

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 15, 2012

No. 16

Blessings In Christ

David A. Cox

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

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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

In Ephesians 1:3, Paul states that all spiritual blessings are in Christ. Some might ask, "What are these spiritual blessings?" Let us understand that this does not refer to material blessings. The scriptures teach that one may enjoy material blessings, but this does not mean he is justified in God's sight. Many today preach a gospel of health and wealth, but Jesus, speaking of physical or material blessings, says that the Father, the giver of our blessings (James 1:17), "maketh the sun to rise upon the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). Let us understand that God does providentially care for His children, but this does not mean that they will have the best things of this life (Matthew 6:19-34; Philippians 4:19).

Notice what the Bible says are our spiritual blessings in Christ.

1. A New creature - (2 Corinthians 5:17).
2. No condemnation - (Romans 8:1).
3. Redemption - (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13,14).
4. Forgiveness of sins - (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:14).
5. Eternal Life - (1 John 5:11).
6. Salvation - (2 Timothy 2:10).
7. Resurrected to be with Christ - (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
8. Prayers are heard by the Father - (John 15:7; 9:31; 1 Peter 3:12).
9. All of God's promises - (2 Corinthians 1:20).

With these blessings before us, it is evident that if we are to be saved and enjoy a home in heaven with God then we must be in Christ. Let us understand what the scriptures teach us about how we get into Christ. Paul writing to the Galatians said, "For we are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26,27). It is clear that we are in Christ when we are baptized into Christ.

Let us all resolve within ourselves to do what the Bible tells us to do so we may enjoy all the blessing of being in Christ.

They Can't Live It

Bill Hall

Many who have never entered the Lord's service explain their hesitancy with the words, "I'm afraid I just can't live it." We usually try to quell their fears, but the truth is, they can't live it, for their concept of what it is they are trying to live is a completely false concept.

Consider the man whose wife became a Christian. He was sure she couldn't "live it." He watched her carefully, and sure enough, one day under considerable stress, she lost control, yelled at the children, and said some things a Christian ought not to say. "If she were a Christian," the man thought, "she wouldn't talk like that; I knew she couldn't live it." On another day the preacher came around, and in reaction to something someone said, he turned a bit red, although he otherwise controlled his temper. But the man saw the tinge of redness, and immediately he concluded, "That preacher can't live it either." He eventually observed faults in other Christians, and finally concluded that none of them could "live it," that the whole church was a bunch of hypocrites. Of course he never even tried, for he knew his weaknesses all too well. He knew he couldn't "live it."

Poor man! He thinks that the Christian life is a life of perfection; that all "Christians" fall into one of two categories: either they are perfect or they are hypocrites. He knows he can't live up to perfection, to the standards he has set for others, and is thinking with an almost self-righteous attitude, "One thing about it, Preacher, I'm not going to be a hypocrite."

But, there is pardon for the sincere Christian's imperfections. "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). And that Christian who sincerely strives to live for the Lord, and daily seeks His forgiveness, though he should have a thousand weaknesses, is no hypocrite. There are hypocrites in the church, and we offer no defense in their behalf. But weaknesses do not necessarily imply hypocrisy.

Let the faithful Christian, then, not be intimidated by the constant charge of "hypocrites in the church." And let the sinner forget about living "it," if by "it" he means perfection, and let him come to Christ, through

whom he can go to heaven.

-via *Gospel Observer* Avondale, Pennsylvania.

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Doing Right By Our Children

Allen Malone

It was not the first time I had seen such a situation, nor the last (unfortunately). The mother was in tears, the father upset but trying to suppress his emotions. They could not understand where they had gone wrong. They loved the Lord and served Him faithfully, but today the church had withdrawn from their nineteen year old son because of being unfaithful in various ways. "We are present at every service," they exclaimed in sobs. "Why is our son so disinterested in spiritual things?" They looked for the answer in the present; it was to be found in the past.

Like so many couples, though this man and woman are active now, they had been unfaithful when their children were young. The husband had been more interested in establishing his career than serving the Lord. The wife had not liked to attend worship without her husband. Neither of them read their Bibles or discussed spiritual things. They did well to occasionally remember to "say Grace" before meals. On those occasions when they did gather with the saints, the children were disruptive, and so mom and dad had another excuse for missing. All the while, however, they planned "to do better later." This plan they carried out, but unfortunately, later was too late for their son.

This couple learned a most valuable lesson. The best time to be concerned with your child's spiritual well-being is while he or she is young enough that you have the privilege and opportunity of being able to mold and direct that child in and toward spiritual things. It was obvious that this couple was now very much concerned with the spiritual condition of their son, but oh how they wished they had shown that same concern twenty years earlier.

Parents, are we doing right by our children? The time to begin teaching our children about the God of salvation is before they are old enough to need the salvation He provides. The time to begin teaching them proper attitudes and priorities is before their attitudes and priorities are established. The time to do your part in saving their souls is while there is still something you can do!

-via *Southport Sounder*, Indianapolis, Indiana



No Grandchildren

Robert F. Turner

The influence of godly parents can do much to shape the lives of their children, and it is to be expected that the younger generation accept religious concepts of their parents. While it is true this sometimes results in a blind following, parents have an obligation to bring up their children “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,” and should feel no guilt for so doing. Following the guidance of parents need not be done blindly; nor is rebellion against the parent’s teaching a sign of true independence and maturity. It sometime indicated immaturity, blindly following poorly informed peers.

But when all this has been said we still must reckon with the individual responsibility. I like the way Bro. Ferrel Jenkins put it in a chapel talk: “God has no grandchildren!”

Certain Jews in Christ's day, and some brethren today, rest their hope in a sort of physical kinship with God. The Jews said, “We have Abraham as our father” (Matthew 3:9), and some brethren say, “My dad was an elder in the church,” or “My mother was truly a godly woman.” I feel like asking, “Do you think they would approve of your present conduct or attitude?”

The family relation with God is spiritual, a “knowing,” “indwelling,” and “fellowship” that is established through individual self-denial and trust in Jesus Christ. Parents can no more do these things for their offspring

than they can love, hate, or feel joy for them. Each one who comes to God becomes His “child” in the same sense that he becomes a lively stone built upon the true foundation, a laborer in God’s vineyard, a soldier in His army, a citizen in His Kingdom. These and other like figures depict the functioning serving relationship of adults who are freely giving themselves to God in Christ.

“He that believes and is baptized” limits the relationship to those who can believe. Infants are safe, and in no need of forgiveness. “All shall know me” (Hebrews 8:11) further stresses the exercise of intellect and will that is essential to being a “child” of God. Genuine Christianity is not inherited. God has no grandchildren!

-via *The Northwood Messenger*; Northport, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gilbert Hardy	Wayne Gooch
Jerry Gilbert	Mary Ruth Gardner
Wynell Casteel	Yvonne Sherbert
Joy Terry	Charles Burns
Ruth Lawson	Faye Cary
Ava Brooke Campbell	Matt Poff
Betty Faye Holt	Gladys Sandlin
Phillip Harwell	Hailee Walton
Una King Carrier	Barbara Ogles
Brent Lowman	Paige Phillips

In The Hospital:

Connie Dollar; Birmingham Hospital; Spain-Wallace
Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. – CCU
Eli Williams; St. Jude’s Hospital; Memphis, Tenn.

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 64

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

CHURCH WEBSITE: The Market Street church website is up and running. You should have received an e-mail this week about your user name and password. If you have not received an e-mail, please let us know. We will check to make sure that we have the correct e-mail address for you. You can let us know by noting this on the *members card* that you will fill out this morning. The new webste will be a great tool for transferring information. Also, if you do not use e-mail or check it as frequently, it is possible to receive text messages from the system. It you would like to receive text messages, we will need your cell phone number and the cell phone provider that you use.

OUR SPRING MEETING: Our meeting with *Sewell Hall* preaching is just two 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. Remember, if you are are on facebook, we have a facebook event advertising the meeting, please mark that you are attending and send the announcement to all your friends. That will help get the get word out.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Oakland church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Gerry Sanduskey* will be the speaker in this meeting.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Morris'* *Marcus and Bonnie* are out of town this weekend... *Ida Nell Griffin* has been out of town this week on vacation.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group one will be meeting tonight after our evening service. If you are in group one, 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 8th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	142
	Morning Worship	207
	Evening Worship.....	127
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	104

Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Pepper
	Marion Mitchell
	Harold Davis
Closing Prayer	Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Todd Williams
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

Wednesday, April 18th:

Song Leader	Todd Williams
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 41:21-29)
.....	Bonnie Sutton
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Sunday, April 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Dan Reed
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Will Chumbley.....
	Marvin Putman
	Brandon Griswold
	Paul Hasting
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Marion Mitchell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 22nd:

Usher	Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams