

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. 38

Peter's Perception at Caesarea

David A. Cox

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’” — (Acts 10:34-35).

Peter finds himself in a position he most likely never imagined being in when he goes to Cornelius' house. Peter has been told to go to this house and declare the gospel to them. But they are all Gentiles. The gospel of Christ had never gone to any Gentile, but this was a turning point in preaching the gospel. The gospel had been preached in Judea, Samaria, and everywhere the saints scattered, in Acts 8, but it had only been preached to practicing Jews. Peter concludes that God wants the gospel preached to all people. Let us consider three things we can learn from Peter at Caesarea.

God Shows No Partiality.

God desires that all men be saved. God's impartiality does not allow Him to only select one nation, race, or group of people based on their genealogy or social standing in the world. Jesus exemplified this numerous times in His life: He went to the tax collector's home to eat (Luke 19:1-10). Jesus prompted the discussion with the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well and opened her eyes to who He was (John 4:1-30). The disciples whom Jesus selected were not among the renowned Jewish leaders; instead, they were fishermen, tax collectors, a political activist, etc. They were not chosen for their social position and standing in the world they lived in. Jesus showed His impartiality many times and taught those who heard Him to do the same. James writes about how serious partiality can be. James writes: "But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors" (James 2:9). May we learn the importance of being impartial in our lives.

Everyone Who Fears and Works Righteousness.

Man's universal problem is sin. The scriptures are clear about that: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). No man is able to declare his righteousness on his own merit. Jesus came and gave His life as a ransom for man’s sins (Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:5-8). The blood of Jesus can cleanse every person of every sin that is committed in their life. However, the cleansing is not automatic. God is not going to force anyone to live with Him. God has given men the freedom to choose to serve and obey Him. This is where man must come to fear God and do the works of righteousness. God’s grace is abundant and accessible to all, but God has appointed things men must do to please Him ((Ephesians 2:8-10).

The Acceptance of God

God shows no partiality to who He is willing to save, and those who fear Him and work righteousness will be accepted by Him. The standard is the same for all. Righteousness comes by keeping the commandments of God (Psalm 119:172). As we serve God and keep the commands of God, we are servants of righteousness; God will declare us to be righteous (Romans 6:17), and we will be accepted by Him.

Let us remember the blessings we have in serving an impartial God. Serving God who has given His will and His way to us so that we can serve Him acceptably. In doing this, we have great hope of the acceptance of God on the last day to hear Christ say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”



Planting Shade Trees

John Guzzetta

An author Dennis Swanberg commented that “the best shade trees you’ll ever plant are the ones you’ll never sit under.”

He means that some trees, like our local live oaks, take such a long time to grow and mature, that the person who plants them does so knowing that he will never fully benefit from them.

Why bother, then? He plants them to bless future generations (Proverbs 13:22)!

I read a story of an older gentleman named Clarence Hoelsing, of Hartington, Nebraska, who planted 20 acres on his farm with 7,500 walnut trees, which he bought from the forestry department for 30 cents each. Walnuts are notoriously fussy—they must be monitored for disease, beavers, and frost damage, they are sensitive to pesticides and weed-killers, and they must be pruned yearly. And they take a long time to bear. Hoelsing knows that it is unlikely he will ever taste a single nut from his trees. Still, he has put the time and effort into them, because “he hopes that his grandchildren and great grandchildren will remember him when they harvest”(www.farmshow.com). I have heard the same thing said of lumber lots, and of medjool date palms in the Middle East that do not bear fruit for sixty or even seventy years.

Is there a spiritual application? Absolutely! Some important things in life require an investment, which the one doing the investing will scarcely enjoy. But he does it for the future. Generous Christians save money for decades to build a worship hall which they will only get to use for a few years, but which will help the growth of the congregation for decades to come. Older Bible class teachers pour time into training young people (often, not even their own kids) in the truth of God’s word, developing within them a sense of duty and faith (Psalm 78:5-8). Mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers pass on a legacy of knowledge and values (Titus 2:3- 5).

Evangelists sow the seed to some they will never meet, because “the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself” (Acts 2:39).

Let us be thankful for the thoughtful, visionary people who planted the shade trees we enjoy today. Let us delight in the opportunities to pass on the same spiritual benefits to future generations.

~via *Brandon church of Christ*; Brandon, Florida.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

Room In Your Heart

Scott Beyer

"Make room for us in your hearts..."
(2 Corinthians 7:2a)

Hearts are like stomachs; they grow or shrink based upon use. Showing love, mercy, compassion, and kindness is like food for the heart. When we make room in our hearts for others, we never run out; we just stretch and grow until there is room for more.

Those with children understand this – a second child does not diminish your love for the first. Your love is not divided; your heart just makes room.

We would do well to apply this principal beyond our immediate families, too. Making room in our hearts for our neighbors, the man on the street, even our enemies, does not diminish our souls; it expands them.

The Lord is not merely interested in redecorating the interior of your heart. He doesn't wish to just slap a new coat of paint on the walls, rearrange the furniture, and call it "new". He wants to tear down some walls, fling out new wings and dormers, add balconies and parapets to your heart, and fill all sorts of new rooms with guests.

Believe me when I say the Architect has plans to "make room" in that heart of yours.

~via *Eastland Church of Christ*; Louisville, Kentucky.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	Sharon Nave
Ruby Dean Ezell	Steve Stringer
James Adams	Shirley Miller
Betty Lovell	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Tommy Burns	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Charlotte Griffin	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
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:

Brad Brown; Athens-Limestone Hosp., rm. 224
Keith Holt; Centennial Hospital – Nashville, Tenn.

Updates:

Laura Adams had gall bladder surgery on Tuesday in Huntsville... *Sharon Nave* had one radiation treatment on Tuesday. She will begin the full series of radiation treatments on Thursday... *Barbara Ash* has been sick with RSV this week... *Charlotte Griffin* spent several days in the hospital this past week. She was sent home with Hospice on Wednesday... *Brad Brown* is back in the hospital but is improving... *Harold Davis* is scheduled for an appointment with the RA doctor on October 31st ... *Sharon Nave's son, Shawn Nave*, had surgery on Thursday to repair his foot. The surgery seemed to go well... *Doris McGuire's son, Tim McGuire*, is scheduled for an endoscopic ultrasound on Tuesday 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 begun having hospice to help with his care... *Keith Holt*,

the oldest son of Danny and Larry's brother, Mike, was med-flighted back to Centennial Hospital in Nashville on Monday. He is having trouble with bleeding, and they have done what they can to correct the bleeding.

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 on Monday morning at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them in the morning.

PICTURES: Have you had your picture made? We are continuing to make and update pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Please plan to get your picture made in the next few weeks.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Q & A: I continue to take questions to answer in our Bible Study on Wednesday nights during 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 Port Elizabeth, *South Africa*, is with us today and will be preaching this morning and this evening. Tonight Ashley will give a report on the work that he is doing in South Africa.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: *The Mt. Zion church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Mitchell Dalrymple*... *The Kelly Spring Road church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Jacob Holman*.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Burns: Tommy & Susan* are in Branson, Missouri for a vacation... *Jennifer Threet* is on an Alaskan cruise this week.

AWAYFROMUS: 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 Sept. 11th:*
 Sunday: Bible Classes 120
 Morning Worship 155
 Evening Worship 137
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 112

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Stephen Lynn
 Prayer.....Harold Ash
 Preaching.....Ashley Goosen
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Marcus Morris
 Assisting.....Jerry Baker
 Serving.....Christian Usery Danny Johnson
Hayden Pierce Ronnie Locke
 Closing Prayer.....Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer.....Landon Adams
 Preaching.....Ashley Goosen
 Lord's SupperMarcus Morris
 Closing PrayerLarry Tucker
 Other Assignments for the week of September 18th:
 Ushers.....Larry Mitchell/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System.....Larry Holt

Wednesday, September 21st:

Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Bible Reading.....Clayton Hamm
(John 18:28-40
 Prayer.....Christian Usery
 Invitation.....Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer.....Landon Adams

Sunday, September 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Larry Holt
 Song LeaderTommy Burns
 Prayer.....Marty Adams
 Preaching.....David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Larry Tucker
 Assisting.....Keith Hinkle
 Serving.....Matthew Usery....Matthew Vaughn
Luke Vaughn Roger Hammonds
 Closing Prayer.....Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Larry Holt
 Song LeaderTony Thomas
 Prayer.....Landon Adams
 Preaching.....Song Service
 Lord's SupperMarcus Morris
 Closing PrayerLarry Tucker
 Other Assignments for the week of September 25th:
 Ushers.....Danny Holt/Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System.....Terry Andrews