

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

May 13, 2012

No. 20

“Be Not Weary In Well Doing”

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

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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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 Galatians 6:9 we read, “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Paul, in this passage, is admonishing the Galatians to not become weary, lose courage, or faint in doing good. Paul saw the ever present danger of Christians doing good for awhile then becoming negligent in doing good things or minding spiritual things.

Paul exhorts them not to be weary due to the fact that weariness can cause one to faint, or lose sight of the goal. The attitude by which Paul lived his life is important for one to possess if they are to not grow weary. Paul earlier had said, “I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved, and gave himself for me.” We, as Christians, must understand that the lives that we live are to be lived for Christ. We must not be looking to earthly, temporal things, but rather to the spiritual and heavenly things. It is essential that we place Christ before self as Paul did in his life (Philippians 3:7-14). As Christians we must “Set our affection on things above and not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).

What should we do to “set our affections above” and to live a Christ centered life? Peter speaks of the Christians life as one of diligently adding to our faith “virtue, and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-8). Peter tells us that by giving diligence and adding these things to our lives we will not be barren, but “make your calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10). When one is living a life giving diligence to adding the graces Peter described, he will not have his attention on things of the earth, but on things above. One who lives in this way will have no time

to grow weary and to faint or as Peter puts it “if ye do these things ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:10).

The Hebrew writer exhorts that “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2) Why were the Hebrew Christians exhorted to do this? Verse 3 continues, “For consider Him, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds” (Hebrews 12:3). By reminding ourselves of the great sacrifice of Christ made for us, we can be encouraged as we live and endure the trials and tribulations of this life.

In the latter portion of Galatians 6:9, Paul reminds the Galatians that “We shall reap, if we faint not.” This shows the necessity of finishing what we have started. Many believe and teach that once one is saved, one can never fall. But this verse teaches us that our reaping will be determined by whether we faint, grow weary or quitting.

May we all have a strong, growing, abiding, and entrusting faith in God to prevent the weariness that may come. May we keep our sight on the things above. Constantly looking to and obeying Jesus as we walk through this life.



Another Look At A Dull Sermon

Ed Harrell

I want to state without equivocation that I am not against dull sermons. I frequently preach them, and I can do it without even trying. The best thing about dull sermons is that no one remembers them. In fact, sometime the audience doesn't even remember you.

After preaching in Decatur, Alabama a few years ago, I was standing in the vestibule with my friend Sam. A lady passed by, spoke to me and introduced herself to Sam, delighted to meet him for the first time. “We have met,” said Sam. “Oh,” she replied, “I am so sorry I did not remember. Where did we meet?” “You came to hear me preach last week,” Sam said dryly. There was an awkward pause. She weakly replied, “Are you

sure? I'm so sorry, but I don't seem to remember.” Sam was not frustrated in the least. “It's all right,” he said softly, “I'm a very forgettable preacher.” I can tell you honestly that all preachers are pretty forgettable at times.

Anyway, this subject returned to my mind when my friend, Diego, sent me a copy of a little book entitled “101 Things To Do During Dull Sermons”, written by Tim Sims and Dan Petgoda. I don't remember most of their suggestions, but I did find a few that were tempting. The best of the authors' suggestions are in a chapter called “Musings and Meditations.” For instance, they propose making a mental list of activities that would be even more boring than listening to the sermon. The authors suggest making out your Christmas list, balancing your checkbook, cleansing your comb, and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance forwards and backwards. I submit attending a faculty meeting, business meeting, P.T.A. meeting, playing games at a bridal shower, and attending a grandchild's music recital. In short, things can always get worse.

The problem that worries me about this frivolity is how it reflects on our attention spans. Television has taught us to think in ten-second sound bites and to expect to be entertained all of the time. If someone explores a subject that requires my lazy mind to think, it is boring. If a preacher doesn't grab my attention with some gimmick, my mind is off to the ball game. It may well stay there through the Lord's Supper and up until the final “Amen” triggers a return to consciousness.

Ours is a religion of thought and meditation. “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:8). “But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

That is something to think about during dull sermons. Ponder the wonder and glory of the occasion that brought you to the assembly. Such thoughts would help us listen.

~via *The Northwood Messenger*; Northport, Alabama

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

A Crown of Thorns

Jim Jonas

“When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head” (Matthew 27:29-30).

This brutal scene was played out in the Praetorium, the residence of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. It is constantly appalling, though not surprising, to think of what human beings are capable of doing to others. Think of it: When Jesus came, storms, diseases, animals – and even death – bowed to the will of the Almighty Maker. But not these bloodthirsty men. Mistaking Jesus’ restraint for weakness, the soldiers, like a pack of savage wolves, move in for the kill.

What is revealed about the respective natures of men and God in this event?

First, men don’t even need a good reason to be cruel toward a fellow human being. Jesus had done nothing to these soldiers personally nor had He committed a crime against the Roman state. Perhaps to some degree Jesus fell victim to the hypocrisy of the Jews, for they seem to have been reviled by many. “For ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,’ as it is written” (Romans 2:24). The Roman soldiers would have relished the opportunity to torture a prominent Jew considering the constant irritation the Jews were to the occupying force.

Second, humans can become callous to the suffering of others. In first century Rome, men were killed for sport in the arena. Slaves were treated as property and could be disposed of at the discretion of the owner. Crucifixions were not uncommon. It was undoubtedly an occasion of great hilarity to see this “king,” humble and subdued, bleeding from the wounds of His “coronation.” And for good measure, they drove the thorns even deeper into His scalp by bludgeoning Him with his “scepter.”

But if these cruel soldiers illustrate what wicked men are capable of doing to others, Jesus demonstrates what God was willing to endure for others. Having seen the illustrious crowns of both the British and Russian

monarchies, surely Jesus deserved to wear no less as the King of all creation! And as human royalty revels in the pomp and circumstance of dignitaries, surely Jesus deserved some token of honor from these lowly soldiers!

But no, Jesus received thorny branches, mockery and a universal expression of contempt – the sputum of His captors. How did Jesus endure such reviling and ridicule without erupting in righteous indignation and divine wrath? After all, would He have not been justified in defending His honor since it was God Himself who commanded death for blasphemy? Make no mistake: Jesus will exact vengeance for His mistreatment, but then was not the time. Jesus submitted to these indignities for the same reason He submitted to John’s baptism: “for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

The crown of thorns, to man a cruel joke and diadem of derision, was honorable in the sight of God. It is yet another indication that the values of heaven and earth often clash. Let us be careful not to judge by appearance.

~via *Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Albert Bowers	Mot Beasley
Robert Beasley	Barbara Fudge
Stefan Fudge	Gilbert Hardy
Mary Ruth Gardner	Wynell Casteel
Yvonne Sherbert	Jerry Gilbert
Faye Cary	Christine Grissom
Matt Poff	Ava Brooke Campbell
Betty Faye Holt	Leroy Davenport
Brent Lowman	Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell	Hailee Walton
Una King Currier	Barbara Ogles
Gladys Sandlin	Paige Phillips

In The Hospital:

Joe Leopard; Huntsville Hospital – rm. 1642
Frances Bowers; Athens-Limestone Hospital – rm. 301
Kathleen Wales; Health South Rehab. – rm. 222-B
Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. – CCU
Eli Williams; St. Jude’s Hospital; Memphis, Tenn.
David Hartsell; Houston, Texas

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 10

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 36 David Gardner, rm. 65
Frances Bowers, rm. 100 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74 Irene Daniel, rm 92
Marie Bates, rm. 97

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

WEEKDAY LADIES CLASS: There has been some interest and discussion about having a weekday ladies’ class meeting one weekday morning at the building. If you would be interested, or have comments or questions about this, please speak to me.

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

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of May 6th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 127
Morning Worship 171
Evening Worship..... 122
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 103

Vacation Bible School

June 18-21, 2012 — 10:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Tommy Coblenz
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Stuart Wilson
Assisting Ronnie Locke
Serving Hunter Cox Brandon Griswold
..... Marion Pepper..... Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Jordan Lovell

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 13th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, May 16th:

Song Leader Marion Michell
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 43:1-7
..... Kenneth Smith
Prayer Terry Andrews
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Sunday, May 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Todd Williams
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Jerry McGlocklin
Serving Stefan Fudge..... David Terry
..... Will Chumbley..... Maurice Dolllar
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching Stuart Wilson
Lord’s Supper Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 20th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams