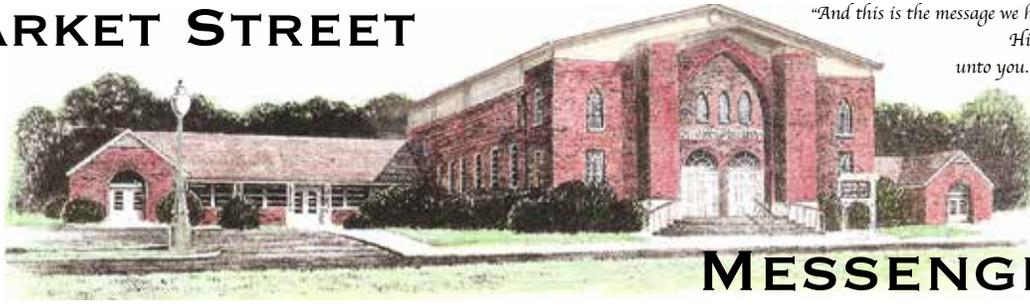


MARKET STREET



“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

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 11

Beyond the Grave

David A. Cox

“I Am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26).

When Jesus heard of the death of His dear friend Lazarus said, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up” (John 11:11). As Jesus came to Lazarus’ grave, Jesus met his sister, Martha, and told a truth that needed to be remembered, that He is “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25). Jesus is not teaching that believers in Him will continue to physically live forever but that there is life beyond the grave. Seeing beyond the grave seems to be one of the biggest problems people have. The struggles of life disturb us because we fail to remember what is beyond the grave. As people of faith, life problems would fade into insignificance as we view life beyond the grave. Let us consider what is beyond the grave.

There Will Be A Judgment.

The Bible says concerning death, “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was; And the spirit will return to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7). In Hebrews 9:27, we read, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” It is clear from the scriptures that after this life, the spirit of man will return to God for judgment. In this judgment, man will not be judged on what people thought of him but on how he lived following the Lord’s will. In Romans 14:12, “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.” In 2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to that he has done, whether good or bad.” Beyond the grave, we will face God to be judged according to His will (Matthew 7:21-24; John 12:48).

What Does This Mean?

The question may well be asked, “What does this mean?” It means that really what matters is how man’s life is viewed by God. In Jesus’ day, He spoke of those that believed in Him but would not confess Him “For

they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43). Today, it is still the same; some cannot see beyond the grave because of the praise, prestige, and position of honor that they hold among men.

The fate of such people is best seen in the sermon on the mount. Jesus pictures the judgment scene and says, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" (Matthew 7:22). He says that some will have done many wonderful things in the eyes of men. On this side of the grave, they looked exceptional to men. But notice Jesus' response, "And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:23). We must learn to see beyond the grave and to view our lives as God views them.

How Would God View Your Life?

Would God be pleased or not? We must understand that it does matter what we do on this side of the grave. And what we do or do not do will determine where we spend eternity on the other side of the grave. Each one needs to learn to view this life as a preparation for the life beyond the grave. May we learn to live in this life with the view of eternity that we may enjoy the paradise



First Called "Disciples"

David Osteen

"... and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Luke records that disciples were first called Christians here some 13 years AFTER the day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2. So what were Christians called during that period of time? Well the answer may be obvious, but the lessons from that answer may not be to most.

While we learn that they were first called Christians at Antioch... they were first called "Disciples". The term disciple means "a follower of." Therefore, if

all Christians are disciples, that means all Christians are followers of Christ. This harmonizes perfectly with what 1 John 2:3-6 says, "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." This also corresponds perfectly with what Jesus said as He preached, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Learning that they were disciples we verify that one becomes a Christian by being baptized. According to the command of Jesus, one was to become a disciple by baptism, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20). Furthermore, we know that being baptized is a following of Christ from death into a new life of service to God the Father, "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). The implication of the "new life" is not that we continue in sin that grace might abound (modernly referred to as "once saved always saved"), but instead is a call to godliness, "For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God" (Romans 6:10-13).

If one wants to be a Christian, a Disciple, a Follower of Christ, then they must by the very definition of the word, follow Him. They must follow His walk (Romans 6:4-10), commands (Matthew 28:19-20), and example (Matthew 3:13-17). There is no such thing as an unbaptized Christian because there is no such thing as an unbaptized Disciple. Not according to the words of Jesus anyway. Remember John 8:31-32? If we are truly disciples of Christ then you will know the truth and it

will make you free. What is the truth? "... the word of truth, the gospel" (Colossians 1:5). What is the gospel? "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:15-16). And what does baptism free (save) you from? Sin (Acts 2:38; 22:16) and Death (Romans 6:17-23).

When we understand what it truly means to be a "Disciple", then we learn that we can't be a Christian without being one.

~via *O'Connor Church of Christ*; San Antonio, Texas.



Do You Listen To The Warning?

Chuck Richardson

The Lord gave Ezekiel a question to ask Israel, He was to ask them if the watchman warned the people and the Lord will bring a sword and they do not listen, isn't their death their own fault?(Ezekiel 33)

Friend, the Lord is warning us as always. If we won't listen to the trumpet warning, our death will be our own fault. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. (Colossians 1:28-29).

We all must appear before the judgment seat of God to answer for our life [2 Corinthians 5:10]. We have been fairly warned that God will execute righteous indignation on those who choose to reject His saving call (Acts 2:21,38; 22:16; Romans 10:13). Ezekiel records: "If he had taken warning, he would have saved his life" (Ezekiel 33:5b).

The people of God dared to say the Lord was unfair (Ezekiel 33:17), and the Lord said plainly "He will judge each according to his ways" [Ezekiel 33:20b]. Isn't this cry of fairness all too familiar? We hear it in every corner of our society, and it is embedded into the fabric of our culture.

Please remember the Lord said this of His children, not the human race as a whole. There should be no surprise that unbelievers say the Lord is unfair, if there even is a Lord, but do we? Maybe we deceive ourselves into thinking we don't simply because we don't reject Him whole cloth. But what if we're like the Israelites of old? Israel came to the wall to hear Ezekiel speak the word of the Lord, but they wouldn't obey it. So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. (Job 14:1-2 NKJV)

~via *Lakeland Hills Leader*; Lakeland, Florida.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Shirley Miller
Peggy Smith
Betty Pepper
Frank Melton
JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell
Justice Gentry
Bobby Ogles
Marsha Young

Tony Thomas
Pat Nixon
Bonnie Sutton
Bobbie Adcock
Jimmy Johnson
Dan Lovell
Glynda Walker
Ann Bush
Karen Ferguson

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Harold Ash
Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer
Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson
Lloyd Adams
Janice Cagle
Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker
Al Pollard
David Collier
Wade Williams

Leigh Ann McGlocklin
Loretta Warner
Freddie Mae Elmore
Anita Wheeler
Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir
Cornelia Pepper
Carrie Warner
Kenneth Fisher
Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Elise Barksdale, rm. 22A

Connie Brock, rm. 62 Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36 Christine Hudson, rm. 77
 Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Patsy Appleton, rm. 113

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59 Frances Bowers, rm. 67
 Alice Roberson, rm. 49 Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 98

Shut-In or Away From Home:

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

Updates:

Peggy Smith had her hip surgery in Decatur on Tuesday and was able to come home on Wednesday ... **Frank Melton** had eye surgery in Birmingham on Tuesday and it went well. He will be staying in Birmingham until his follow-up visit with his doctor ... **Bonnie Morris** had a back procedure done on Tuesday ... **Scottie Reed** had eye surgery done on Wednesday at Crestwood ... **Judy Vaughn** had a heart ablation done on Thursday at Crestwood Hospital ... **Ann McLemore** is scheduled to have knee surgery on March 30th... **Leigh Ann McGlocklin** continued her radiation treatments this week, she has 14 treatments left... **Harold Ash** has completed 15 for his 45 treatments. The treatments will continue for 6 more weeks ... **Justice Gentry, Albert & Brenda Haraway's grandson**, returned to the doctor for a follow-up visit. He will be in a wheelchair four and a half more months, but all indications are that healing is going well.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Bonnie Morris**, in the passing of her nephew -in-law, **Barry Jenkins**. He passed away suddenly on Tuesday. His visitation and graveside service were at Roselawn in Decatur. May the Lord bless all this family at this time.

OUT OF TOWN: The Stiles: *Chuck and Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... **Christian Usery** has begun working in Nashville at Vanderbilt. He will be back and forth.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of March 7th:

Sunday: Bible Classes 116
 Morning Worship 138
 Evening Worship 94
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 80

Remember Our Service Today at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Joel Hamm
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Larry Tucker
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Clayton Hamm Matthew Usery
 Heath Dollar Kenneth Adams
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Dan Reed
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Larry Tucker
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for the week of March 14th:

Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Marcus Morris
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, March 17th:

Song Leader Larry Holt
 Bible Reading Mike Ogles
 (2 Peter 2:1-11)
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Sunday, March 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Larry Holt
 Serving Kenneth Adams..... Clayton Hamm
 Marvin Putman Matthew Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Frank Melton
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Harvey Nixon

Other Assignments for the week of March 21st:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System..... Marty R. Adams