

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 16, 2014

No. 7

Growing Old In The Lord

Sewell Hall

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) 232-3312
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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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

Approaching the age of 90 years, he said, "My health is not good; I cannot make any plans for the next season, or next month, or even for tomorrow." This, I thought, is what it means to be old. All young people make plans. They must make plans – long range, far reached plans. The progress of society depends upon such plans.

But if our aged brother had no plans for time, he was not without plans for eternity and these were more certain and vivid than youth can make. With his bride of sixty summers, he lived alone in the old house where they had reared a family of six children on a little farm in the rugged hills of the South. Four times a day, they prayed together to the Father in Heaven. More often than this they talked of God and "upon His law" did they "meditate day and night." Last week, as she read aloud a description of heaven, he remarked with happy anticipation, "Just think, Lillian, we will have a home like that soon." This week, we believe, he has it.

Perhaps this, too, is what it means to be old – the opportunity of knowing that heaven "can be ours soon." For the first time in life, actually being certain of tomorrow – certain that tomorrow is heaven. Can this be bad? Shall we dread the exchange of temporal uncertainty for the joyful anticipation of an imminent residence with God? Oh we of little faith: Christian maturity means not only confidence in the face of death, but contentment in the face of approaching years. **Age** is the graduate course in God's School of Preparation for Eternity. Matriculate with grace, attend with faithfulness, graduate with honor. "But though our outward man perish yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

-via *The North Birmingham Bulletin*; Birmingham, Alabama.

The Rise and the Falling

Terry Benton

“Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

Jesus caused many in Israel to fall.

He set the standard of righteousness so much higher than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees and made many open comments that offended them. (Read Matthew 5-7; 23). Jesus was destined to force a decision that would mean that if you were not willing to put the Lord first, you could not be His disciples (Luke 14:25f). Because Jesus did not come to fit what people wanted in a Messiah, He became a rock of offense to many but the chief cornerstone of conviction for others. Truly Jesus was destined for the fall of many in Israel. Even today people who can't work through the controversy of Jesus and decide to take a stand, that very fact is to their own spiritual fall. Jesus is controversial and forces a committed decision. He divides families where some know Jesus is worth standing for while others do not see that value in Jesus.

Jesus caused many in Israel to rise.

Think how controversial Peter's first sermon in Acts 2 was among the Jews. Yet, while many Jews were committed to the fall from Jesus whom God had made both Lord and Christ, yet only 3,000 Jews were raised in status before God. Jesus was destined for the rising of thousands more who took a stand for Jesus in the midst of controversy. They were raised to sit in heavenly places in Christ. They entered into the kingdom of light and righteousness and had now become the true Israel of God. Those who will confess Jesus and stand up for His word are the ones that God was partnership with (2 John 9-10). These are a royal priesthood and a holy nation whose spiritual sacrifices mingle with the sweet aroma of Jesus' sacrifice. They are not perfect, but they are forgiven and set apart from the world and equipped with mighty armament for the fight of faith. Jesus was destined for their rising.

We decide if we want to work through the contro-

versy of who Jesus is. If we don't we are already on the list of the fallen. If we do, we are destined for the rising of others who see the faith we hold in the midst of a crooked generation and it emboldens them to also take a stand. We cannot keep quiet about such a controversial figure as Jesus, for He must be confessed and His faith defended. He is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel. We must give everyone a chance to decide if they will be among the fallen or among those whom Jesus elevates. On which side of this great controversy will you be found?

-via *The Auburn Beacon*; Auburn, Alabama

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Nothing But Leaves

Carl McMurray

I was visiting at my Dad's a few weeks ago and learned something. He was showing me his flowers and we happened to pass by the back of the deck where he has a fig tree. My mother uses the figs from this tree to make a delicious strawberry-fig preserve, but that is not what I learned. I already knew about her preserves. I learned that the fig tree is the only tree that bears fruit without blooming. It actually starts bearing fruit before the leaves come on in the spring, which is what I witnessed. It really helped me understand some of the words of Jesus.

Matthew 21:18-22 records a moment in the last week of Jesus' life that caught the disciple's attention and should likewise catch ours. It sure caught mine.

Traveling on the road into Jerusalem each day to teach, Jesus passed a lone fig tree. Now, we are to understand that this variety of fruit tree is unusual, as I mentioned above, in that it puts forth its fruit before it puts out leaves. By the time the tree is covered in leaves, the fruit is ripe and ready for picking. Verse 19 tells us, however, that when Jesus came to the tree hungry, He “found nothing on it but leaves only...” It appears this fig tree was a “lying” fig tree. It gave the appearance of good health, but something was wrong. It spoke of refreshment, “Don't you see my leaves? That

means I'm fruitful," when it was actually unfruitful and good for nothing.

There are valuable lessons to be learned from this deceitful tree. It appears that "leaves" are not what this particular type of tree was meant for. The little bit of shade that this fig tree gave with its leaves did not seem to offset the disappointment of the Master in finding a fruitless fruit tree. This tree was not fulfilling its intended purpose.

I wonder sometimes if we can become "lying" fig trees. We put out leaves and take the form of a "Christian." But are we fulfilling our God-intended purpose? Are we bearing fruit and refreshing men who will praise God for His gifts? That IS our purpose, you know.

We put out leaves when we obey the gospel. We take the appearance of a "Christian" fig tree when we take Christ's name and take our place in the kingdom, singing praise, seen by men. These are leaves. However, the fruit is born when love, joy, and peace become our character traits. When our outward actions are controlled by patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, **then** we are fulfilling our intended purpose.

When we act like the above (bearing the fruit of the Spirit) then Peter writes in 1 Peter 2:12 that God will be glorified. And when God's Excellencies are proclaimed, then once more we are fulfilling our purpose as His possession according to 1 Peter 2:9.

Anyone who has ever seen a business meeting at church go awry with challenges, attacks, tempers, and obstinacy has seen "lying" fig trees. Whoever allows perverse talk, gossip, or backbiting to slip off their tongue is showing "nothing but leaves." When we are greatly concerned to be seen at worship once a week and little concerned with Bible study, prayer, or good works all week long then we need to ask ourselves seriously, "What real good am I to the Lord's purpose? Does my light only shine with other Christians? Am I going through the motions (baptism, attendance) of appearing like a fig tree without any refreshment for men or praise for God?"

Leaves and appearance was not what the Lord desired in this tree. There are far more beautiful trees than the fig tree and trees that offer far more shade than this species of tree. It also was not the purpose of the tree to "look like" a fig tree. Its purpose was to bear

fruit. When it didn't, the Lord cursed it so that it died. It was only good for firewood. If we're not going to bear fruit, then I fear we also will only be good for firewood.

Let's learn the lesson of this "lying fig tree" and go for more than just the appearance of a Christian. Let's strive for the heart of Christ.

-via *Anderson Bulletin*; Anderson, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Robert Beasley	Jennifer Threet
Gwen Bullock	Gilbert Hardy
Carol Locke	Joyce & Crutcher Harbin
Matt Poff	Hank Atwood
Mark Hargrove	Eli Williams
Ava Brooke Campbell	Brittney Murrell
Jerry Taylor	Una King Currier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Charles Burns	Abby Gilbert
Elizabeth Howard	

In The Hospital:

Bennie Pepper, HealthSouth; rm. 324

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

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

Limestone Health Facility:

Fay Ferguson, rm. 106 Jack Cannon, rm. 111A
Albert Norton, rm. 36 Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E Bob Richter, rm. 93
Billy Abernathy, rm. 109

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Please mark your calendars for our spring Gospel Meeting which will be **April 20-24, 2014**. *Dee Bowman of Pasadena, Texas* will be preaching...Also, our Vacation Bible School will be **June 16-19, 2014**.

SYMPATHY: We want extend our deepest sympathy to **Kathleen Wales** in the passing of her son *John Wales*. He passed away Friday night suddenly following a brief illness. The visitation will be Tuesday morning at 9:00 to 10:45, followed by the funeral at 11:00 at Limestone Chapel. He will be laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery... We also extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Beulah Pope**. Sister Pope passed away Thursday night and her visitation will be tonight from 6:00 - 9:00 at McConnell Fuenra Home. Her funeral will be Monday morning at 11:00 at McConnell.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: There is a gospel meeting beginning today at the **Eastside church**. The meeting will continue through Tuesday evening. *Bill Hall of Hartselle* will be the speaker... The **Pepper Road church** will begin a meeting on Friday, February 21st and it will continue through next Sunday, February 23rd. *Larry Rouse of Auburn* will be the speaker in this meeting.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Feb. 9th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 137
 Morning Worship 181
 Evening Worship..... 129

Third Annual Singing

February 28, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: David Deason, Joe Greer & Steve Klein



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
 514 WEST MARKET STREET
 ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marcus Morris
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Paul Hasting..... David Terry
 Nathaniel Adams... Kennon Carrier
 Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
 Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 16th:

Usher Marion Mitchell
 Work Sound System Terry Andrews

Wednesday, February 19th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Bible Reading Mark 11:15-26
 Russ Wulfekuhl
 Prayer Marty Adams
 Invitation Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer James Johnson

Sunday, February 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
 Serving Heath Dollar Kenneth Adams
 Bart Brown Danny Johnson
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Norman Brown
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 23rd:

Usher Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System Marty Adams