

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

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church.

David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 36

The Missing Link

David A. Cox

“When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, ‘Do you want to be well?’ The sick man answered Him, ‘Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool...’” — (John 5:6-7).

John records the incident of this afflicted man and the waters that had healing effects on whoever stepped in first after the waters were stirred. The man had been infirmed for thirty-eight years. The man desired to be healed but had not been. Jesus sees the man lying there and asks, “Do you want to be well?” The infirmed man replied, “I have no one” to help me. There was a missing link in his being healed.

This brings to my mind all the people who are spiritually infirmed. Their sins have separated them from God, and they need a connecting link to help them come to know the Lord. Consider a few examples of this from scripture.

Andrew, Simon Peter’s Brother.

In John 1, we have Andrew, a disciple of John, hearing John proclaim that Jesus was “the Lamb of God” (John 1:34). Jesus is the Christ, the One who is coming to take away sins. After hearing John’s proclamation, Andrew and another disciple followed Jesus and went to where Jesus was staying. After spending the rest of the day with Jesus, Andrew goes and finds his brother, Simon, and tells him, “We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus” (John 1:41-42). Andrew was the link for Simon Peter to come to know Jesus.

Philip and The Ethiopian.

In Acts 8, we are told of Philip, the evangelist, hearing this nobleman of Ethiopia reading from Isaiah 53. Philip asks, “Do you understand what you are reading?” (Acts 8:30). The nobleman did not. He was struggling with his understanding, so he invited Philip to join him in the chariot, and as they rode along, Philip introduced the nobleman to Jesus. Philip was a link to the nobleman’s understanding.

Ananias and Saul of Tarsus

In Acts 9, we find Saul of Tarsus, the great persecutor of the church, in Damascus. Ananias is told by the Lord in a vision that Saul is there and that he needs to go to him and help him to obey God. Ananias had heard of Saul and was very concerned about what would happen if he went to Saul. However, Ananias was in the position to be the link between Saul and his being baptized to “wash away his sins.”

In these few examples, we have seen the link that different individuals had on others because of their position with those who needed Christ. Let us think about the people who are around us that need Christ. It may be in our family, people at work, school, or our circles of activity. Remember, those in need of Christ may be around all kinds of people, just like the infirmed man in John 5, but no one is stepping up to be the missing link. Will you be a link for others?



Because God's Ways Works

Edwin Crozier

Many people have misunderstood Jesus when He said His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30). If I understand the context properly, Jesus isn't saying in a simple vacuum that everything God commands His children is easy. His point is being saved in Jesus Christ is an easy yoke and light burden compared to trying to save ourselves by doing enough good works to somehow pay for our sins ourselves. But the reality is God asks of us some pretty hard things. Of course, His yoke becomes easy and His burden light because when we are saved by Jesus, He empowers and strengthens us to do these hard things.

However, let us never be surprised to find that much of what God calls us to do is hard. It goes against the grain. It isn't natural for us. At first, we may not even want to do what He says. One such command is seen in Isaiah 55:6-7:

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord,

that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (ESV).

Let's face it. This is hard. Give up my way and thoughts? I like my way and my thoughts. I've become comfortable with my way and thoughts. My way and thoughts are the path of least resistance. They just come naturally to me. I usually walk my way and follow my thoughts without even having to think much about it. In fact, what I want to do at this point is highlight that I'm not wicked or unrighteous, so maybe I don't actually have to do this. The problem is God's point is not simply that if I'm wicked or unrighteous, I need to give up my way and thoughts. His point is that if I'm following my way and thoughts, I'm wicked and unrighteous. I need to give up my way and my thoughts.

As we sit in our culture of tolerance and coexistence that claims everyone's way is equally valid, we find it hard to even listen to a message of this kind of change, let alone pursue it. So why would I remotely want to give up my own way and thoughts?

God gives three reasons.

1. **Because God's way is different**—“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord” (Isaiah 55:8, ESV). Just in case we were confused, let it be known that thoughts that originate with us are simply not God's thoughts. The way that originates with us is simply not God's way. If the best we can come up with to defend what we are doing is “I simply can't imagine that God wouldn't approve,” we are walking on thin ice. In fact, we are walking on no ice; we are splashing around, drowning within our own ignorance. We need to forsake our own way because our way is not God's way.
2. **Because God's way is better**—“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9, ESV). As Proverbs 14:12; 16:25 explain, our way will lead to death. But God's way is life. His way is better than ours. As hard as it is to let go of what is natural and comfortable to us, we really need to because there is a better way.
3. **Wait For It...Because God's way works**—“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be

that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11, ESV). God’s Word, His way does what it is sent out to do. It accomplishes what God sends it out to accomplish. Let’s face it. How many times has our way fallen flat on its face? We thought what we were doing was going to provide some kind of lasting happiness, some kind of long term fulfillment, some kind of overwhelming meaning to our lives. Instead, we had a moment of escape and pleasure followed by the empty feeling of worthlessness. What a waste!!! But that is not God’s way. God’s way works. When we pursue His way, we will go out in joy and be led forth in peace. His Word is so amazing that even though we have been thorns and briars, the watering of His Word and way will transform us into cypress and myrtle (cf. Isaiah 55:12-13). Why do you and I want to forsake our way and pursue God’s? Because God’s way works and no other way does.

Trust it. God’s way is different. God’s way is better. And God’s way works.

Whose way will you walk this week?

~via *In Remembrance*; Edmund, Oklahoma.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Dale Adcock	Sharon Nave
Margaret Carter	Ruby Dean Ezell
James Adams	Jackie Cox
Steve Stringer	Dan Lovell
Shirley Miller	Betty Lovell
JoAnn Gilbert	Doris Lovell
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
Doris Reid	Lloyd Adams
Charles Burns	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Sadricia Wilson

Leigh Ellen Elliott Wynell Romine
 Elmina McLemore Anthony Sutton
 Charlotte Adams Charlotte Griffin
 Nanette Chancellor

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Connie Brock, rm. 62
 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36 Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
 Valeria Dalton, rm. 7

Limestone Health Facility:

Marie Nave, rm. 79a Bobby Ogles, rm. 113
 Ann Bush, rm. 75 Betty Christopher, rm. 109
 Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock; at her son’s home
 Nell Barksdale; at home
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Traditions
 Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
 Irene Inman; at home
 Stan Stanford; at home
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Keith Holt; Centennial Hospital – Nashville, Tenn.

Updates:

Brad Brown had surgery on Tuesday and had to do the surgery again on Tuesday night and is doing better and was able to come home Friday afternoon... **Harold Davis** had a CT scan done on his hand this past Thursday... **Doris McGuire’s son, Tim McGuire**, is scheduled for an endoscopic ultrasound on September 20th at UAB in Birmingham... **Debra Holt’s aunt, Charlotte Adams**, continues to be very low and the family is with her around the clock ... **Barbara Ash’s brother, Stephen Bassitt**, has stopped his chemo treatments for cancer. Remember him and Barb and Harold during this very difficult time ... **Harold Davis’s sister, Linda Meeker**, is continuing taking therapy in Huntsville ... **Keith Holt, the oldest son of Danny and Larry’s brother, Mike**, was released from the hospital for a few days, but had to be readmitted on Wednesday due to mild case of sepsis... **Nanette Chancellor**, the wife of **Derek Chancellor**, the preacher at New Georgia, received word from a PET scan that her cancer had spread and there is nothing they can do for it. Remember Nanette in your prayers.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Ladies’ Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30. The class is studying “*The Christian in a Secular Age.*”

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, September 12th, at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them next Monday morning.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Mary Stroud* in the passing of her husband, *Jimmy Stroud*. His visitation and funeral were on Wednesday at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. His body was laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery. May the Lord bless Mary and all the family at this time of sorrow.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Q&A: For the next several Wednesday nights, I will be doing Question & Answer sessions. If you have questions that you would like for me to deal with, please write the questions or topics you are interested in hearing about, and I will deal with them.

COMING TO VISIT: *Ashley Goosen*, who preaches for the church in *South Africa*, will be coming to visit with us in September. He will arrive on September 12th and will be here throughout the week. He will preach and report on the work in South Africa on Sunday, September 18th. If you would like to spend some time with him, let me know.

OUT OF TOWN: *Tena Wells* is back home after being in Florida this past week. *The Wulfekuhls: Russ, Lisa & Ali* are in the Smokey Mountains this weekend.

AWAY FROM US: Some of our young people are away from home. Keep them in your prayers.

Kenneth Adams is in Auburn for school.
Keenon Currier is stationed in Monterey, California.
Addison Holt is in Birmingham for school.
Christian Usery is in Birmingham for work.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of August 21st:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	119
	Morning Worship	146
	Evening Worship	95
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	97

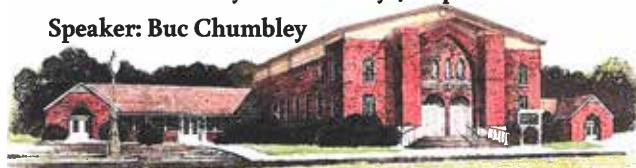
Gospel Meeting

September 11-14, 2022

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday — Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Buc Chumbley



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 WEST MARKET STREET
 ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Ronnie Locke
	Heath Dollar
	Harold Davis
	Danny Holt
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	Nathaniel Adams
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Bob Broadus
Other Assignments for the week of September 4 th :	
Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, September 7th:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading	Russ Wulfekuhl
	(John 18:12-11)
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Invitation.....	Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Sunday, September 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Jerry Baker
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Larry Tucker
Serving	Charles Vaughn
	Luke Vaughn
	Danny Johnson.....
	Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer	Hayden Pierce

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Jerry Baker
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt
Other Assignments for the week of September 11 th :	
Ushers.....	Marvin Putman/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl