

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

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October 6, 2013

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Spread The News About Our

Gospel Meeting

October 13-17

(Sunday – Thursday)

Schedule of Services

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

Monday – Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist – Gardner Hall

of Port Murray, New Jersey

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) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm..... (256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

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

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

The Eternal Cliff

Kent Heaton

The end of the year drama in Washington concluded with President Obama signing into law a deal averting the "fiscal cliff" which threatened the financial and political economy of America. Fear loomed in the early hours of the New Year if the House and Senate failed to find a solution to the gridlock of political wrangling and debate over tax increases and spending cuts. With the normal fashion of the rabid media blitz driving the fears of a looming disaster the country sighs a moment of relief before the continuing crisis of prosperity engulfs every home. America has pulled itself back from an uncertain future as described in falling off a cliff. But there is still another cliff that emerges on the horizon for all men - an eternal cliff.

There is a precipice that is more to be feared than a fiscal cliff, political cliff or literally falling off a mountain cliff. Death is the agent that carries one into a world where there is no return. When life is over and one falls over the cliff of time into the chasm of eternity there are greater consequences than whether taxes go up or down or money is cut from large budgets or small budgets. The certainty of this cliff is found in Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." The "after this" is the eternal cliff.

The rich man and Lazarus fell over this eternal cliff in Luke 16:19-31. "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried" (Luke 16:22). This cliff is no respecter of person. You can wear expensive clothes every day and make incredible amounts of money living at the high end of prosperity and die just like the fellow at the front gate who is a beggar starving to death, ill with the misery of humanity. The President can sign a bill into law averting the fiscal cliff but no man will change the reality of an eternal cliff that awaits all men.

If men were more concerned about life beyond the grave than living beyond the dollar bill what a difference the world would be. Sadly, the eyes of man are closed by the deceiver of this world. Paul writes, "Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them" (2 Cor-

inthians 4:4). Satan does not want men to see the pit he is taking most men into (Matthew 7:13-14). There would be greater fear of falling off the eternal pit if we could fully grasp the reality of "everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:46).

Jesus "signed a bill" nearly two thousand years ago that extended to all men His Father's grace to avert the eternal cliff of doom. With the blood of God's Son, humanity was offered the chance to pull back from the fear of death and punishment of a Just God. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). What Jesus did on the cross is not a temporary measure but an eternal promise that guarantees inheritance to all who will accept the terms of His law (Ephesians 1:14; Matthew 7:21-23).

Peter reminds us the world will come to an end (2 Peter 3). When that day happens (and it will) no one will worry about the fiscal cliff. Everyone will know there is an eternal cliff and the few (Matthew 20:16) will have joy (2 Thessalonians 1:10) but the vast majority of men who did not believe in the eternal cliff will know the fear of the Lord.

-via *Westview Bulletin*, Hamilton, Ohio.

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The Inefficiency of Baptism

Alan Cornett

At Pentecost Peter preached the new gospel message for the first time. The impact was profound: "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). Success continued - 5,000 more responded (Acts 4:4).

People were responding to the gospel promise by following the gospel command - repent and be baptized. But imagine the logistical challenge of individually baptizing each of those people, each one demanding the individual attention of conversation, confession

and baptism. How long would it have taken for each of those 9,000 believers to be immersed?

Likewise we find Philip teaching the Ethiopian eunuch on the road to Gaza. "This is a desert place" (Acts 8:27). Yet even here, when the Ethiopian recognized the need for water and baptism: "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (8:37) Wouldn't it have been easier simply to affirm the man's faith and commitment without the effort and inconvenience of baptism in such a situation? Why did God tie to His universal promise of forgiveness of sins the command of not only repentance, but also of water baptism, full immersion (Philip and the eunuch went "down into the water" (Acts 8:38), Paul writes that baptism is a "burial" (Romans 6:4)?

We have seen the religious world react against just that over the decades and centuries. There has been replacement with pouring and sprinkling (less water, less mess, dries faster) to simply a "sinner's prayer" nowhere contained or referenced in Scripture. If only Peter had thought of the sinner's prayer Pentecost could have been wrapped up in just a few minutes.

But the inefficiency of baptism is exactly the point. It's supposed to be inefficient; it's supposed to be an "inconvenience." Our relationship with God and our service to Him isn't about streamlining our effort and time. When we understand that our soul is more valuable than the entire world (Matthew 16:26), valuable enough to God that He offered the blood of His Son for it, we will begin to see that each man and woman deserves the personal attention of baptism. That is their moment, the time that God has chosen to wash away sins (Acts 22:16).

Sometimes we dismiss the process as unimportant, pointing instead to the importance of the end result. But we need to understand the purpose of religion is never efficiency, but rather service. The process itself becomes integral to the end result because it shows our commitment to what God wants, and to our concern for His commands.

God has taught us to be patient with process. Although His kingdom was prepared from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34), God was willing to take thousands of years to bring it to fruition. Through the Patriarchs and Moses, God worked slowly and carefully. God even tells Moses of His willingness to destroy Israel,

and start all over again. He would "make a great nation" of Moses (Exodus 32:9-10), this after a four hundred year period of Egyptian captivity.

God's process is a training and testing ground that sours the question: Can I be bothered with God? I know He is willing to be bothered with me.

-via *Family Items*, Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Irene Mitchell	Buddy Pepper
Mot Dollar	Betty Hastings
Wynell Casteel	Gwen Bullock
Charles Burns	Morgan Barksdale
Abby Gilbert	Jerry Taylor
Phillip Harwell	Ava Brooke Cambell
Una King Currier	Anita Willis
Elizabeth Kate Miller	Mark Hargrove

In The Hospital:

Bill Claxton; Athens-Limestone Hospital, ICU

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Matty Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 18	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Mable Crafts, rm. 71	

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Albert Norton, rm. 36	

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Jack Cannon, rm. 82

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:
Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

- Reba Adams, at home
- Lola Colwell, at home
- Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
- David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
- Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

NEW QUARTER BEGINS TODAY: Our Bible classes are beginning a new quarter in Bible classes today. I appreciate those that are willing to be a part of the Bible class teaching program at Market Street. Thanks to all who taught last quarter. We truly have good, dedicated teachers.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: There will be a gospel meeting beginning today at the **O'Neal church**. The meeting will continue through Tuesday. *Buc Chumbley of Hueytown* will be the speaker in the meeting ... There will be a gospel meeting beginning today at the **Carriger church**. The meeting will continue through Tuesday. *Sewell Hall of Atlanta, Georgia* will be the speaker in the meeting.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are studying the book of "Proverbs". All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember *Mitzi Carruth's* son-in-law, *Joel Smith*, who is in Afghanistan serving the U. S. military. Keep him in your prayers.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Sept. 29th

Sunday:

Bible Classes.....	139
Morning Worship	190
Evening Worship.....	126

Wednesday:

Bible Classes.....	104
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**The Market Street
church of Christ Website at:
MarketStreet-church.com**

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Marion Mitchell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Marcus Morris
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Dan Lovell..... Keith Hinkle
.....	Delmer Carter Keenon Carrier
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer	Todd Williams

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 6th:

Usher	Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, October 9th:

Song Leader	Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading.....	Mark 6:30-44
.....	Danny Johnson
Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey
Invitation	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Sunday, October 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Joel Hamm
Preaching	Gardner Hall
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Larry Mitchell
Assisting	Dwaine Allfrey
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl Marvin Putman
.....	Bart Brown..... Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Terry Andrews
Preaching	Gardner Hall
Lord's Supper	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Ross Melvin

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 13th:

Usher	Paul Hasting
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams