

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 IV

January 1, 2012

No. 1

The Cold, Hard Facts

Phillip Mullins

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
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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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

Ecclesiastes is an Old Testament book that asks life's hardest questions. The question of all questions is found in chapter 3 and verses 19-21:

"For what happens to the sons of men also happens to beasts; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so does the other. Surely, they all have one breath, man has no advantage over beasts, for all is vanity. All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the beast, which goes down to the earth?"

I remember one of the saddest, but most insightful days from my childhood was the day my dad and I buried the family dog. She had been a part of the family for years and was loved as much as any pet could be. One day she was struck by a car in the road in front of our house. Mom called dad and he came home from work. We loaded our little dog in my red wagon and wheeled her to the back of the field behind our house. After we buried her, my dad, sensing the tragedy for a seven year old, said some comforting words about "man's best friend." I can still remember how big and steamy the tears were that rolled off my cheeks. That was the end of my dog, and I knew it.

When a human being is lowered into the grave, is that the end for them? This is the question of Ecclesiastes 3:21. After death, is that all? Like an animal that is breathing one minute and struck dead the next, is man's fate any different? Indeed death is terrible, the most terrible experience of all if that is the case. What really matters if we all end up dead and there is nothing beyond that? Is death all that awaits man?

The Bible says there is more. Hebrews 9:27 says, "...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." There is a reckoning beyond death. Ultimate reward awaits those who have been faithful to God while everlasting punishment awaits those who have not believed

and obeyed God (1 Thessalonians 4 and 2 Thessalonians 1).

We need to see death. We need to stare it right in the face. Thanks to technology, our society has all but insulated itself from the grim evidence of death. For the most part, hospitals and nursing homes spare us from the scene of death as it creeps over a person. Funeral homes and graveyards are clean, trim, and polished places that mask the ugliest of all human experiences. We ignore death when it is not around, when it approaches we resign it to an out of the way place, and when it occurs we do our best to gloss it over. This is not healthy. We need to see death. I am not advocating a morbid approach to death, just an honest one. We need to see the cold, hard facts of it all.

Why? When we see death, we see the truth about our existence. We see where we are headed and it creates a burning question in our soul - Is there a way to win over it? Death causes us to ache for and search for hope. Death drives us to the only place for deliverance, and that is God.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has the answer. "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25). God vividly shows us the way out of death by the life, death, and resurrection of His Son. God raised the Son from the dead to prove His identity and to show us all there is a way through the grave to life, a better life. Christ will come one day to raise those who belong to Him to an everlasting life in heaven (John 5:24-29). Jesus Christ offers the only real hope for life beyond death. Some of the most hopeful words ever penned are found in Hebrews 2:14-15 concerning what Christ offers us:

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Looking anywhere else for deliverance is vain and trying to avoid death is even a greater waste of energy.

We need to see death because it is when we see our mortality that we gain the perspective that we need to live this life properly. Again, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says, "...Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is

the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil." We really don't learn how to live until we realize we are going to die.

There are two ways we can see death and learn the needed lessons from it. One is to listen to the words of God in the Bible and look around and see the work of death all around us. That is the easy way. The hard way is to ignore God's warnings and ignore the evidence of death around you until some sickness or accident brings you terrifyingly close to it. Yet, there is a risk in the latter alternative. For death does not always knock before it enters, sometimes it barges in with no warning.

Of death, Wardlaw wrote, "Every man must advance; and every man must advance alone, to single combat; and every man in succession must fall." How true, yet, the Bible tells us that with Christ, the follower of God does not have to walk alone to face the ultimate enemy. Look at life and see death. Look at God's Word and find the hope for life in death. Prepared or not, it is coming.

~via *Messages*; Kingsport, Tennessee.

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Discreet and Respectful

Dennis Carrow

As we continue to consider the virtues we are to possess and teach our children we must consider our communication skills.

Discretion is the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offense or revealing private information. It is also the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation.

This virtue is pivotal to our walk of faith. Discretion and respect is the condition of mind that is guarded in speech and treats others as they desire to be treated. This is at the heart of the "golden rule." (Matthew 7:12).

We can determine our level of respect and discretion

by the words that we speak. James 3 explains that we must constantly control what we say.

These virtues are developed as we learn to “speak what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearer.” (Ephesians 4:29).

These two qualities are critical to our interaction with the world around us. Paul admonishes us to “aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside...” (1 Thesalonians 4:11, 12).

These principles of virtue will help us to avoid causing others to sin, make us effective in communicating our faith, and will elevate our manner of life to godliness. It will enable us to avoid gossip!

Proverbs 19:11 reads, “The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger.” Indeed, respect and discretion are of great value to our lives and the lives of those around us.

~via *What Is True?*, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Editor's Note:

Brother A. J. Rollings, a longtime evangelist at Market Street, would recite this poem each year as the old year would be finishing and the new year would be coming in. We appreciate the truths that are told within this poem and commend the thoughts of it to you. May we all do better with the time that is ahead of us.

I came to my teacher with quivering lips,
My task undone;
Teacher hast thou another sheet for me?
I have spoiled this one,
She took the old sheet, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad face smiled,
“Do better this time, my child.”

I came to the Father with a quivering heart,
The old year done;
Father, hast thou another year for me?
I have spoiled this one.
He took the old year, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad heart smiled,
“Do better this time, my child.”



Congregational Singing

Friday, February 17, 2012 — 7:00p.m.

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Margaret Carter	Helen Blankenship
Wynell Casteel	Gilbert Hardy
Hazel Toone	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Martha Rice
Angeta Andersen	Matt Poff
Joe & Sarah Collier	Don Osborne
Patsy Burroughs	Gladys Sandlin
Brent Lowman	Barbara Ogles
Larry Owens	Una King Currier
Betty Faye Holt	Paige Phillips
Rhett Bailey	Randy Graviett
Phillip Harwell	

In The Hospital:

Charles Burns; Huntsville Hosp. – rm. 1754
Ava Brooke Campbell; Children's Hospital, – B'ham
Faye Cary; Baylor Neurological Center – Dallas, Tex.

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 11
Clara Hicks, rm. 61

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Curtis Fudge, rm. 24	Mary Smith, rm. 85
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Limestone Manor:

Albert Norton, rm. 98

Windsor House- Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 300

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

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

Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

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:

Andrew Deen; Japan

Whitney Deen; Japan

OUT OF TOWN: *The Wulfekuhls: Russ, Lisa and Ali* have been in Arkansas with Russ' family... *Ida Nell Grif-
fn* is in Ohio visiting with her son and his family.

JESUS' TREVINO: Jesus' Trevino will be here on Wednesday, January 11th, to give a report of the work he is doing. I know that everyone will be glad to see he and his wife, Susana again and to have them with us.

BEGINNING TODAY: This morning we are beginning a new quarter in our Bible Classes. There will be classes for all ages and there will be 3 adult classes this quarter. The ladies class will be meeting in the east wing and studying **Galatians**. In the west wing little auditorium, *Marty Adams* will be teaching a class on **Bible History and Geography**. In the auditorium we will be studying **The Parables of Jesus**. I will be teaching the Sunday morning class and *Jordan Lovell* will teach the Wednesday night class. I hope that everyone will make every effort to be a part of the Bible studies that we have offered. Come and invite others to come with you.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Albert Bowers* in passing of his brother, *Van Bowers*. He passed away Friday night and his visitation will be 6 to 9 tonight and the Funeral will be Monday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the McConnell Funeral Home Chapel.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of December 25th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	129
	Morning Worship	181
	Evening Worship.....	100

Wednesday:

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting	Marion Mitchell
Serving	Delmer Carter.....Stefan Fudge
.....	Paul Hasting.....Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Ronnie Locke
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Tyler Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 1st:

Usher	Danny Johnson
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, January 4th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 36:1-10)
.....	Will Chumbley
Prayer	Nathaniel Adams
Invitation	Todd Williams
Closing Prayer	Jonathan Keenon

Sunday, January 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Terry Andrews
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Joel Hamm
Serving	Hunter Cox.....Nathaniel Adams
.....	Ronnie Locke.....Marion Pepper
Closing Prayer	Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 8th:

Usher	Danny Johnson
Work Sound System	Marty Adams