

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

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No. 4

Remember the Words of the Lord Jesus

David A. Cox

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

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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

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” — (Acts 20:35)

Paul, in his concluding remarks to the Ephesians as he says, “remember the words of the Lord Jesus,” There is no doubt that we would do well to remember the teachings of Christ. We have no way of knowing when Jesus spoke these words or how Paul came to know about Jesus speaking these words. Still, we know that he reminded the Ephesian elders of these words, which were recorded by inspiration for our use and instruction. Let us notice what we learn from these words:

Exalted Teaching of Jesus

“It is more blessed to give than receive” reminds us of the noble character and teachings of Jesus. Having a mind that thinks in this way is diametrically opposed to the world’s thinking. The world says, “receiving or getting is better than giving.” Jesus said that giving was “more blessed.” The word “more” carries an idea of something higher, deeper, and fuller than just mere happiness. Jesus is teaching that in giving, there is a more lasting satisfaction that comes to the one who gives than the one who receives. Jesus’ own life taught and practiced the great blessing of giving (Matthew 20:28; Acts 10:38).

The Unselfishness In Life

The greatest hindrance in an individuals giving is that of selfishness. “It is mine” philosophy. Jesus, however, did not see life in that way. He saw life as a transitory thing to the exaltation and glory of what was after this life. Paul is reminding the brethren on this occasion that the Lord taught that giving was the better thing. While Paul was on this third journey, he collected benevolent help for the poor saints in Jerusalem. He wrote to the church at Corinth and told them how the churches of Macedonia, even in deep poverty, had abounded in their giving. Not

only had these brethren abounded in the financial help of the needy saints, “but first gave their own selves to the Lord” (2 Corinthians 8:5). Indeed, giving can be monetary, but we must also understand the blessedness of non-monetary giving, the giving of one’s self to God and His cause (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21).

May we “remember the words of the Lord Jesus” that it is “more blessed to give than receive.” When we learn this secret about life, we will find more enduring happiness and peace in our lives here on earth.



Am I Blessed?

Ryan Goodwin

If you want a correct definition of “blessed” look no further than the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5:1-12: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God, Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me...” One writer pointed out something eye-opening about the way I and many others have used the word “blessed.”

“I have a sneaking suspicion verses 12a 12b and 12c were omitted from the text. That’s where the disciples responded by saying, “12a Waitest thou for one second, Lord. What about “blessed art the comfortable”, or 12b “blessed art thou which havest good jobs, a modest house in the suburbs, and a yearly vacation to the Florida Gulf Coast?” 12c And Jesus said unto them, “Apologies, my brothers, but those did not maketh the cut.” So there it is. Written in red. Plain as day. Even still, we ignore it all when we hijack the word “blessed”

to make it fit neatly into our modern American ideals, creating a cosmic lottery where every sincere prayer buys us another scratch-off ticket. In the process, we stand the risk of alienating those we are hoping to bring to the faith” (Scott Dannemiller).

I will admit that when I first pondered this subject I pulled out the concordance to see if I could somehow find a scriptural defense for the way I have always (mis) used the word “blessed.” I was sadly mistaken. The more I researched the word, the more I discovered how very little God connects blessedness with pleasant or abundant earthly conditions. The sermon on the mount, as it turns out, is not the only place we find beatitudes. The book of Revelation alone gives us another half dozen:

- “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy” (Revelation 1:3).
- “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord” (Revelation 14:13).
- “Behold, I am coming like a thief; Blessed is the one who stays awake” (Revelation 16:15).
- “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Revelation 19:9).
- “Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection” (Revelation 20:6).
- “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life...” (Revelation 22:14).

Let us be careful that we are not tricking ourselves into believing we are “blessed” for all the wrong reasons. Blessedness is a condition of the saved, no matter what their earthly situation is. Peter notes in Acts 3:25 that all the families of the earth will be blessed through the seed of the patriarch. This is accomplished in Jesus Christ, and is irrespective of a person’s wealth or poverty, health or illness. Also consider Ephesians 1:3 and ask yourself just what kind of blessing Paul is talking about there – “*spiritual blessings in the heavenly places.*”

~via *East Shelby church of Christ*; Collierville, Tennessee.

Remember Our Study Period

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

What Makes Christianity Unique?

Mark McCrary

Of all the world's religions, what makes Christianity unique? Why should it be considered above all others?

Like most religions that revolve around a concept of a singular God, Christianity emphasizes the holiness of God. But Christianity's take is somewhat different than many others; it is not simply that He is a good God, but His holiness means He is a perfect God - there is no sin in Him. Because He is holy, if we are to have a relationship with Him, we must be holy as well ("... but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'"). God is so perfect, in fact, He cannot tolerate the presence of sin. Isaiah 59:2 tells us, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

Such holiness demands that God be just. Unlike the teachings of some religions, He can't look at our lives and, if there is more good than bad, wave away that bad as if it didn't happen. It did; and His holiness can't ignore it. There must be a price paid for those wrongs ("And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission," Hebrews 9:22).

But, Romans 3:26 tells us something beautiful: because God is holy, He must be just; to be less than just would make Him less than holy. But—importantly—He is also the justifier (Rom. 3:26, "...To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus"). What makes Christianity unique, ultimately, is Jesus Christ—God coming down in the form of man to pay the price for our sins (Hebrews 9:22) and reconcile us to the Holy God.

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,

much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation," Rom. 5:6-11.

Christianity presents a God who is so holy He cannot tolerate sin. Yet, for some reason He paid the price for our sins through His Son Jesus Christ. Why would He do such a thing? Because "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

That's what makes Christianity unique.

~via *Growing In Godliness*; Louisville, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Kenneth Adams	Larry Holt
Charles Parks	Nancy Hardison
Elise 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	Elise 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
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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:

Tracey Hodges; Huntsville Hospital – Huntsville
Sadricia Wilson; Seattle, Washington

Updates:

Ruby Dean Ezell had the first in the series of injections for her back this past Tuesday in Huntsville ... **Elease Barksdale** has been diagnosed with the virus... **James Adams** has been diagnosed with the virus... **Peggy Pepper** is seeing a doctor about her back... **Jennifer Threet** was able to be at Bible Study Wednesday night... **Tommy Burns** has completed his treatments and will have surgery on Tuesday to remove the port... **Dale Adcock's daughter, Tracey Hodges** was taken to the hospital in Huntsville with the virus on Thursday... **Jewel Den Kennemer's granddaugther, Leib Ellen Elliott**, has been diagnosed with cancer and will be beginning treatments ... 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.

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 23rd:

Sunday: Bible Classes
 Morning Worship 104
 Evening Worship 59
Wednesday: Bible Classes 57

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty R. Adams
Song Leader Larry Holt
Prayer..... Harold Ash
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Tommy Coblenz
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..... Song Service
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblenz
Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm
Other Assignments for the week of January 23rd:
Ushers..... Hunter Cox/Keenon Currier
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, January 26th:

Song Leader Griffin Holt
Bible Reading..... Frank Melton
..... (John 8:1-12)
Prayer..... Marcus Morris
Invitation..... Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Sunday, January 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
Song Leader Stephen Lynn
Prayer..... Jerry Baker
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Joel Hamm
Assisting Larry Holt
Serving Keenon Currier..... Christian Usery
..... Matthew Usery..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... Nathaneil Adams
Preaching..... Tyler Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle
Other Assignments for the week of January 30th:
Ushers..... Danny Holt/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews