

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

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 31

Unity That God Desires and Expects

David A. Cox

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! — (Psalm 133:1)

The Psalmist declares the Lord's blessing for His people to dwell together in unity. Unity is not always natural and can even be challenging at times. God says that unity is to be desired and that it is worth every effort to achieve and maintain it. Let us consider how to have and maintain unity.

Achieving Unity

The scriptures speak of the unity that Christians ought to have. In John 17, Jesus prayed for unity among the believers. Jesus prayed to the Father, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17). Jesus prayed that the believers would set apart, made holy by the truth of God's word. He continues His prayer for them to be united by saying "that they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they may be one in Us" (John 17:21). Jesus prayed for His disciples, and for us as well, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word" (John 17:20). Jesus taught this to His disciples, and it was something evident about the Christians in the first century. Paul wrote to the Corinthians to be of the "same mind and the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). He instructed the Philippians, "Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing" (Philippians 3:16). To achieve the unity that Christ prayed for, and Paul taught, we must all use the same standard as our authority in religious matters.

Maintaining Unity

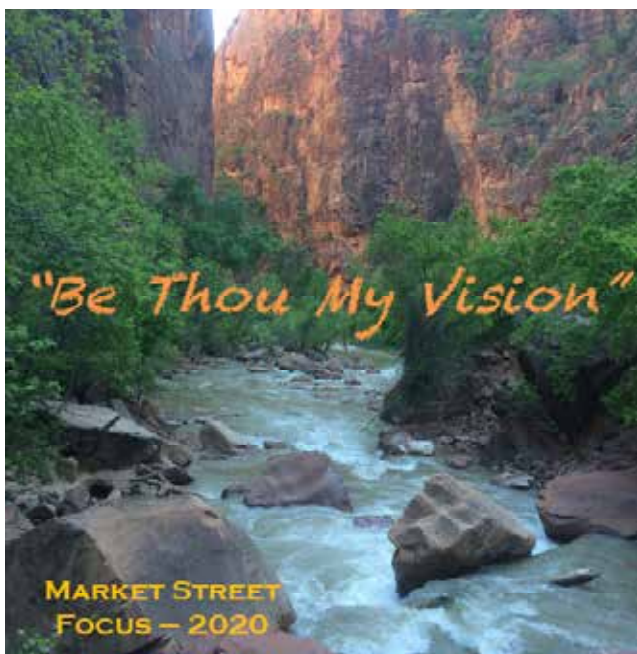
Paul wrote, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). The idea from the word "endeavor" is that it is something to be worked on to maintain it. With that in mind, Paul reminds the Ephesians to give the diligence or endeavor to keep the unity. Why would Paul do this? There are a couple of things to note that would disrupt the unity:

- **Place Authority in Men.** At Corinth, the church was divided. The division was that the brethren at Corinth were putting trust in men,

rather than in Christ. Paul said, “each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I am of Christ.’ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Corinthians 1:12-13). There is no doubt that the division here was over personalities.

- *Not Valuing Your Brethren.* When Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, there seemed to be a problem between two sisters in the church. Paul admonished them “to be of the same mind in the Lord” (Philippians 4:2). Exactly what the issue was between them, we do not know for sure, but Paul may give us a hint earlier in the letter. Paul wrote, “fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of men let each esteem others better than himself” (Philippians 2:2-3). Not valuing our brethren as we ought will hinder the unity of the church. When one individual always sees himself/herself as more valuable or important than the other and always insisting on his/her way. This type of attitude will hinder us from being of the same mind toward one another.

Unity is desirable and is pleasing to God. Not only is it desirable and pleasing to God, but it is commanded and expected by God. Imagine, God who gave his Son, as a ransom for our sins, looking upon His people that are not united. Unity must be based on God’s truth, but in matters of judgment, we must let all things be done in love. That is what God wants and expects.



God's Providence

Jeff Curtis

In the book of Esther, the Jews were slated for annihilation. Using the language of a mystery novel or play, someone might ask, “Who did it?” Who was responsible for bringing them to the point of being destroyed? That question could be answered in a number of ways. Of course, Haman did it. He was responsible, he was the person who got so mad at Mordecai that he had to find a way to not kill him, but all of the Jews.

In addition, Ahasuerus did it, though he might not have wanted to be counted guilty. He allowed himself to be tricked, once Haman possessed the signet ring, he had authority to do whatever he wanted to do to the Jewish people. The king didn’t have to be so gullible. He could have investigated the situation for himself and discovered the truth instead of trusting Haman.

Besides that, the king’s servants did. Haman had not even noticed Mordecai’s insolence until they brought it to the king’s attention. If they had not been talebearers, Mordecai might not have come to Haman’s attention and the Jews might never have been endangered.

In a sense, Mordecai himself did it. He probably could have acted respectfully toward Haman without breaking God’s law. In a sense, he was responsible for his own (and his people’s) danger.

What should we conclude about who was responsible for this sequence of events? The answer is “All of the above!” In the providence of God, all three various elements worked together to produce the result God desired.

As we read this story, we are reminded of the story of Joseph in Egypt. Joseph, a former slave, became the prime minister of Egypt. Then Joseph and his family moved to Egypt. After Jacob died, Joseph’s brothers were afraid that he would take vengeance on them. Joseph said, “Do not be afraid, for I am in God’s place? As for you, you meant it for evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive” (Genesis 50:19-20). To think of all that was involved in bringing about the result is amazing. A father’s unfortunate favoritism, Joseph’s lack of wisdom in bragging about his dream, the brothers’ enmity and sinful act of selling Joseph into

slavery, the lust and the lie of Potiphar's wife. The dreams interpreted and fulfilled, the cupbearer's forgetfulness, "natural" prosperity (seven years of plenty) and a "natural" disaster (seven years of drought), and Joseph's own faithfulness to God.

All these elements combined in the providence of God to draw the Jews into Egypt and prepare the way for their deliverance and becoming the chosen people of God. Who did it? God! In the case of Joseph, all these things worked together to bring about "good" (Romans 8:28).

In the case of Mordecai and Esther, we might still wonder. If God wanted the Jews to be saved, why did He just not prevent all these troubles from happening? We don't know the mind of God, so we can't answer with any certainty. It is possible, that God didn't want to just save the Jews from destruction. He wanted to see them elevated. That, in fact, was the result of the story told here in Esther. The Jews not escaped destruction, but they ended up better off than they were before! Maybe, that is the answer as to why God allowed it to be done.

~via *The Encourager*; Shelbyville, Tennessee.



The Acts of the Lord

Dan Lankford

Acts, along with the four Gospels, is one of the most important books of the New Testament. And while that might sound odd to say that some Bible books are more important than others ("They should all be important to us."), the truth is that the teaching in the epistles depends on the stories in the Gospels and Acts. Without the story of Christ, the teachings of Christ are robbed of most (maybe all) of their power.

And that's where we can see the great value of the book of Acts. It starts with these words: "In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen." Two things stand out about that introduction: 1) That the apostles were

commissioned to carry the Gospel and Jesus' teachings into the world. It was now in their hands. But perhaps even more important for us to realize is that 2) the work they did was Jesus' work.

The book of Acts is not a departure from the stories of Jesus' life; it is a continuation of his story. While the Gospels told the story of Jesus' work on the earth, Acts tells the story of Jesus' work over all the earth. The power in the book of Acts is the same power at work in the Gospels: the divine power of Jesus that could not be stopped by persecution, could not be overcome by darkness, and could not be contained by death.

So as you read the book of Acts in the coming weeks, remember that its power is the same power that's been in the story all along. The power in the Story is that it all points us to Jesus, "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

~via *Eastland church of Christ*, Louisville, Kentucky.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Joel Taylor	Sue Thomas
Tony Thomas	Sue Taylor
Marcella Coblentz	Marion Mitchell
Mitzi Carruth	JoAnn Gilbert
Loretta Warner	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Ann Bush
Tessa Bacci	Judy Whitt

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Judy Vaughn
Janice Cagle	Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Joan Carpenter	Gene Carpenter
Carrie Warner	Lloyd Adams

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Kennedy Pepper; Memphis, Tennessee
Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Elease Barksdale, rm. 22A
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77 Connie Brock, rm. 62
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36 Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
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:

Tony Thomas continues his recovery from the virus in Dickson, Tennessee...**Louise Melvin** had knee surgery on Tuesday and it went well...**Joel Taylor** had a positive test for the virus this past week...**Sue Thomas** is making improvements as she recovers from the virus this past week...**Larry Mitchell** is doing well following his cataract surgery...**Ross Melvin** had a CAT scan and a biopsy this past week...**Steve Usery** is scheduled for knee surgery on Thursday...**Betty Bolton and Peggy Mitchell's sister, Judy Whitt**, had surgery in Huntsville this past Wednesday and is at home...**Ross & Louise Melvin's grandson, Luke Davis**, is to have back surgery this month in Boston, Massachusetts.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Carol Dean and all the family** in the passing of Carol and Timmy's son-in-law, **Matt Poff**. Matt passed away following at 13 year battle with cancer. We pray that the Lord will bless all the family at this time... We express our deepest sympathy to **Kenneth Smith and all the family** in the passing of Kenneth's brother-in-law, **David Blackburn**. He passed away on Sunday. There was a graveside service for him on Friday at Sardis Springs. May the Lord bless this family.

OUT OF TOWN: **Joe Hinkle** is in Port St. Lucie, Florida, visiting with family ...**The Stiles: Chuck and Benita** are in Vicksburg, Mississippi...**Opal Conn** is in Vicksburg, Mississippi...**Christian Usery** is in Long Beach, California.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
Song Leader Larry Holt
Prayer..... David Barnett
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
Assisting Larry Tucker
Serving Matthew Vaughn... Marvin Putman
..... Roger Hammonds Danny Holt
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

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

Other Assignments for the week of August 2rd:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System..... Marty Adams

Wednesday, August 5th:

Song Leader Albert Haraway
Bible Reading Griffin Holt
..... Hebrews 13:18-25
Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
Invitation Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Sunday, August 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Albert Haraway
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Hunter Cox
Serving Danny Johnson Harold Davis
..... Clayton Hamm Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... Tony Thomas
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Bob Broadus

Other Assignments for the week of August 9th:

Ushers..... Landon Adams/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams