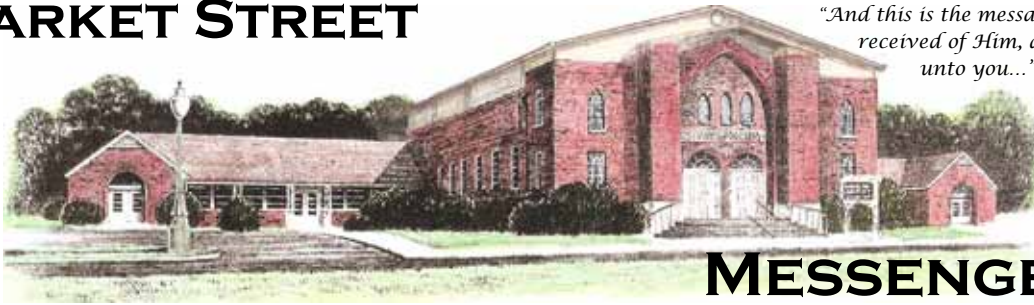


MARKET STREET

"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)



MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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Volume X

March 11, 2018

No. 10

Living With Heaven In View

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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

Buc Chumbley (256) 777-1065
David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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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 first-century disciples were a fascinating group of people. In the book of Acts, we find them suffering terrible persecution because they were disciples of Christ and believed in the resurrection of Christ. The life of Paul is well known for the things he suffered after he became a Christian. The question is often asked, "Why did Paul and the early disciples go through all of this suffering?" and "How was he able to be faithful?" The answer is: It was with the view of life he lived. The view Paul had of life is evident when he wrote, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1). Paul lived with a view of heaven. His goal in life was to be in heaven eternally and we ought to live with this is the view of life. How can we do this?

Recognize That This World Is Not Our Home

We must come to understand that all the things of this life that are such a joy to us here are not ours for eternity. One day we will leave this life and all the things of this life behind. The attitude that Abraham lived with as a stranger in a strange land. The Hebrew writer says Abraham "sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob...waited for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:9-10). Paul shows the same attitude as he writes, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:21-23). Paul's focus in life was like that of Abraham looking to God and Jesus Christ.

Recognize There Is A Better Place — A Rest.

As noticed, Paul said that to depart this life and be with Christ was far better. As we live life there are many discomforts and pains that we must endure. Paul's understanding of this is evident as he wrote, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17). Paul speaks of the terrible discomforts of life as being "light afflictions." He

describes them as being weighed on a scale, and the afflictions in this life would not outweigh the glories to come. In Romans 8:18 Paul says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Paul here is not suggesting that pain and suffering are joyful experiences of life, but living life with a view of heaven, they are overshadowed by the greatness to come. Paul makes this point when he says that the sufferings are "but for a moment" working an "eternal weight of glory." It is imperative to develop this attitude so that we will have the patience to endure the hardships of this life faithfully while anticipating a better place.

Have Confidence In The Promises of God.

The life of Paul was indeed a life of faith and confidence in the promises of God. In 2 Corinthians 5:1 Paul says, "we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Notice Paul did not say "we might have." What faith and confidence that Paul lived with. He lived knowing that if his life was taken from him at any moment that there was a place reserved for him. Why? It is because God had promised that there is a place (John 14:1-3; Titus 1:2; Revelation 2:7). Paul lived the promises made to Abraham and the fulfillment of them. Paul lived with the hope of heaven being certain. It is such a pity when those who are Christians live lives that are filled with doubt, despair, and uncertainty. If we are faithful to God, as Paul was, then we can have the same kind of confidence in the promises of God.

May we all develop a faith to overcome and endure the pains and sufferings of this life. In doing so, we will live by faith, looking to God's word, obeying Him, doing His will and placing our lives in the hollow of His hand. Yes, we can live the kind of life that Paul lived with heaven in view.



The Pattern for Personal Apostasy

Dee Bowman

It seems to me that even evil follows a predictable pattern. I have seen one or two persons, on rare occasions, suddenly and unexpectedly bolt from the faith and forsake God— seemingly all in one motion. However, this has certainly been the exception and not the rule. Most people who leave the faith do so gradually. And when they do, they follow what almost appears to be an assigned course prescribed for the purpose of absenting oneself from the faith and separating oneself from a divine connection with God.

One who falls away from Christ usually begins by neglecting his private worship. For instance, he will go for long periods without giving any time to meditation about God. Even when he is not under the duress of existing circumstances, he rarely ever contemplates anything about his personal relationship with God. He, because of this same type of neglect, stops praying and giving thanks to God for his goods, health, or others of his blessings. He feels smugly secure in his own egotistical pride and begins to reason that humility is a weakness, tears are for "softies," and that things like moral courage, sacrifice, and virtue, are not worthy of his time or attention. In short, the time he once gave to personal devotion to glorify God is now totally wasted in efforts to satisfy himself.

One who becomes disinterested in spiritual service will soon begin to show a lack of interest in the public worship services. No one can, for any length of time, "fake" interest in a cause. His lack of attention will soon expose his true feelings. So it is with one who leaves his first love. He starts the process by no longer listening attentively to the songs, the sermons, the prayers. His mind is no longer "tuned in" to those things which should occupy his attention, and even though it may outwardly appear to be otherwise, he really is doing no more than occupying a pew.

The next thing you will notice about our wandering brother is that he will become sporadic in his attendance, particularly on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. Then it won't be long before he ceases to avail himself of the opportunities at all. He makes for himself excuses that are logical only to him and make no sense at all to those who are anxious about his seeming lack of interest in the work of the church where he is supposedly a member.

Then when someone confronts him about his obvious lack of concern, he is immediately insulted and becomes indignant. He just can't imagine anyone thinking he is not as faithful as he should be. Why, the very idea! At about that time the excuses begin to pour out with the rapidity of white water rapids. The number of "reasons" for his lack of participation are so emphatic that it becomes obvious that too much emphasis becomes no emphasis at all. It's now apparent—only to him—that someone is "out to get him," that he is "just as good as so-and-so," and that if he told all he knows about the other members there would be a moral explosion of major proportions.

Finally, he quits. He now has what he has sought for some time—a reason to leave. And, mind you, that "reason" has nothing whatever to do with him, nor is he leaving because of his own neglect, indifference, or lethargy. You see, he was driven away. The blame belongs on the church. They never wanted him there in the first place. How sad! How very sad!

The devil is subtle, cunning, crafty. He doesn't often invite people into the slime pits of sin; rather, he induces them a bit at a time. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip" (Hebrews 2:1).

~via *The Auburn Beacon*; Auburn, Alabama.



The Sanctity of Marriage

Jeffery L. Smith

In the beginning God created them male and female (Genesis 1:27). The first marriage ceremony was ordained by God and He gave the bride away (Genesis 2:22). Through the ages God has retained dominion over this fundamental human institution. When His rules are ignored and we do as we see fit with marriage there is a severe price to pay. Past punishments have included the inability to conceive children (Genesis 20:18), violence at the hands of other humans (Genesis 34:26-7), violence at the hand of God (Numbers 25:6-8), physical death (Genesis 38:10), and even spiritual death.

The 1900's in America were a century of marital erosion but in the 2000's marriage is under attack. It's bad enough that people ignore God's rules and do their

own thing; living together, hooking up, divorcing for no good reason. Many now seek to redefine marriage. Instead of being the union of one man and one woman many states have already approved same-sex marriages. Homosexual activity has always been an abomination to our God; from Genesis and Sodom to Revelation. And an enduring lesson from the Old Testament is that God brings judgment upon nations that do not acknowledge him.

We ought not think that we can ignore or rewrite God's rules for marriage with impunity. We would do well to learn God's rules for marriage and live by the very letter of the law. And let's hope that the majority of Americans will respect God's laws, and that God will not condemn our nation for our disobedience to His will.

~via *Haymarket Bulletin*; Gainesville, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Ann McLemore	Lenna Ruth Bates
Jo Dunnavant	James Johnson
JoAnn Gilbert	Cornelia Pepper
Marion Mitchell	Chuck Stiles
Bobbie Adcock	Doris Lovell
Ann Bush	Linda Jones
Cindy Glass	Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Jeanette Weir
Irene Inman	Janice Cagle
Patsy Thomas	Priscilla Tucker
Ella Melvin	Bobby McLemore
Matt Poff	Susan Cox
Elizabeth Howard	Everette "Bud" Dollar
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville
Esther Jernigen; Huntsville Hosptial, rm. 791

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Flossie Smith, rm. 102
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Joyce Martin, rm. 73 Mable Crafts, rm. 39
Ruby Hall, rm. 123

Limestone Health Facility:

Larry Owens, rm. 114

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at City Center, Decatur
Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
Irene Inman, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

JoAnn Gilbert has begun taking therapy this week ...
Sherry Davis is continuing to improve from her knee surgery and will do some therapy ... **Lenna Ruth Bates** is working on getting her strength back after having the flu.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Northside church** is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday night. The speakers in the meeting are as follows: Sunday – *Don Miller*; Monday – *Greg Chandler*; Tuesday – *David Cox*; Wednesday – *Steve Ferguson*... The **Westview church** in Hartselle is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday *Lonnie Oldag* will be the speaker... The **Russellville church** in Russellville is having a meeting this week through Wednesday. *Kenny Moorer* will be the speaker.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **James Adams** in the passing of his brother-in-law, **Benton Hardy**, this past Sunday. His funeral was Wednesday.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Bradleys:** *Steve & Marilyn* are in Houston, Texas... **Jim Whitt** is in Seattle, Washington.

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

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning we rejoiced as **Harold Davis** came forward and confessed that he had not been faithful in his service to the Lord and was determined to be faithful at the services. We have missed Harold being among us and we are glad to have him back with us. May we all encourage him as he has and will encourage us.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of March 4th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 140
Morning Worship 174
Evening Worship 132
Wednesday: Bible Classes 94

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
Assisting A. J. Price
Serving Charles Vaughn Landon Adams
..... Clayton Hamm Danny Holt
Closing Prayer Ashton Gatlin

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 18th:

Ushers..... Hunter Cox/Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, March 14th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading 2 Timothy 4:1-8
..... Tony Thomas
Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin
Invitation Buc Chumbley
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, March 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
Assisting A. J. Price
Serving Charles Vaughn Landon Adams
..... Clayton Hamm Danny Holt
Closing Prayer Ashton Gatlin

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 18th:

Ushers..... Hunter Cox/Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams