those places in the Bible that we'll read quickly and move on without really thinking about what was just said. This one short sentence is **incredible** and deserves a few observations.

For one, we need to consider the devil. Knowing our enemy is important and that's why God spends so much time talking about him in His holy word. And each time he is referenced, it is abundantly clear that he is very capable, very diligent, and far too often, very effective. God isn't asking us to do some small thing in resisting Satan himself—that's huge! But God also doesn't ask us to do things that are impossible. God grants us power to defeat Satan!

Additionally, the ability to resist rests squarely on our shoulders. If I fail to resist Satan, it's my fault. It's not your fault nor is it God's fault. God tells you and me to resist the devil. Again, God does not command us to do things that are impossible, but only expects of us the things which we can do. When Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, he highlighted the fact that God provides a way of escape from every temptation which Satan puts before us (I Corinthians 10:13). But at the same time, God doesn't make it so that we are free from the temptations which come as a result of living in creation wherein the Creator gives us free will. Still, it's impressive to consider that, with God, I have the power to resist!

Finally, James tells saints like you and me that when we fight back against Satan and his tricks, he will flee from us. Consider that for a moment. You and I have the power to cause Satan, whose own power is significant,

to run from our presence. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness before launching His public teaching, He stood up against Satan on the three occasions that the devil approached Him and each time, used a godly argument to withstand the pressure of the evil one. And what was the result of this action on the part of our Savior? Matthew 4:11 says simply that, "The devil left Him." It's important to note that the power that Jesus had in order to succeed is NO different than the power that God has bestowed on us. We must never, ever forget that. While humble and obedient in all things, let us be bold and remember the power that we have that comes directly from our eternal and powerful Creator.

~via *Lake Elsinore church of Christ*; Lake Elsinore, California.



Promises

Billy Norris

"By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature..." (2 Peter 1:4).

The promises of God are exceedingly great not only because of the greatness of Him who made them but also because of the greatness of that which he has promised — the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38); His presence and providential care and oversight (Psalm 34:7; Matthew 28:20); the joys of heaven throughout eternity (Matthew 25:34-46).

It is to be understood that God's great promises are conditional, based upon obedience to the gospel (Romans 1:16). We do what He tells us to do, and without fail He will keep His promises, for it is impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18).

Further, the promises of God are exceedingly great because of the powerful, motivating influence for good they can have upon our lives. Peter says, "that through these (God's promises) you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

~via *Gospel Guide*, Vol. 26 No. 3 March 1994.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

JoAnn Gilbert	Arvid McGuire
Bobbie Adcock	Doris Lovell
Loretta Warner	Alvis McLemore
Jessica Bost	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:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 33	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:

Virginia Meyer, rm. 69	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:

Donna Wright received a good report from her PET scan and the cancer is in remission. She continues to take her treatments.....**Larry Tucker's mom, Joyce Tucker**, continues at home as she battles with her cancer....**Betty Lovell** is at home continuing her therapy and dialysis

treatments... *Helen Blankenship's granddaughter, Jessica Bost* is now home from her therapy and is very much improved... *Jackie Cox's sister-in-law, Martha Morris*, had surgery this past Monday. They removed all the cancer and the surrounding tissues were clear.

MARION KENNETH PEPPER (1938–2020): It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of *Marion Pepper* on Tuesday evening. Marion had battled pneumonia since the later part of February. Marion was a good man and loved the Market Street church. He was a long time member of the Market Street church. He had served for many years as the custodian. He was very diligent and given to detail and it showed in the way he did his work. There were many hours that he spent having the building ready for our services. He often did many jobs like upgrading the restrooms, painting, etc. Indeed, Marion will be missed among us. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions there was a private visitation at Limestone Chapel and a graveside service at Roselawn Cemetery. We express our deepest sympathy to *Betty, Sharma, Joel, Clayton, Ragan, Patricia, and all the family* at this time. May the Lord bless them all.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of *Yvonne Strickland*. Yvonne is the mother of *Dawn Gentry*, the daughter-in-law of *Brenda and Albert Haraway*. She passed away on Tuesday afternoon after a battle with cancer. May the Lord bless this family at this time.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* that was scheduled for this past Monday was postponed until Monday, May 18th. We will be studying "Say Thank You" It is episode 66.

PARKING LOT SERVICE: The church has obtained an FM-transmitter so that the church can assemble in the parking lot as weather permits on Sunday for worship. Weather permitting we will be able to do this next Sunday morning at 10:30.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Stiles: Chuck & Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi with Chuck's work... *Christian Usery* is in Long Beach, California with work. He was to finish there on Wednesday, but he will continue there for his next assignment.

Remember Our Facebook Study

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.
 Market Street Private Group Page
April 22nd — The Stages of Life

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 19th:

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 April 19th:

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

Wednesday, April 22nd:

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

Sunday, April 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader..... Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Larry Tucker
 Assisting..... Keith Hinkle
 Serving..... Matthew Vaughn..... Sam Gregory
 Tim Griswold..... Charles Vaughn
 Closing Prayer..... Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader..... Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper..... Larry Tucker
 Closing Prayer..... David Barnett

Other Assignments for the week of April 26th:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/ Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt