

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

April 1, 2012

No. 14

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

Evangelist

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

The Reality of Hell

Gene Taylor

In Matthew 25:31-46, the Bible teaches that at the final judgment while the righteous will enter heaven to enjoy everlasting life, the wicked will go into eternal punishment. The thought of everlasting suffering is repulsive to many. No doubt this aversion lies at the bottom of much of the indifference to what the Bible teaches about hell.

Hell, despite the denials of many, is real. Sin demands it. Sin is a violation of the law of God (1 John 3:4). If there were no punishment for sin, then there could be no law for law without penalty is null and void. If there is no law, there would be no sin. That would make the death of Jesus useless because if there is no sin there is no responsibility to save anyone from it.

The reality of life after death also demand the reality of hell. Jesus taught, in Matthew 22:23-33, that there was life after physical death. In the account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31, two distinct destinies are presented. Comfort for the righteous but punishment for the wicked depending on whether or not one serves God while living on earth.

Hell was not originally prepared for man. It was prepared for Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Jude 6 states that fallen angels are placed in chains awaiting judgment. Yet, when men and women join the devil in his work and live in servitude to him, they must suffer the same fate that will befall him.

Hell Is Not Contrary To The Nature of God

Many people find it difficult to accept the reality of hell because they cannot understand or believe that a loving, merciful and forgiving God could create such a place and then place people in it eternally. If no punishment were given for violation of His law, then God would not be just. Being a just God, He will reward the righteous and punish the wicked. Hell is to punish the wicked.

What Hell Is Like

Hell is eternal. It is described that way in Matthew 25:46. In Romans 16:26 God is said to be eternal. The Holy Spirit, in Hebrews 9:14, is also described as eternal. The same Greek word is used in all three passages. The word means “eternal, everlasting, without end, never to cease.” Hell and the punishment meted out there will last as long as God, forever.

Hell is a place of darkness. Jude 13 speaks of “*the blackness of darkness*” to which false teachers will be confined forever. God is light (1 John 1:5) and the Father of lights (James 1:17). Hell is described as darkness because it is the place farthest removed from God.

Hell is a place of fire. Matthew 13:42 speaks of it as a furnace of fire. Matthew 25:41 calls it an everlasting fire. Mark 9:44-45 says the fire is never quenched. Revelation 21:8 refers to it as the lake of fire. There will be no relief from its fires because Revelation 14:11 says the smoke from the fires of torment ascends forever and ever.

There is no rest there. Revelation 14:11 says the wicked will have no rest from their torment day or night. Hell is a place where there is no hope. The punishment is everlasting (Matthew 25:46) with no chance of pardon or parole.

Who Will Go There

As already noted, Satan and his angels will be there (Matthew 25:41). Revelation 21:8 says the “cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars” will be there. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says that those who do not know God and those who will not obey the gospel of Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction. In short, all sinners who choose to remain in their sin will be found in hell.

Why People Will Go There

People will not be in hell because God wants them to be there. He desires that all be saved (1 Timothy 2:1-4). They will not be there because God cannot save them. God is all-powerful and the gospel, His power to save (Romans 1:16) can save to the uttermost. God sent His Son into the world so that all might have salvation (John 3:16) and He has extended His invitation to all who would come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30). If a person ends up in hell, he is lost by his own free choice. He has no one to blame but himself. Many see no need

to be interested in spiritual things and are indifferent to the pleas of the gospel. Others refuse to obey the gospel or submit to the will of God. Some refuse to believe. Others just love sin more than righteousness. Some, though once obedient, become unfaithful in service. Many put off obeying until it is too late.

Conclusion

Hell is real. The suffering of it is waiting for the sinful. You can escape the torments found there by giving obedience to Christ now. He will wash away the guilt of your sins and grant you hope of a life of eternal bliss in His presence.

~via *Blue Ridge Brandmarks*; Roanoke, Virginia.



How To Solve Any Problem

Mike Thomas

Adversity is life's common denominator. No one gets to live on the mountain tops indefinitely. We each must spend time in the valley of despair as there is a time and season for everything under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 3:1). How does God want His people to respond when the trials come?

T—Turn to God. The worst thing to do in adversity is the first thing most want to do—turn away from God or blame Him for their disappointment. This is not the response of someone who walks with God (Job 1:22). Our initial reply to difficulty must always be to turn to God in prayer. It's His will. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6,7).

E—Endure. Some believe the solution to their problem is to run from it. This is only true if we are facing the temptation to sin (1 Tim. 6:11). If not, we should prepare our minds to endure our difficulty, to accept what we cannot change. Trees need turbulent winds and rain to grow deeper roots. Christians need adversities to improve character and faith. Therefore,

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2,3). If we are wise we will realize that every church has problems, every job has challenges, and every marriage has difficulties. Running from responsibility only adds to our burdens (Jonah 1:17). Blessings come to those who wait.

S—Sanctify God. It’s no accident that the best-preserved book in the history of mankind is the Bible. God has providentially protected His word from extinction so we might “have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place” (2 Peter 1:19). No other book can elevate our hearts with eternal truths as can the word of God. Therefore, sanctify God’s word in your heart (2 Peter 2:15). It is His only way of telling you to: “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me” (Psalm 50:15).

T—Thank God. When Daniel was threatened with death, he turned to the only One who could help him, and worshipped Him (Daniel 6:10). Job praised God for whatever blessings remained after burying his children (Job 1:20, 21). The child of God can always find reasons to be thankful—with “all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light” (Colossians 1:10-12). There is never a time to not “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:1).

By responding to adversity in these ways, we will not only find solutions to any problem, we will eventually see our trials are a T-E-S-T of our faith in God. Will we pass or will we fail?

~via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam, Kentucky.

Gospel Meeting

April 29 – May 3, 2012

(Sunday through Thursday)

Sewell Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gilbert Hardy	Wayne Gooch
Stuart & Sam Wilson	Jerry Gilbert
Wynell Casteel	Mary Ruth Gardner
Yvonne Sherbert	Joy Terry
George Williams	Charles Burns
Ruth Lawson	Eli Williams
Ava Brooke Campbell	Matt Poff
Faye Cary	Joe & Sarah Collier
Betty Faye Holt	Gladys Sandlin
Phillip Harwell	Hailee Walton
Una King Currier	Barbara Ogles
Brent Lowman	Paige Phillips

In The Hospital:

Hazel Toone; Athens-Limestone Hosp., rm. 212
Frances Bowers; Athens-Limestone Hosp., rm. 324
Connie Dollar; Birmingham Hospital; Spain-Wallace
Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. – CCU

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 36	David Gardner, rm. 98
Frances Bowers, rm. 117	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74	Irene Daniel, rm 92

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

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
 David/Martha Rice, Atria Regency, Mobile, rm. 17

CHURCHWEBSITE: The Market Street church website continues to undergo a total redesign and structure. We hope to get the site up and running by this week.

We continue to ask you to supply us with your email addresses for each person in your family or cell phone numbers that receive text messages. We would like to have that information along with your cell phone provider. This information on cell phones will not be published unless you want it published. Please provide this information on the Members Card you fill out on Sunday.

OUR MEETING: Our meeting with brother *Sewell Hall* preaching is rapidly coming upon us. There are

cards in the vestibules for you to take and send or give to those you invite. If anyone is interested in going from door to door to invite others, let me know. Also, if those that have a facebook page will mark that you are attending and send the announcement to all your friends, that will help get the get word out.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Marlon Meals* and *all the family*, in the passing of Marlon's mother, *Gladys Meals*, this past Tuesday. Her funeral was Saturday at the Spry Funeral Home.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Jordan Park church* in Huntsville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. Services Monday through Wednesday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Bob Hutto* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Helton Drive church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Service Monday through Friday will begin at 7:00 p.m. *Billy Randolph* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *West Madison Street church* in Pulaski, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. Services Monday through Wednesday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Elijah Aaron* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Hanceville church* in Hanceville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Service Monday through Friday will begin at 7:00 p.m. *Bob Waldron* will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Morris': Marcus and Bonnie* have been on vacation in Florida... *Dan Lovell* is in Florida this week on vacation... *The Williams: Todd, Julie, Matthew and Philip* have been in Gatlinburg, Tennessee during the spring break... *The Hamms: Joel, Sharma, Clayton and Ragen* have been in Florida this week during the spring break.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group two will be meeting tonight after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group.

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

THE RECORD: For the Week of March 25th

Sunday:

- Bible Classes..... 131
- Morning Worship 164
- Evening Worship..... 117

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes..... 106

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 1st:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Tommy Coblentz
- Song Leader Joel Hamm
- Prayer Dan Reed
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Jordan Lovell
- Assisting Marion Mitchell
- Serving Will Chumbley..... Todd Williams
- Maurice Dollar..... Landon Adams
- Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Evening Worship

- Announcements Tommy Coblentz
- Song Leader Stuart Wilson
- Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper Jordan Lovell
- Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 1st:

- Usher Maurice Dollar
- Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, April 4th:

- Song Leader Tyler Cox
- Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 41:1-10)
- Dan Reed
- Prayer Marion Mitchell
- Invitation Stuart Wilson
- Closing Prayer Jordan Lovell

Sunday, April 8th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
- Song Leader Hunter Cox
- Prayer Tommy Coblentz
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Kenneth Smith
- Assisting Ronnie Locke
- Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Paul Hasting
- Tyler Cox Maurice Dollar
- Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

- Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
- Song Leader Joel Hamm
- Prayer Jordan Lovell
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
- Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 1st:

- Usher Maurice Dollar
- Work Sound System Landon Adams