

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

Volume XIV

January 16, 2022

No. 3

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
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MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Fear Not, I Am Your God!

David A. Cox

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" — (Isaiah 41:10)

There is no doubt that fear and anxiety can drain you. People have all kinds of fears. Fear of flying. Fear of financial disaster. Fear of another World War. Fear of sickness. Fear of death. The list could go on and on. However, the Lord says that we should "fear not...Be not dismayed." As the people of God, we should remember that we should not fear, for the Lord is our God. Let us consider why we should not fear.

God is With Us.

We should have faith to trust in the promises that He has made to us. The Hebrew writer said, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). God is always with us. The Bible is filled with assurances that God is caring for us. There are many examples in scripture of God's providential care for His people. God gave them water and food in the wilderness. Joseph was away from his family with no expectation of ever seeing them again. But the Lord was with Joseph, and He reunited him with his family again in time. Daniel and his three friends were taken by Babylonians to be trained by them. God was with them and protected them. Many other examples we could cite in scripture, but these give us the picture of God's faithfulness to His promise to be with us.

God Will Strengthen Us.

We need to turn our fear into faith or trust in God. In doing so, we will find the strength we need for the situation in life we are in. Joshua was chosen to lead the children of Israel into the promised land. To accomplish the entrance and possession of the land would require defeating a most challenging opponent. Moses prepared Joshua for the opposition he would face said: "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). We see

Joshua serving the Lord and facing the obstacles with faith rather than fear.

God Will Help Us.

People often have fear because they think it is all up to them and there is no help. In Kings 19, we see the prophet Elijah hiding in a cave because he was serving the Lord and thought no one was with him. The Lord comes to him and changes his perspective on how things were. The Lord was there, and seven thousand in Israel served the Lord. God is always there for us. Paul reminds Timothy, "God has not given a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Yes indeed, "The Lord is my helper" (Hebrews 13:6). We can rest assured of that.

Fear can lead us to be worrisome, irrational, skeptical, and suspicious, making us not the kind of people God wants. May we understand that fear is an emotion and let us resolve to govern that emotion based on Isaiah's reason not to fear.



Personal Responsibility

David Osteen

This phrase is being tossed around like a hot potato on a child's playground, but that's the problem isn't it; nobody knows the game "hot potato" anymore. The real problem, however, is that nobody even knows how to grow a potato anymore. The wisdom of God teaches us why not knowing how to grow a potato is one of the major reasons the Lord's church is what some would say, "In *Trouble!*"

Everybody's worried about the church dying off. Anywhere you go you are more likely to hear stories of how people "don't want to listen to the gospel" then you will hear about stories of conversion. There's a lot of complaining going on, but who is to blame? Are you going to blame God? Certainly you wouldn't do that. Do we blame our preachers? Maybe. Do we blame Satan? Partially I'm sure. Really the people we blame though, is

everyone who **doesn't** walk in the door on Sunday. As if everyone would just magically wake up one day and realize they need the gospel, and which church is the **true** church of God's divine instruction in which they should start attending. Yep, we blame all those people, because we can't blame ourselves...right?!?!

Personal responsibility: what does that mean anyway? I'm pretty sure it means that an individual has an obligation to personally respond according their ability to fulfill their purpose, or a command from higher authority, or to the circumstances surrounding them that are in need of their attention. It means we have a duty to fulfill what we as an individual must fulfill. In regard to the church of God, that means building it up. We (inclusive of all Christians) have not only been given the command to build the church, but we have also been given the ability. If God had not given us the ability, then we wouldn't have personal responsibility.

But consider the following passages. In Ephesians 4:12 the Holy Spirit talks about, "the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;" While that may be specifically in reference to the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers discussed in the previous verse, consider vs. 16 which tells us that what, "causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" comes from "the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part," You see, **each** part does a part. Christ is the head, but he has given each of us as members a responsibility... personal responsibility.

So what's the connection to the potato? We don't know how to grow a potato, so we don't know how to grow the church. We don't see growing potatoes as our personal responsibility, and so we blame the lack of potatoes on others like those people who don't miraculously wake up on Sundays and find their way to church. In coming weeks we'll learn more about potatoes; how to grow them, why it is important, and what has made us forget how. The most important thing to understand though, before we go any further, is that we have personal responsibility in growing potatoes.

It is true that God says He causes the growth, but who is suppose to be planting the seed? Look out your backyard window. Do you see any potatoes growing? If not, is it God's fault? Is it your preachers or neighbors fault? Is it the potatoes fault? I know, nobody ever

told you to plant potatoes, but think about it. If God did tell you to grow potatoes and you went about it the same way, and put the same effort into it, as you put in to growing His church, how many potatoes would you have? Personal responsibility... if you don't get it, souls will be lost.

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



Lifetime Guarantee

Shane Williams

We like guarantees and warranties. It is comforting to know after making a purchase that you have a certain amount of time in which, if you have a problem with the product, the manufacturer will stand behind their product and replace it. Some products even carry a lifetime guarantee. The fact of the matter is though, that the guarantee is only as good as the company. If the company goes under, so does the guarantee!

In a world where we can't always depend on guarantees, there is one promise we can trust. Throughout Scripture we find the Lord's promise to be with His people. In Deuteronomy 31:8 we read Moses' words to Joshua: "And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

This promise is repeated in the New Testament Hebrews 13:5-6: "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" The promise of God's unfailing love and concern with us is the key to living with confidence and happiness.

No matter how many pledges are broken by people, God's promises will last through all time and eternity. He will not leave us. That's not to say that man will always stay with Him however. We know what happened to Israel. They left Him and after much warning

and admonition, they were taken away into captivity. It is a sobering reminder to understand why this happened. They turned from God to sin. After many years of warning, God finally allowed them to be taken away into captivity (2 Kings 17:7-23)

God has promised His people eternal life (1 John 2:25). He will follow through with His promise. The question is: will we be faithful to Him?

~via *Sutton Lane Messenger*; Mayfield, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Mildred Lambert	Sue Thomas
Elease Barksdale	Jennifer Threet
Ruby Dean Ezell	James Adams
Betty Pepper	Donna Wright
Shirley Miller	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Diane Kilpatrick
Rhonda Holt	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Tommy Burns	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Lloyd Adams	Phillip Harwell
Cornelia Pepper	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Barry DeFoor	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Jeannie Felker
Sadricia Wilson	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Janice Moody, rm. 93

Limestone Health Facility:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38	Bobby Ogles, rm. 13
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	Ann Bush, rm. 75

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
 Marci Bassett; Limestone Manor
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Traditions

Unaking Currier; Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
 Irene Inman; at home
 Stan Stanford; at home
 Jimmy Stroud; Valley View, Madison
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton; Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Sadricia Wilson; Seattle, Washington

Updates:

Bonnie Sutton had injections for his back this past Tuesday ...**Elease Barksdale** has been diagnosed with the virus...**Mildred Lambert** has been diagnosed with the virus and doing well...**Larry Holt & Danny Holt's sister, Rhonda Holt**, is at home with oxygen as she deals with the virus...**James Adams** continues to not be doing well and is unable to be at services ...**Jennifer Threet** has not been able to be out at services. Keep Jennifer in your prayers...**Tommy Burns** took his last treatment this week and will have surgery on January 25th to remove the port...**Marty Adams** is better now after a bout with the virus ...Remember our expecting mother, **Laura Adams**, in your prayers.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are continuing to be made after services. If you need to get your picture made, go to room 22 in the east wing.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Nancy Abernathy and all the family** in the passing of her nephew, **Mike Ermert**. He passed away Wednesday. His funeral will be at the Homewood church building on Wednesday at 12:00.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Coblentz's: Tommy and Marcella** have been in Tennessee with Marcella's sister.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet tomorrow morning to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them in the morning at 10:30.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class meets each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. We begin a new study this Tuesday morning. The class will be studying the *"The Christian in a Secular Age."*

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of January 9th:

Sunday: Bible Classes 106
 Morning Worship 142
 Evening Worship 83
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 72

Remember Our Service at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Larry Tucker
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Heath Dollar Matthew Usery
 Hayden Pierce Danny Johnson
 Closing Prayer Christian Usery

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Marty R. Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Jerry Baker
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn
 Other Assignments for the week of January 16th:
 Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, January 19th:

Song Leader Larry Holt
 Bible Reading..... Joel Hamm
 (John 7:40-52)
 Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz
 Invitation Dan Reed
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Sunday, January 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty R. Adams
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Matthew Vaughn..... Landon Adams
 Roger Hammonds . Marvin Putman
 Closing Prayer Larry Tucker

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty R. Adams
 Song Leader Stephen Lynn
 Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm
 Other Assignments for the week of January 23rd:
 Ushers..... Hunter Cox/Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams