

# 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 Coblantz..... (256) 232-3312  
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 XIII

January 3, 2021

No. 1

## MARKET STREET FOCUS – 2021



*"Plant My Feet On Higher Ground"*

## *Plant My Feet on Higher Ground – 2021*

**David A. Cox**

The Market Street Focus for 2021 will be "Plant My Feet on Higher Ground." Life is filled with many distractions that often cause us to lose sight of the goal ahead of us. We need to make sure that we are planting our feet in the truths of God's word and fixing focus on the Higher Ground.

There is no doubt that as life continues, there will be many things that will be disappointing and discouraging. Still, as the people of God and our feet firmly planted, we can see the great joy there is even when the things of life seem to be completely out of control. Why? Because they are planted in the One Who is in control.

As we go through this year, may we grow in the faith of the God we serve and grow to be Christ-like in our lives.

## *Seemed Like Idle Tales*

**Leland R. Ping**

Paul explained that the gospel would mean different things to different people. To those who believe it as truth, it's a source of power and wisdom by which a person governs his life. To those who refuse to believe it and who perish due to their lack of faith, the apostle says that the cross' message is foolishness (I Corinthians 1:18). The core message of the gospel is salvation which comes not simply through Jesus' death, but through His powerful and miraculous resurrection. Without that resurrection, our efforts in doing God's will are "in vain" (I Corinthians 15:14). After Jesus was raised from the dead, a group of women went to the eleven remaining apostles to share with them the exciting news that their friend Jesus was no longer dead but was now alive. The Bible says, "their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them" (Luke 24:11).

There are countless observations that one can make about this section of scripture, but one that most definitely should be made is the lack of faith of these eleven men. The twelve apostles had been the closest of friends with Jesus. They had spent countless days with Him for over three years. Three of the twelve (Peter, James, John) had an even closer relationship than did the other nine. Yet, in spite of their repeated promises to never abandon their Master and Friend, they all did exactly that (Matthew 26:56). Furthermore, if anyone should have known of God's plan to redeem mankind through the resurrection of the Christ, it should have been the apostles. Yet, it was these men who heard what the women reported and thought they were telling stories!

Whether the gospel is powerful or not and whether or not the account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are like idle tales is entirely up to each person. In Luke 24, the women were convinced but the men were not. Today, one person who fully believes in Jesus and has rendered his life obedient to Him might sit next to man who has no desire to consider God's word as a valuable thing to consider and chooses instead to view it as folklore and idle tales. It's also important for us to be reminded that, no matter how faithful we become and no matter how close we get to Jesus, it's possible for us to go "backward with our faith" like the apostles seemed to do. The best thing for us to do is to daily consider

Christ's powerful words and communicate directly with the Father, asking Him for the strength to always see the words of His message as they are supposed to be seen — powerful and life changing!

~via *Lake Elsinore Bulletin*; Lake Elsinore, California.

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## *How Do We Come Across?*

**Matthew H. Allen**

Practically every day of Jesus' ministry found him either opposed by or opposing error and sin. We read of conflicts with the Pharisees in Matthew 12 and 23. And, in Matthew 16 Jesus even found Himself in conflict with his disciples. Jesus taught His followers to expect trouble, opposition, and controversy. It has been said that in all of the history of our Lord Jesus Christ, we never find him out of controversy. There is no doubt that Jesus powerfully and honorably stood against error, and in doing so He exposed the false teachings and hypocrisy of His day.

The New Testament writers were not afraid to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Paul wrote about how he was set for the defense of the gospel, Philippians 1:16. Acts tells us of how he spoke boldly and reasoned from the scriptures. Jude boldly warned believers to stand up against religious error. He made it perfectly clear of our need to engage in whatever controversy the forces of the devil make necessary. Christians should contend earnestly for the faith, Jude 3. There is an unmistakable concept presented in the gospel: Christians have the responsibility to stand for truth and defend God's ways against those who are willing to compromise.

While there is a clear need to stand for God's way of doing things, Paul also wrote: Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person, Colossians 4:5-6. When communicating the fact of religious error to those who are outside of the body of Christ, or to those who are new Christians, how do we come across? What is

the perception we leave? We must exercise caution with the words we speak, lest a few careless words slam shut the doors of opportunity to teach. Sometimes we can leave the impression that our religious friends in denominations are less than smart, insincere, and at best, willfully deceptive. And with an overwhelming majority of cases, that is simply not the case. While I'm sure we know that, is this always the impression that comes across? We need to be on guard lest our bible classes or sermons denigrate into little more than discussions of us verses them and of our disbelief of how anyone could believe the bible that way. While our intention is noble, in that we wish to objectively contrast denominational doctrine with Christ's, we must not make the conversation personal. And things can go that way in a hurry. I like Guy N Wood's writing. He once said, an alleged defense of the truth at the expense of a sincere heart and peaceful disposition is illogical and irrational. It is absurd to attempt to do right by doing wrong. Men have made themselves murderers on the pretense of doing God's will. Remember Paul didn't make his argument personal, he reasoned from the scriptures, Acts 17:2.

Some are governed by the mentality that having the truth somehow excuses them from using tact and godliness in the way they speak of others. However, Christians are to be governed by the principles found in Colossians 3:12: put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. While the truth may be on the side of the New Testament Christian, truth does not excuse him to judge motives, doubt sincerity, and treat issues with brute force that should be handled in love. When speaking about denominational doctrine or other religious errors propagated by those outside of Christ, God's kind of person will make sure God is glorified by the way truth is shared with others.

Accomplishing this takes wisdom. Christians need to pray for wisdom, James 1:5. In James 3:17 the writer describes how those with wisdom conduct themselves: the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. This is the effect New Testament Christianity is to have upon our heart and life, and it will be revealed by the way we speak! We have been created to have this kind of disposition. Wisdom understands that gentleness is not always to be equated with weakness. Wisdom knows that we must speak the truth in love, Ephesians 4:15. Place yourself in the shoes of an average guest from the community who visits bible classes and services. What would you think of the conversations that take place in some bible

classes? Are there impressions cast that would cause a person to come away thinking of those in Christ's Church as being arrogant and condescending?

While speaking the truth in love, some will be offended by an objective effort to contrast truth with error. And when truth is explained in the spirit of Christ, we make no apology. God calls everyone to treat His word honestly and soberly, 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Some persons are in no way interested in truth or making correction. These have closed their hearts and they will answer to God for that. But let us be aware of how we come across and always keep the words of Jesus near our hearts: In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets, Matthew 7:12.

~via *Brownsburg Church of Christ*; Brownsburg, Indiana.

## News & Notes...

### THE SICK:

Shirley Miller	Leigh Ann McGlocklin
David Barnett	Bobbie Adcock
JoAnn Gilbert	Jimmy Johnson
Doris Lovell	Glynda Walker
Bobby Ogles	Ann Bush
Malcom Gordon	Greg Clark
Haley Gill	Marsha Young
Bill Faulkner	

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

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

### *In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:*

*Betty Pepper*, Athens-Limestone Hospital

**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. 59    Frances Bowers, rm. 67  
Alice Roberson, rm. 49    Deanie Britton, rm.

**Shut-In or Away From Home:**

Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor  
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
Barbara Carter, Traditions  
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison  
Irene Inman, at home  
Stan Stanford, at home  
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge  
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

**Updates:**

**Betty Pepper** was readmitted to the Athens-Limestone Hospital. She has pneumonia... **Delmer Carter** is waiting surgery for an aneurysm... **Wayne Vaughn** responded well to the treatment at home... **Ronnie Locke's** is recovering from his recent knee surgery this and undergoing therapy... **Dale Adcock** is to complete her treatments this week... **Donna Wright** continues to wait to see a doctor in January about her lungs... **Leigh Ann McGlocklin** is scheduled to have surgery in January... **Mike Ogles' father, Bobby Ogles**, is doing much better and was able to return to Merrill Gardens on Wednesday... **Betty Pepper's and Margaret Vaughn's sister, Glynda Walker**, is sick with the virus and is at home... **Wade Williams, David Barnett's son-in-law**, is undergoing treatments for lymphoma.

**WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE:** **Bobbie Adcock** spoke to me last week stating that she had a large wheel chair that she would like to give to anyone that would need it. If you would be interested, you can contact Bobbie about it.

**THE RECORD: Attendance for week of December 27<sup>th</sup>:**

Sunday:	Bible Classes .....	82
	Morning Worship .....	104
	Evening Worship .....	74
Wednesday:	Bible Classes .....	52

**Remember Our Study Periods**

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.  
*Come Join Us As We Study Together*

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Marcus Morris  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Marty R. Adams  
Assisting ..... Larry Tucker  
Serving ..... Landon Adams..... Matthew Uesry  
..... Danny Holt ..... Marvin Putman  
Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Marcus Morris  
Song Leader ..... Tony Thomas  
Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Keith Hinkle  
Closing Prayer ..... Clayton Hamm

Other Assignments for the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup>:  
Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Russ Wulfekuhl  
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

**Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Bible Reading ..... Keenon Currier  
..... (1 Peter 2:1-12)  
Prayer..... Landon Adams  
Invitation..... Bob Broadus  
Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Adams

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Terry Andrews  
Song Leader ..... Stephen Lynn  
Prayer..... Harold Ash  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Joel Hamm  
Assisting ..... Larry Tucker  
Serving ..... Matthew Vaughn..... Sam Gregory  
..... Clayton Hamm ..... Kenneth Adams  
Closing Prayer ..... Frank Melton

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Terry Andrews  
Song Leader ..... Larry Holt  
Prayer..... Dan Reed  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Joel Hamm  
Closing Prayer ..... Clayton Hamm

Other Assignments for the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>:  
Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Danny Johnson  
Work Sound System..... Marty R. Adams