

# 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

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050  
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

### Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147  
Rusty Brand.....(256) 233-7343  
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223  
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

### Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910  
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net  
Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

**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. 13

## *To Whom Do You Turn?*

**Matthew H. Allen**

2 Chronicles 28 covers a very dark time in the history of Judah. Ahaz reigned over Judah and fully embraced the worship of idols. Much of Ahaz's foreign policy was consumed with the ever-encroaching Assyria who was on the offensive against the northern ten tribes of Israel. The King of Judah was not the only one fearful of Assyria. Syria and the northern ten tribes of Israel recruited Judah to join forces and resist Assyria. Ahaz refused, which prompted Israel and Syria to invade Judah. Judah suffered extreme losses with many killed and more carried off into captivity. These captives were released at the preaching of the prophet Oded, 2 Chronicles 28:5-15. While Ahaz struggled with Israel and Syria, Philistia pressed Judah from the south and west. They overtook and oppressed a number of cities in Judah, 2 Chronicles 28:18. All this was allowed to happen because *the LORD humbled Judah because of Ahaz...for he had brought about a lack of restraint in Judah and was very unfaithful to the Lord*, 2 Chronicles 28:19.

A man's character is revealed in crisis. As Rezin (king of Syria) and Pekah (king of Israel) press against him, Ahaz (king of Judah) turns to Assyria for help. Where should he have turned? We know the answer. Assyria responds by attacking Syria. They killed Resin, 2 Kings 16:9, and afflicted Israel. But then the plan of Ahaz goes terrible wrong. *So Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria came against him and afflicted him instead of strengthening him*, 2 Chronicles 28:20. To appease the Assyrians and get some relief, Ahaz raided the temple and his own house looking for valuables to give to the Assyrian King. All the gifts didn't help. He closed the temple and erected altars to himself. In desperation, Ahaz ramps up his sacrifices to the gods of Damascus, based on the supposition that they would help him in his distress. The scripture says these idols became *the downfall of him and all Israel*, 2 Chronicles 28:23. Because of poor leadership, God's people were headed down a very slippery slope. In fact, they were on an irreversible course, with an inevitable destruction looming in the distance. As the leadership goes, so go the people.

There are many powerful lessons from the Old Testament text. When crisis comes, where does the Christian turn? *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*, James 4:8. Isaiah reveals to us another sad fact. Ahaz refused the help and assistance of the Lord. *I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord*, Isaiah 7:12. God offered. Ahaz refused. One can only imagine how the outcome would have turned had Ahaz humbled his heart, sought God's help, and made a commitment to faithfully serve God. When we choose a path that leads away from God, we make a tragic mistake. This decision often leads to multiple consequences and could lead to some unexpected difficulties that are almost impossible from which to recover. We must refrain from the kind of arrogance that leads us to move on our own without consulting God. *Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you*, James 4:10.

When the pressure of life bears down on you, to whom do you turn? We serve a God who wants to hear from us, offers to help, and is willing to understand and sympathize with us. Our Mediator, Jesus, asks us to come to Him. *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time need*, Hebrews 4:15-16. Praise God for the security and stability He provides as we face the turbulent waters of this life.

-via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana



## *The Unfinished Work of Christ*

**David B. Hartsell**

On His way to the cross, accompanied by His disciples, Jesus pauses in prayer to His Father (John 17:1-5). He openly glorifies God and asserts, "I have finished the work which You have given Me to do" (John 17:4). Our Lord fulfills His fundamental mission by allowing Himself to be sacrificed for our sins, by being raised from the dead, and ascending to heaven to sit on His throne (Acts 2:34-35). Yes, Jesus fulfilled

His earthly mission but there remains some unfinished work of Jesus Christ.

Our Lord continues to add obedient faithful people to His church (Acts 2:14-47). "Church" refers to the universal church or all the saved. On Pentecost, Peter proclaims the Gospel's powerful message of Christ's sacrifice, of people's guilt, and of their way to salvation. Upon hearing Peter's sermon many of the guilt ridden in the crowd cried aloud, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," Peter responds (Acts 2:37-38). That day about 3,000 people obey. Many continue to conform to the simple Gospel message "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Once the Lord adds one to His universal church, the person may freely join himself to a local congregation (Acts 9:26-28). Our Lord designed His Gospel to draw the humble (John 6:44-45) and repel the proud (1 Corinthians 1:20-23). This saving process continues today.

Christ still mediates for His followers today. Centuries before Jesus' appearance on earth the patriarch Job wrestles with a Holy God's relationship with sinful man. "For He is not a man, as I am... Nor is there any mediator between us" (Job 9:32-33). Abraham also considers himself but "ashes and dusts" as he approaches The Almighty in prayer. The apostle John sees perfectly in his Revelation vision that no created being could ever mediate between God and man. Only Jesus, the pure Lamb of God, can intercede for mankind (Revelation 5:1-8). His mediation begins with his perfect sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:14-15). Jesus, our great high Priest (Hebrews 6:17-20), understands our temptations (Hebrews 2:17-18) and sympathizes with our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:14-15). He always lives to make intercession for His saints.

Our righteous Savior walks illuminated among His churches in Asia taking note of their strengths and weaknesses (Revelation 1-3). "I know your works" assures each group that He speaks from absolute knowledge of their spiritual condition. The congregations at Pergamum, Sardis, and Laodicea need to make quick and decisive changes to avoid His continued disapproval and punishment. Other churches like Smyrna and Philadelphia remain faithful. Clearly Jesus requires all His churches to self-evaluate. Are we Ephesus? (Revelation 2:2-5) Do we strive to keep God's laws and war against error

while forgetting our simple love for God? Churches are part of the unfinished work of Christ but each saint is too. We must remember, repent, and return to Jesus before all is finished (John 5:28-29).

-via *Northwood Messenger*; Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

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## *Serving Him By Serving You*

**Tim Jennings**

Jesus said, "Whatever you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40). Jesus is intimately identified with His people. You cannot separate loving Jesus from loving His people. Here are some ways you can start loving Jesus by loving His people.

**Go To Your Knees. Pray!** That's something everyone can do wherever we are. So, work hard for the church, and talk to the Father about the children He loves (Colossians 4:12-13).

**Unlock Your Wallet. Give!** Yeah, money. Few things show how much we care than generosity. Words are cheap; gifts are not (2 Corinthians 8:2-4).

**Open Your Home.** "Be given to hospitality" (Romans 12:13). Ouch! Nothing is so unfashionable, but nothing is so personal than having the saints in your home.

**Use Your Mouth.** "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

**Change Your To Do List.** "In honor giving preference to one another" (Romans 12:10). Does your schedule show the church is your priority? Check it. Change it.

**Smile While You Work.** "I now rejoice in my sufferings for you" (Colossians 1:24). The next time you face something difficult for the sake of the church, don't run, don't give up, rejoice that you can suffer for the church.

**Quickly Forgive.** Learn how to practice forgiveness for the good of the body. "I have forgiven that one (the sinner) for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us" (2 Corinthians 2:10-11).

-via *What Does The Bible Say?*; Florence, Alabama

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Margaret Carter*; Huntsville Hosp.; rm. 465

*Katherine Stoffregen*; Athens-Limestone.; rm. 215

#### *At Home:*

Kathleen Wales

Rachel Grubbs

David Gardner

Mary Ruth Gardner

Yvonne Sherbert

Hazel Toone

Bertha Johnson

Martha Rice

Jesse Carter

Marty Tyler

Don Bowling

Phillip Harwell

Jim Currier

Una King Currier

Randy Graviett

Robbie Shoulders

Jeff Waddell

#### *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

#### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Janet Berryhill, rm. 112 Gladys Sandlin, rm. 101

Mary Smith, rm. 85 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

#### *Limestone Manor:*

Albert Norton, rm. 96

#### *Shut-In:*

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

Joel Smith; Iraq

Andrew Deen; Japan

Whitney Deen; Japan

Matthew Cox; Iraq

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Anderson church* in Anderson is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Thursday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *David Hartsell*.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** *Rachel Grubbs'* nephew, *Dr. Gary Gross*, passed away Thursday, March 17th. A memorial service will be conducted this afternoon at 1:00 at the Lindsay Lane Baptist Church with a visitation for family following.

**NURSERIES AVAILABLE:** There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other is in the east wing.

**BERNICE LANGE THOMAS (1924 – 2011):** Our hearts are saddened this week with the passing of sister Bernice Thomas this past Sunday evening. Sister Thomas had been a member of the Market Street church for the last 2 and a half to 3 years. She had moved to town having lived many years in Capshaw. She was a fine lady, with a humble and compassionate heart. We have missed her presence among us over the last 4 to 5 months. We extend our deepest sympathy to all the family.

**PLACED MEMBERSHIP:** *Dan and Scottie Reed* have expressed their desire to be a part of the work here at Market Street. We have enjoyed their presence among us recently and we want to extend a warm welcome to them.

**WORK GROUPS:** Tonight will be the night for work group four to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening.

**NURSING HOME SINGING:** Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

**THE RECORD:** *For the Week of March 27th*

<b>Sunday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	129
	Morning Worship .....	165
	Evening Worship.....	104
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	97

## *Gospel Meeting*

May 15-19, 2011  
(Sunday through Thursday)

Jeff May, Speaking

**Market Street church of Christ**

514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

## **Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, March 27th:**

### *Morning Worship*

Announcements .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader .....	Stuart Wilson
Prayer .....	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching .....	Warren Glass
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Larry Mitchell
Assisting .....	Jonathan Keenon
Serving .....	Landon Adams..... Danny Johnson
.....	Keenon Currier..... Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer .....	Rusty Brand

### *Evening Worship*

Announcements .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader .....	Stuart Wilson
Prayer .....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching .....	Song Service
Lord's Supper .....	Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer .....	Lifford Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 27th:

Usher .....	Jonathan Keenon
Work Sound System .....	Marty Adams

**Wednesday, March 30th:**

Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 18:1-7)
.....	Joel Hamm
Prayer .....	Dwaine Allfrey
Invitation .....	Warren Glass
Closing Prayer .....	Benton Ball

**Sunday, April 3rd:**

### *Morning Worship*

Announcements .....	TBA
Song Leader .....	TBA
Prayer .....	TBA
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	TBA
Assisting .....	TBA
Serving .....	TBA
.....	TBA
Closing Prayer .....	TBA

### *Evening Worship*

Announcements .....	TBA
Song Leader .....	TBA
Prayer .....	TBA
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper .....	TBA
Closing Prayer .....	TBA

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 3rd:

Usher .....	TBA
Work Sound System .....	TBA