

# 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  
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](http://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 17, 2021

No. 3

## *What God Thinks*

**David A. Cox**

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).*

The matter of man thinking is far more critical than we often realize. The wise man said, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Again, "keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). Paul reminded the Philippians to guard their thinking and think only on good, positive, and godly things (Philippians 4:8). Let us be impressed with the power that our thoughts can have upon our relationship with God. Let us consider a few examples in scripture.

**The Case of Naaman.** In 2 Kings 5, we read the story of the cleansing of Naaman of his leprosy. Elisha, the prophet, told Naaman to "go and wash in Jordan seven times" (2 Kings 5:10). Naaman did not want to do this and was even angry at what Elisha told him. As Naaman went away in a rage, he said, "Indeed, I said to myself, He will surely come out to me, stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and heal the leprosy" (2 Kings 5:11). Naaman was thinking, but his thinking was faulty. As long as he thought this way and refused to align his thinking with God's, he would remain a leper. We must understand, as Naaman learned, that his thinking must be aligned with God's thinking.

**The Case of the Rich Fool.** The parable Jesus taught about a greatly blessed farmer. The land had produced a plentiful crop, even to the point that he had no room to store the harvest. The thinking of the farmer who had been so blessed was not what it should have been. "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I store all my crops and my goods.' And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry'" ( Luke 12 17-19). The thoughts of the farmer who was abundantly blest were only upon self. There was no

thanksgiving to God. In the verses that follow, Jesus gives God's reaction to such faulty thinking. "But God said unto him, Fool! This night your soul shall be required of you; then whose shall those things be, which you have provided? So is he that lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:19-21). The Lord reprimands him for such thinking. We must not think that "things" will help us in any way to be pleasing to God. God is not concerned with what we have, but what kind of steward we have been with the things we have been blessed with.

**The Church at Laodicea.** In Revelation 3, the angel of the church at Laodicea writes to the church and speaks of their condition of being lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. However, this description did not match the thoughts of the members of the church at Laodicea. Revelation 3:17 tells what the Laodiceans thought of themselves, "Because thou say, I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing"; and do not know that you art wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked." What a difference between what the Laodiceans thought and what the Lord thought. We must be sure that we are objective in our thinking and that our objectivity is based upon God's will.

These are a few examples, and many more could be given, but this is enough to understand that pleasing God is not based upon what I think is acceptable to God; instead, it is what God thinks is acceptable. We must remember that God's thoughts are higher than man's thoughts and His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). Let us look to God's word and determine what is right and pleasing to Him and then walk and think in those ways as we acknowledge God as the ruler of our lives.



## *A Bunch of Blind People*

**Mike Noble**

The ninth chapter of John accounts for the sudden eyesight of a man who had been blind since birth. "As Jesus passed by" He saw the man, whereupon He "spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay." Jesus told him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam," which the man did and came back seeing (vss. 1-11).

Jesus' healing of a man blind since birth was an amazing miracle, something "unheard of" "since the world began" (vs. 32). A man who had never seen flowers, trees, human beings, or Jerusalem's buildings now could see these and so much more. Further, the man came to see Jesus in the flesh! (What a privilege!)

This man, however, came to see Jesus in more than a physical sense that day. His eyes were opened spiritually to all that Jesus was and is. Notice the interesting progression: When first asked, "How were your eyes opened?" he responded, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes..." (vs. 11). Later, though, when questioned about who he thought Jesus was, he said, "He is a prophet" (vs. 17). Soon after, he confessed that Jesus must be "from God" (vs. 33). And when Jesus conversed with him later, the man acknowledged his belief in Jesus' divinity, "and he worshiped Him" (vs. 38).

At the beginning of the day the man did not know who Jesus was, but at the end he recognized Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see..." (vs. 39).

Sadly, though, the man born sightless was not the only 'blind' person mentioned in this chapter.

### **The Parents**

This man's parents were blinded by fear. When the Jews pressured them and asked, "How then does he now see?" they responded, "We do not know... He is of age; ask him" The Bible says, "His parents said these things because they feared the Jews" would put them out of the synagogue (vss. 19-23).

There are people even today who are blinded by fear -- fear of what their spouse or parents or children or religious party would think if they were to acknowledge Jesus and obey His teachings.

### **The Jewish Leaders**

The leaders of the Jews were doubly-blinded to

the clear evidence concerning Jesus. First, they were blinded by their man-made traditions. When confronted with this miracle, the only response they could initially muster was, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath" (vs.16). Jesus had healed this man on the Sabbath, and that was all they needed to conclude that Jesus was "a sinner." (It was just that simple!) Of course, the Mosaical law contained not one 'jot' or 'tittle' that would have prohibited what Jesus did on the Sabbath, but the Jews' own traditions did. Too often men allow their own party beliefs and man-made dogmas to keep them from opening their eyes to Jesus' truth. When they respond to His word with, "But my preacher says—" or "But my church has always taught—" these are telling indicators.

Second, these leaders were blinded by their own pride. When the man who had been healed tried to logically reason with them about Jesus, they arrogantly replied, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" They then proceeded to excommunicate him from the synagogue (vs. 34). It's a sad day when someone becomes too intelligent to be enlightened by a 'rank amateur' with a truth from God's word.

#### And Us?

Are we somewhere in this text? Which of these people is illustrative of us? Could it be we are presently blinded by fear or tradition or pride? Or are we opening our eyes and seeing Jesus for who He truly is? If He tells us something is so, do we believe it? If He commands us to do something, do we obey?

Lord, "open [our] eyes, in order to turn [us] from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that [we] may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in" Jesus (Acts 26:18).

~via *Central Shelby Church of Christ*; Shelbyville, Kentucky.



## *Live the Right Message*

**Dan Lankford**

I was sitting in a hospital waiting room and noticed a lady coming toward me wearing a shirt with beautifully scrolled letters that said, "It Is Well With My Soul." She was heading for the empty seat next to me. As she sat down, she dropped her phone and also dropped nasty

swear word as she did. And you know... regardless of her reasons for that, the inconsistency of it all just didn't sit well with me.

As a believer, it should never sit well with us when we observe blessing and cursing coming from the same life (James 3:7-12). It doesn't make sense for someone who claims to be living a Christian life to swear and curse others and tell crude jokes, even if those things are supposedly done in secret. We ought not make excuses for the language we use—we ought to make changes to the language we use.

While not every sin of your tongue will be heard by someone else, every sin of the tongue is heard by God. And that ought to motivate us to make sure that our speech is "always gracious, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6) and that we "speak and act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty" (James 2:12). The gospel that we claim to live ought to be the same gospel that is communicated by our words—that Jesus is the king of our lives and rules over us in every way.

~via *Eastland Family Report*; Louisville, Kentucky.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

Shirley Miller  
Sheila Holt  
Don Bates  
Ronnie Locke  
JoAnn Gilbert  
Doris Lovell  
Bobby Ogles  
Marsha Young

Leigh Ann McGlocklin  
Marcella Coblentz  
Bobbie Adcock  
Tony Thomas  
Jimmy Johnson  
Glynda Walker  
Ann Bush  
Bill Faulkner

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

Donna Wright  
Vicki Stringer  
Nikki Ogles  
Lona Jackson  
Jeanette Weir  
Cornelia Pepper  
Wayne Wooldridge  
Cindy Walker  
Al Pollard  
David Collier  
Una King Currier

Loretta Warner  
Freddie Mae Elmore  
Anita Wheeler  
Judy Vaughn  
Janice Cagle  
Ella Melvin  
Carrie Warner  
Kenneth Fisher  
Charles Burns  
Phillip Harwell  
Lloyd Adams

Gene Carpenter Wade Williams

**In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:**

Betty Pepper, Athens-Limestone Hospital

Peggy Pepper, Valey View Rehabilitation

**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

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

Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor

Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge

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** continues in the Athens-Limestone Hospital ... **Leigh Ann McGlocklin** had surgery on Thursday in Huntsville. They are doing a biopsy on the tissue ...

**Delmer Carter's** surgery has been delayed and he will be hoping to get it done next month ... **Peggy Pepper**

is broke her arm in three places and is in Valley View for rehab ... **Tony Thomas** is waiting for a call from the doctor to schedule his back surgery ... **Shelia Holt** is making improvements with her bout of shingles ...

**Brenda Eden's son-in-law, Adam Lee,** is scheduled to have surgery Thursday to replaced his pacemaker ... **Dale Adcock** completed her treatments this week... **Donna Wright**

will be having a biopsy done on the spot on her lung... **Don Bates** has been sick with the virus this past week ... **Wade Williams, David Barnett's son-in-law,** is undergoing treatments for lymphoma.

**NEW GEORGIA:** The Lord willing, I am to be with the **New Georgia church** in Lauderdale county tonight for their winter series. It will be good to be with them. **Jerry Curry** is the preacher there.

**THE RECORD: Attendance for week of January 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 89  
Morning Worship ..... 115  
Evening Worship ..... 80  
Wednesday: Bible Classes ..... 73

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer..... Kenneth Adams  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon  
Assisting ..... Terry Andrews  
Serving ..... Danny Holt ..... Charles Vaughn  
..... Marvin Putman ... Nathaniel Adams  
Closing Prayer ..... Keenon Currier

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz  
Preaching..... Kasey Harbin  
Lord's Supper ..... Joel Hamm  
Closing Prayer ..... Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for the week of January 17<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers..... Hunter Cox/Danny Johnson  
Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

**Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>:**

Song Leader ..... Stephen Lynn  
Bible Reading ..... Frank Melton  
..... (1 Peter 3:1-12)  
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell  
Invitation ..... David Cox  
Closing Prayer ..... Nathaniel Adams

**Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Joel Hamm  
Song Leader ..... Larry Holt  
Prayer..... Kenneth Adams  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Tommy Coblenz  
Assisting ..... Stephen Lynn  
Serving ..... Matthew Vaughn.... Keenon Currier  
..... Hunter Cox ..... Matthew Uesry  
Closing Prayer ..... Roger Hammonds

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Joel Hamm  
Song Leader ..... Bob Broadus  
Prayer..... Kenneth Smith  
Preaching ..... Song Service  
Lord's Supper ..... Tommy Coblenz  
Closing Prayer ..... Frank Melton

Other Assignments for the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers..... Keith Hinkle/Russ Wulfekuhl  
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams