

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

Evangelist

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

Volume IV

April 8, 2012

No. 15

“Indeed A Notable Miracle Hath Been Done”

David A. Cox

The gospel was preached and 3000 souls repented and were baptized (Acts 2). To the Jews, this did not initially seem to present any threat, and as time passed the apostles continued their work. Some time later Peter and John entered the temple at the hour of prayer, and as they entered they encountered a lame man (Acts 3). The lame asked Peter and John for alms, but Peter gave him more than he had ever hoped for. Peter healed him and all the people saw the man who was lame leaping and praising God and they were all amazed. The Jewish leaders and the Sanhedrin council were very concerned at this point. Why? Because “indeed a notable miracle hath been done” and they could not deny it (Acts 4:16).

Miracles Worked In New Testament Days

We must clearly understand that the scriptures set forth that “indeed a notable miracle” was done on this occasion as well as on other occasions in the New Testament and we cannot deny them. In Acts 3, we have a man who was lame from his birth. A man who had never walked. All the Jews were familiar with this lame man who had regularly laid at the gate of the temple. No doubt his leg muscles were withered, but we read that Peter took him by the hand, “and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered into the temple, walking, and leaping and praising God” (Acts 3:7-8). This miracle was indeed worked by the power of God. No power but divine miraculous power could have caused a man lame from his birth to immediately walk and leap. The miracles that Jesus worked were of the same type. Only one who was working with the power of God could do such miracles. Matthew records that Jesus, during His personal ministry, went about “healing all manner of sickness and diseases among the people” (Matthew 4:23). One example of the many miracles Jesus performed is the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:23-ff). How many people can be raised from the dead without divine power?

Looking at these two miracles we find that even those who did not follow Christ understood that miracles were being worked and there was no need to try and deny them (Acts 4:16; John 11:47). The evidence is plain and simple that miracles were worked in the first century. When the question is asked, "Do you believe in miracles?" We must reply "Yes!"

The Purpose of Miracles

The question that may come to mind is, "What was the purpose of the working of miracles?" In thinking of the purpose of miracles we may think of what many often referred to in this day and age as miracles. But the modern day claims of miracles are clouded in mystery and suspicion. The miracles claimed to be performed are obscure and unobservable healings such as arthritis, headaches, etc. They are not notable miracles which cannot be denied. The express purpose of modern day "miracles" are for the easing of pain and suffering. Those who claim to work "miracles" say God does not want his people to suffer therefore they claim to work these "miracles" for this purpose.

The purpose given in the scriptures for miracles is quite different than the modern day reasoning. In Mark 16, we have recorded the great commission that Jesus gave to His disciples to go out and preach the word of God. "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs" (Mark 16:20). Mark records that they went forth preaching and the word they preached was confirmed by the signs. Why were signs or miracles worked? To confirm that what the apostles were teaching was from God. The purpose of miracles was simply to confirm the word and then produce faith in the hearers (John 20:30-31). If these signs or miracles had not accompanied those who spoke the truth (the word of God), then how would one have been convicted to accept what was taught as being the word of God? They could not have done so. They would have been accepting something blindly and without faith (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6).

The need for miracles today to confirm the word is no longer needed because the word of God has been completely revealed to us through the work of the apostles (Ephesians 3:3-5). Jesus told His disciples that after His death they would receive the Comforter to guide them into all truth (John 16:13). Jude said that the "faith was once delivered" (Jude 3) meaning that it was delivered once for all time. There would be no more revelations.

Paul warned the Galatians about accepting another gospel other than the gospel that he had delivered to them (Galatians 1:6-9). Peter said, "According to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). In the first century there were miraculous powers. They had a purpose for revealing and confirming the word, but now we have the word so there is no need for miracles today. Paul writing to the Corinthians about the spiritual gifts made it clear that the miraculous things were "in part" and would last until "that which is perfect is come" (1 Corinthians 13:8-13). "That which is perfect" refers to the complete revelation of God (cf. James 1:25).

As we think about the miracles that were performed in the first century, they were indeed notable miracles. It is upon these miracles we can be assured of the faith we profess in Jesus Christ being the Son of God. The miracles testified of Him and the message that was preached, being the truth, confirmed the word of God. Let us not look for signs and miracles to lead us today, but to God's word that was confirmed by the power of God.



Gospel Meeting

April 29 – May 3, 2012

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

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

Monday through Thursday– 7:00 p.m.

Sewell Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

The Paradise of God

Michael W. McLemore

Paul used the word “paradeisos” as a description of our eternal heavenly home (2 Corinthians 12:4). It is an interesting term with a long history.

Our English “paradise” is actually a Persian word that has been given an English sound. It was used by the historian Xenophon to describe the parks of Persian kings and nobles. One such park was built by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar married a girl from the mountains of Media. Babylon was built on a plain. Soon after their marriage his young wife became homesick for her mountains. Nebuchadnezzar, determined that he would soothe her melancholy, built his bride a mountain right there in Babylon. He erected what would later be known as one of the “seven wonders of the ancient world” as a tribute to his love for a young woman. This pyramid-like structure rose in terraces high above the flat low lands of Mesopotamia. On this mountain, Nebuchadnezzar made water falls, planted trees, shrubs, grasses and hundreds of varieties of flowers. We know that place as the Hanging Gardens of Semiramis, at Babylon. Paul borrowed that term to describe heaven as a garden.

What more beautiful figure could here be employed than that of men’s reconciliation with God to that place from which he was first estranged by sin. Are we longing for that day when we can walk with our Father in the cool of the day in the paradise of God?

~via *The West End Way*; Richmond, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gilbert Hardy	Wayne Gooch
Sharma Hamm	Joel Hamm
Jordan Lovell	Jerry Gilbert
Wynell Casteel	Mary Ruth Gardner
Yvonne Sherbert	Joy Terry
Charles Burns	Ruth Lawson
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. 201
Connie Dollar; Birmingham Hospital; Spain-Wallace
Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. – CCU
Eli Williams; St. Jude’s Hospital; Memphis, Tenn.

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 36	David Gardner, rm. 98
Frances Bowers, rm. 100	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

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *David Gardner* and *all the family* in the passing of David’s nephew, *Jerry Braden*, this past Sunday in Pulaski, Tennessee. He was buried in the Athens City Cemetery on Thursday.

CHURCH WEBSITE: The Market Street church website is up and running. I hope that all of you will visit the site. The new site has a members area that will eventually contain much helpful information for your use. You will be e-mailed the information for your username and password to login. The directory has been loaded on to the site. We would like for you to check your information to insure that it is correct. If it is not correct, please change it or let us know so that we can change it to the correct information. Also, the new website is connected to the Facebook fan page of the Market Street church. If you are not a fan on facebook, please become one and suggest to your friends that they become one. This a great tool and outreach to those far and near. We have been using the facebook medium to get the word out about the Market Street church, our Gospel Meetings, Singings, and Vacation Bible schools. Remember to visit the site.

OUR SPRING MEETING: Our meeting with brother

Sewell Hall preaching is just three short weeks away. 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.

FACEBOOK: The Market Street church has a group page that is open to only the members of the Market Street church. It is a great way to get the word out about various things of interest to those of us here at Market Street. If you are on facebook and not a member of the Market Street group, please let us know so that we can add you to the group.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. Services Monday through Wednesday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Chris Bates* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Anderson church* in Anderson is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. Service Monday through Thursday will begin at 7:00 p.m. *Lowell Sallee* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *East Florence church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Aaron Beard* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE ISBELLS TO MOVE: It is sad to announce that *Glen and Shelby Isbell* will be moving within the next couple of weeks to Smyrna, Tennessee. We hate to see them leave, but we understand there reasons and wish the very best for them and look forward to opportunities that they will be able to visit with us.

OUT OF TOWN: *Ida Nell Griffin* is out of town this week on vacation.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group three will be meeting tonight after our evening service. If you are in group three, 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 April 1st*

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	125
	Morning Worship	173
	Evening Worship.....	113
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	98

Men Privileged To Serve:

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
	Tyler Cox
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 8th:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, April 11th:

Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 41:11-20)
	Kenneth Smith
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Invitation	Todd Williams
Closing Prayer	Marty Adams

Sunday, April 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Jordan Lovell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Marty Adams
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Danny Johnson
	Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Harold Davis
	Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Joel Hamm
Preaching	Marty Adams
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 15th:

Usher	Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System	Landon Adams