

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 VI

February 2, 2014

No. 5

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 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) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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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

The Love of God

David A. Cox

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

This verse has been called by some the golden text of the Bible because it sums up the eternal purpose of God from the garden and the great truths that it reveals. All the wisdom and learning of men have never brought man to a full comprehension of this love. The greatness of God's love is expressed in the words of F. M. Lehman:

*The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;*

*The guilty pair bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled;
And pardoned from his sin.*

*When hoary time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call;*

*God's love, so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race -
The saints' and angels' song.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;*

*To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

The Greatest Love

Truly, the love of God is the greatest love ever demonstrated. Jesus told His disciples, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Paul, speaking of God's love said, "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The greatest love Jesus said would be if a man would give his life for a friend, but God's love surpassed that in that He gave his Son to die for His enemies. Christ did not die for the righteous and the good, but for sinners. It is because of Christ's sacrifice life that we are reconciled to God (Romans 5:10) and declared to be righteous by obedience to God's will (Romans 5:12-19; 1 John 2:29).

What Manner of Love

John wrote, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1). The love of God allows us to enter into a relationship with God, as our Father. This kind of love is pictured in Luke 15, when the son left his father's house and wasted all his living. After the young son found himself in such a terrible position, he decided to return to his father and ask to work as a hired servant for him. "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found" (Luke 15:20-24). The son had left the father house and perhaps "many years" had passed (v. 29), but verse 20 tells us that the father's was looking for him. He sees his son when he was "a great way off" and recognized him and ran to greet him. The son confessed his sins to his father and the father restored his place back to him. The son did not deserve this outpouring of the father's love, but the father's mercy and grace was ready to receive him back. This pictures the love the Father has for us in that we

have a Father that will not give up on us. He is willing to forgive us when we turn to Him and seek forgiveness by His terms for pardon. God's love is always present. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, but our ourselves (Romans 8:35-39).

Since such great love has been demonstrated for man by God, should not man return that love by obeying and doing what God desires? The more we think about God's love, the more we realize that God's love is past finding out.

May we ever be thankful for the great love that God has for us and emulate that kind of love within our lives. Love God and seek to serve him according to His will (John 14:15; 1 John 2:5).

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Who Is Teaching Who?

Bubba Garner

We had a cat. We weren't looking for one and we certainly didn't need one, but he sort of found us. The kids instantly fell in love with him. By the time Melissa and I figured there was no harm in letting them play with a stray cat, this new visitor had a food dish, toys, and a bed in the garage. Now, we had a pet.

The kids named him Max. After several months, just long enough for all of us to get attached, Max disappeared. We searched the neighborhood calling out his name. We visited the animal shelter to see if he'd been picked up. We put out signs with big, black letters that said, "Lost Cat" We did that for Max. Oh, that we had as much concern for our neighbors on either side of us or those across the street who are just as lost in sin.

We have no problem seeing the necessity of evangelism. The headlines in the paper and the evening news depict a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel. We have no trouble recognizing our own responsibility to be involved in this great work. "Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). It's called personal

evangelism; we're persons. Where we often fall short is in our motivation to sow the seed, being genuinely concerned about the souls of men. God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). That should be the desire of God's people as well.

Jesus, the Master Teacher, certainly shows us the way in this regard. When the rich young ruler came to Him wanting to know the requirements for inheriting eternal life, the Savior answered out of a love He felt for him (Mark 10:21). Jesus didn't look down on the young man because he didn't know or respond to his question out of mere duty. He loved him. And He truly wanted this ruler to submit to the sovereignty of God. If our desire is to bring people to Jesus' feet, we must first follow His steps of concern.

Sometimes, those whom we teach are, in fact, our best teachers. They receive the gospel message with such energy and enthusiasm that they can't wait for their friends and family to find the treasure they've just unearthed. "My husband needs to know this," or "my best friend and I were just talking about that," they might say. And then they go tell them about it or provide them an opportunity to be exposed to the same information that just convicted them. In so doing, they convince us to look more carefully at those close to us who are far away from God.

When Jesus identified Himself as "the Christ" to the woman at the well in Samaria, she "left her waterpot, and went into the city, and said to the men, 'Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done'" (John 4:28-29). Her conversation with the stranger at the well had taken many twists and turns. But when she finally realized who Jesus was and what He was offering her, the first thing she did was let the rest of the city in on her discovery. She even left her waterpot behind. That's because all she could think about was the living water.

What is the common response to good news or some exciting discovery? Phone lines are jammed, inboxes are filled, and every other form of communication available to us is utilized to spread it around. Why is it, then, that we have the greatest news of all, the fact that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and we keep it to ourselves? "And from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me all the things

that I have done'" (John 4:39). May God help us to do the same concerning all the things He has done for us.

Years later, when Cornelius was praying at his house, an angel appeared and told him to send for Simon Peter who would bring him a message from the Lord. What did this devout, God-fearing man do? He "called together his relatives and close friends" (Acts 10:24). He knew that he was about to be exposed to all that had been commanded by the Lord. And he wanted to make sure that those nearest to him were close enough to hear.

We at times think of evangelism only in the sense of those who are far away: foreign fields, the stranger at the grocery store, the unknown waiter at the restaurant. Those people need the gospel, for sure. But what about the neighbor who has lived next to us for years or our oldest friend from high school or the wayward member of our family? They are the ones whom we likely have the most influence over. And who knows how many of them are praying and searching for guidance in what is right. Perhaps we ought to be praying more for just the right opportunity to tell them.

In case you're wondering, we never did find Max. But when it comes to people, you can have the confidence of seeing them again when this life is over. Let's be certain we love them enough to give them that hope.

-via *The Folsom Point View*; Folsom, California.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jewel Dean Kennemer	Robert & Mot Beasley
Jennifer Threet	Fay Ferguson
Gwen Bullock	Joyce & Crutcher Harbin
Gilbert Hardy	Matt Poff
Mark Hargrove	Eli Williams
Ava Brooke Campbell	Brittney Murrell
Jerry Taylor	Una King Currier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Charles Burns	Abby Gilbert

In The Hospital:

Bob Richter, Huntsville Hosp.; rm. 839

Carol Locke, Huntsville Hosp.; rm. 429

Billy Abernathy; Nashville Hosp.

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100 Mattye Murray, rm. 60
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Mable Crafts, rm. 63

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Jack Cannon, rm. 111A
Albert Norton, rm. 36 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

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
Wynell Casteel, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
Betty Hasting, at home
David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Wynell Casteel and all the family*, in the passing of Wynell's brother-in-law, *Roy Tucker* last week. His funeral was Monday at Spry Funeral Home. He was laid to rest in the Lentzville Cemetery.

PICTURES: There are just a few pictures that we still need to get made for the new directory. If you have not had your picture made yet, please try to get it made by next Sunday.

ACTIVITY FORMS: There are activity forms at each entrance/exit for each member to fill out for the work they would like to do. Please pick up a form, mark it and place it in the baskets where the forms are. Please do this as soon as possible.

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.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Jan. 26th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 135
Morning Worship 177
Evening Worship..... 125
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 110

3rd Annual Singing

February 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Keith Hinkle
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Ronnie Locke
Serving James Johnson Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Delmer Carter Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer Ross Melvin

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 2nd:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, February 5th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... Mark 11:1-14
..... Kennon Currier
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Invitation Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Sunday, February 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Kenneth Smith
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Marvin Putman Norman Brown
..... Stefan Fudge Dan Lovell
Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 9th:

Usher Heath Dollar
Work Sound System Landon Adams