

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
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Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 36

The Blessedness of Contentment

David A. Cox

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” — (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

Many people live with the mentality: “The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.” Indeed, this statement does seem to describe so many people is life. Things always look better from the other side. But why is that the case? The fact is that it comes from an attitude of discontentment. In the above verses, Paul wrote to Timothy and reminded him of what the focus should be in life. When the focus is right, then life will find contentment. Let us consider some thoughts to help us find contentment.

Learn to be Content.

Contentment is something we need to learn. Paul said, “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Philippians 4:12). Paul tells us contentment was something that he had learned. Paul speaks in the following verse about living without and living with abundance. Paul said living with or without did not alter his life, for he learned in either way to be content. How much joy and happiness would we find if we could just simply learn this principle? Many are always looking at the things others have and desire to have more. Why? Discontentment. It was like the man who said that he could be happy without all the land, but he just wanted the land that was next to him. Sometimes we fail to truly see the blessings we have because we are looking for more. We need to remember what Jesus told the man in Luke 12:15, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” Let us learn to be content, experiencing the joy and happiness of the blessings we have.

How Did Paul Learn to be Content?

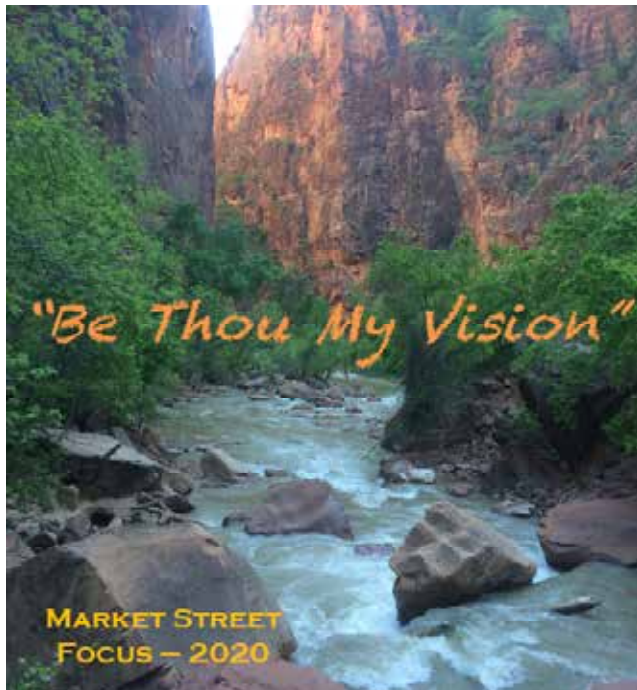
We see the key to Paul’s learning contentment in Philippians 3, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet

indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith” (Philippians 3:7-9). For Paul, joy and happiness were found in serving the Lord and pleasing Him in all things. The things of life lost the glitter and attraction to Paul. There is the secret in learning contentment; it is learning the real joy and happiness is found in Christ. Paul’s contentment in serving is why he finds joy while under house arrest and not free to move about (Philippians 1:12-18). Another statement of contentment Paul wrote is, “all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). Let us learn to be content in our lives as Paul.

Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain

Paul said, “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” Indeed, it is. Great gain is found in pursuing godliness in our lives and finding the joy and contentment God wants for us. At that point, joy will be ever overflowing, and our focus will be on the hope before us of the place far better. God will care for us (Hebrews 15:5-6) and give us what we need (Psalm 37:25, Matthew 6:26-33).

May we look for contentment in our lives, living them in a holy and godly way. Finding the blessedness that contentment will bring to our lives.



God, Our Reward

Mark McCrary

“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’”
(Genesis 15:1)

In Genesis 15, we find God once more affirming His relationship with the great patriarch Abram. Perhaps this was a confirmation for the great faith Abram exhibited in chapter 14 by trusting in God more than riches. Perhaps Abram was at a low point in life and needed assurance. Regardless, God promised, “I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

Abram’s response is interesting. “Lord God, what will you give me, seeing that I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

Think about that for a minute. God said He would be Abram’s reward... but Abram asked what would be his reward. Do you see the disconnect? It is almost like Abram wasn’t listening to God. The great Creator wanted this lowly man to know that He—God!—was giving Himself to Abram—His presence, His blessings, His attention... everything! But, Abram was only focused on an heir. The wealth of the universe was laid before Him in God, and yet he was only thinking about a temporary, albeit important, trinket.

God, of course, was patient with Abram. Abram needed to grow. He needed to learn that God was all he needed in life—even more than he needed an heir. So, God assured him he would indeed have an heir from his “own body” and that his descendants would be numerous (v. 5). But, importantly, all these would come from God. We are then told that Abram believed, and “He accounted it to him for righteousness” (v. 6).

Did Abram get it? No, but God was long-suffering anyway, and with good reason. Later, in chapter 22, after having been given an heir, he would be willing to give up that heir—the thing he wanted most in chapter 15—because he grew to understand he had God and all his blessings.

How often do we do the same thing as Abram? As Christians, the God of the universe has looked upon us and given Himself for us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

He is our reward as well. He has blessed us with “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:3), given us “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3), forgiven us, provided for us, instructed us, brought us into His family (1 John 3:1) and promised us a home in heaven one day! Yet, what do we still do? We are still asking for lesser things—our own “heir.” It may be stuff, money, health, a spouse, children, fame or a host of other things. Mind you, some of these things are wonderful, and rightly to be desired (such as a spouse, children, health, etc.), but compared to having God as our reward and all that goes along with it, they are still lesser. Our greatest joy comes when we see Him and He alone as enough to satisfy us in our lives. And the test of that is when we, like Abram, are willing to live without our “heirs” as long as we have God.

Let’s apply this to our lives.

~via *Applying God’s Word*; Louisville, Kentucky.



Would You Pray That Prayer?

Jonathan Banning

In Psalm 7, David makes a shocking petition to God. “O LORD my God, if I have done this, if there is injustice in my hands... let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it; and let him trample my life down to the ground and lay my glory in the dust” (7:3-5).

That’s the plea of someone with a clean conscience. Only a man who knew he was innocent would pray such a bold prayer. Some prayers are so straightforward and honest that they can only be prayed by a heart that’s right in the sight of God. Maybe there’s something we can learn from the prayers we aren’t willing to pray. For instance, are you willing to pray...

“**Examine me, O Lord**” (Psalm 26:2). David is inviting spiritual inspection, confessing he has nothing to hide. Do you know who gets worried about tests? Those who aren’t prepared. What about you? Can you invite the Lord to examine your life, even looking forward to

the test because you know you’re prepared?

“**Make me know your ways, O Lord**” (Psalm 25:4). David wants the truth, no matter what it may require of him. Sometimes we think ignorance is bliss. Sometimes, when we’re guilty, we’d rather not know. What about you? Do you want to know what you need to fix, how you can grow, what to improve, whatever the cost?

“**Come, Lord Jesus**” (Revelation 22:20). This prayer lays my heart bare. It’s the ultimate tool in determining whether my conscience is clean. What about you? Is your heart right with God? Are you ready, even anxious for the Lord to come right now?

Can you pray those prayers with a conscience cleansed by the blood of Jesus? If not, why not do something about it today?

~via *Charlestown Road Bulletin*; New Albany, Indiana.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Barbara Carter | Sue Taylor |
| Arvid McGuire | Mitzi Carruth |
| JoAnn Gilbert | Loretta Warner |
| Bobbie Adcock | Doris Lovell |
| Ann Bush | Larry Morris |
| Tessa Bacci | Judy Whitt |
| Kennedy Pepper | |

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

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

Gene Carpenter Lloyd Adams
Carrie Warner

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Eliese 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. 59 Alice Roberson, rm. 49
Jerry Hinkle, rm. 58

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:

Lona Jackson spent several days in the Huntsville Hospital. She came home on Wednesday ... **Ross Melvin** is at home under hospice care... **Barbara Carter** will be moved to Traditions this week. She is in Apt. 104... **Arvid McGuire** is at home after suffering two heart attacks. He is in bed and unable to be up... **Meredith Parks uncle, Bob Goodwin**, has been diagnosed with the virus... **Kelli Gordon, Nancy Abernathy's niece-in-law**, has been diagnosed with cancer ... **Keith Hinkle's father and Casey Curry's grandfather, Jerry Hinkle**, is in rehab at Limestone Health Facility... **Ross & Louise Melvin's grandson, Luke Davis**, is scheduled for surgery in Colorado on Thursday of this week.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Ashes:** *Harold & Barb* are in Indiana this week... **Ann McLemore** will be in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this week... **The Stiles:** *Chuck and Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... **Opal Conn** is in Vicksburg, Mississippi... **Christian Usery** is in Montgomery working.

SERVICE TIMES: Today, we will begin to assemble on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday night at 7:00.

Remember Our Study Period

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Larry Holt
Prayer..... Marcus Morris
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Joel Hamm
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Sam Gregory Keith Hinkle
..... Hunter Cox Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Albert Haraway
Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of September 6th:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, September 9th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
Bible Reading Marcus Morris
..... James 1:1-15
Prayer..... Frank Melton
Invitation Dan Reed
Closing Prayer Bob Broadus

Sunday, September 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Landon Adams
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
Assisting Keith Hinkle
Serving Harold Davis Roger Hammonds
..... Kenneth Adams... Matthew Vaughn
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
Song Leader Albert Haraway
Prayer..... Tony Thomas
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for the week of September 13th:

Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Steve Usery
Work Sound System..... Marty Adams