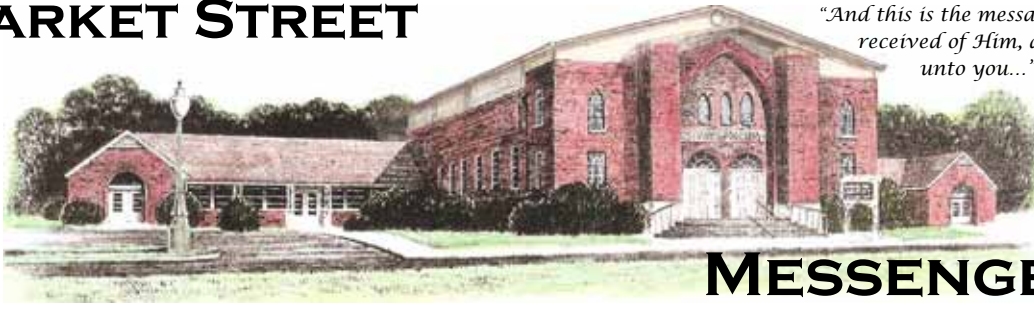


MARKET STREET

"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 X

May 6, 2018

No. 18

Raising The "Bar"

Andrew Roberts

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

Matthew records an exchange between Jesus and His disciples in the sixteenth chapter. Jesus asked the group who the multitudes said that He was. Some were thinking Jesus was John the Baptist, others thought He might be Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet. Then Jesus asked the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

Christ called Peter, Simon Bar-Jona. "Bar" simply meant "son of" or "son." The Jewish culture did not identify families as we do in our culture, by a last name. Peter was not Peter Smith or Peter Jones. The Jews identified families through the lineage of the males. Peter was Peter, son-of-Jona.

Would we like to have our father's name associated with everything we do, like Peter? Consider, in every action of your life, whether you earned acclaim or suffered disgrace, your father's name would be linked to it. Whenever there was a contract to sign or a census for the government, your father's name would be there. Whether people looked at you with respect or as a fool, your father's name and reputation would be linked to you!

Yet Jesus grew up in this culture as well. Imagine the Rabbi at Synagogue calling on Jesus Bar-Joseph to read from scripture? Would Jesus bother to correct him? Did Joseph blush a little when he heard others call his son after such a fashion?

Jesus raised the "Bar." He had no earthly father. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Jesus was the son of the living God. He was Jesus Bar-Jehovah. He was Jesus Bar-Yahweh. He was Jesus Bar-God. Like Peter, everything Jesus did carried with it the name of His Father. What Jesus taught reflected on His Father. How Jesus lived reflected on His Father. Whether or not Jesus would sin reflected on His Father. When Jesus went to the cross, it reflected on His Father.

As Christians, have we set the “Bar” high enough for ourselves? Through the blood of Christ, we have been born into the household or family of God. We are joint-heirs of eternal bliss. We are the sons and daughters of God.

Do our words reflect favorably on the Father, since our names are linked? Do our actions reflect favorably on the Father? Does our love reflect favorably on the Father? Does our reputation reflect favorably on the Father?

We may often make the mistake of determining our actions by the standards or expectations of others around us. But the “Bar” is higher for Christians because we have a Holy Father. The truth is we have a name we need to bring honor and glory to, by our conduct. It is the name of God. And we have a pattern to follow, Jesus Bar-God.

~via *Lifeline*; Greenville, Indiana.



Never Too Late To Begin Again

Dee Bowman

Nightmares are horrible. They invade the sanctity of our peace, rouse us out of our sleep, and cause us fear and anguish. Like a pale rider of terror they scream across our tranquility. We have trouble escaping their horror. We awake with a start, a sheer feeling of panic, hoping that what we’ve just experienced was only surreal.

But then comes the morning. The first rays of sunshine that creep across the patchwork quilt seem to just wash away all the apprehensions, all the distress and fright. There’s just nothing like a new beginning.

New beginnings are part of life. We make resolutions at the beginning of the New Year, we look forward to a new start, a new marriage, a new baby, a reconciliation after an angry exchange, a new job or a new grade in school. New beginnings are everywhere.

Think about what is involved in this greatest of all new beginnings, a new life in Jesus Christ.

It is not available anywhere else. Forgiveness, with all that it entails, is not performed by a priest or by some

clergyman or by submitting to some creed, discipline, or manual. It can be accomplished only when one submits to the authority of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). He is the final authority, the only source of forgiveness. There are no new beginnings without doing as He has said.

Truth is absolutely essential to each new start.

The gospel and the truth are synonymous. “Contend earnestly for the truth once revealed” (Jude 3) is the same as “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Romans 1:17). It is the practical manifestation of Christ’s complete authority. When someone offers God’s new start by recommending more or less than what the gospel says, it is an empty promise. Only God knows when forgiveness takes place; and he has told us that it is when we are converted—by the gospel. That is, when we give ourselves to exactly and precisely what it says for our redemption we are forgiven, not before. Not when some man says, not when the church says, not when some conclave says, but when the gospel says—no sooner and no later.

It is just that—a new beginning. This new beginning is not an end itself, but a means toward an end. “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” It’s hard to continue to walk in the light; but it is nonetheless necessary. You have to keep on keeping on. You can’t begin anew and then go immediately back into the world and think you have a secure future. This new beginning is just that—a beginning. It must be translated into a new life. “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

The conscience is man’s nightmare. Man is brought under condemnation when he realizes that he sins—does wrong. His conscience, a sort of moral compass, tells him he’s on the wrong course. Only when he submits to the salvation that is in Christ can he have the relief of his conscience and the new beginning that such obedience assures. “The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us...the answer of a good conscience toward God” (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism, the final act in the new birth process, changes our relationship from the world and into Christ, while simultaneously relieving our conscience by the knowledge that we have done what God said to have His forgiveness. Talk about a new beginning!

Everyday can be a new beginning for the Christian. First, because everyday he has the right to petition his

Father for forgiveness. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). And second, he knows that the Lord is ever before the throne to plead his cause. "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17).

How foolish to let the nightmare reign, to let all the fear and anxiety of sin rule in our lives. The gospel is plain: whoever believes, repents, and is baptized can be saved from sin and have the new beginning. Get rid of the horror of hell. Let Him have His way with you.

~via *Folsom View*; Folsom, California.



Complaining

David Maxson

And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." - Numbers 21:5

What was the number one sin of Israel in the wilderness? Complaining!

The people complained as soon as they crossed the Red Sea all the way till this story which is near the end of their pilgrimage. There are at least ten unique stories during Israel's wilderness days where we find the people complaining against God and/or Moses (Exodus 16:2; 17:2; 32:1; Numbers 11:1; 14:2; 16:3 17:6,28; 20:2; 21:5).

Grumbling is a problem. None of us is above the temptation to murmur or complain. We need to learn from the book of Numbers that this is a serious issue with God. He never took grumbling lightly. He sent fire to consume some, swallowed up others with the earth, and sent fiery serpents among the people, all because of complaining!

What lies at the heart of a complaining spirit?

1. *A lack of faith.* Israel usually complained because they failed to see God's ability to provide for them.

2. *A selfish heart.* This is seen in the rebellion of

Korah. He and his family were jealous of the position God had given Moses.

How do you remedy a complaining spirit?

1. *Remind yourself that God is in control.* Your life may look like a wilderness with no food or water in sight, but God has not abandoned you. He will guide you home.

2. *Give thanks.* Instead of grumbling about what you don't have, turn your attention to what God has given you. Father, forgive us of our ingratitude and lack of faith. Cultivate in us a heart of thankfulness and trust in your ability to provide.

~via *A Light In The Valley*; Bozeman, Montana.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jerry McGlocklin

JoAnn Gilbert

James Johnson

Nikki Ogles

Cornelia Pepper

Bobbie Adcock

Ann Bush

Ruth Sullivan

Doris Lovell

Linda Jones

Wayne Reyer

Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Irene Inman

Jeanette Weir

Janice Cagle

Patsy Thomas

Priscilla Tucker

Ella Melvin

Bobby McLemore

Cindy Glass

Matt Poff

Susan Cox

Elizabeth Howard

Al Pollard

Linda Ordonez

Wayne Wooldridge

Cindy Walker

Phillip Harwell

Gene Carpenter

Charles Burns

Betty Christopher

Una King Currier

Ava Brooke Campbell

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Jo Dunnavant, rm. 105

Ann McLemore, rm. 106

Dorothy Draper, rm. 73

Joyce Martin, rm. 63

Matty Murray, rm. 2

Mable Crafts, rm. 39

Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36

Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7

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:

Jerry McGlocklin had out patient surgery on Monday and is at home recovering... **Nancy Hardison** had some blood work that came back abnormal... **Wanell Vellicido** spent a night in the hospital this past week... She will be having further tests done... **Adrian Maynard**, from the *Hindsbury Road church in Barbados*, has been in touch with the doctor about his brain surgery. Still waiting.

DIRECTORY PICTURES: We are in the process of making directory pictures. There are several pictures that we are needing for the directory and some pictures that need to be updated. The pictures will be made in the next couple of weeks in room 20 in the east wing.

PLACEMBERSHIP: We are thrilled that **Russell & Ella Melvin** have let it be known that they want to join us and be a part of the work here. We are glad to have them back with us and look forward to working with them. Let us extend a warm welcome to them. They will be in *Work Group 2*.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate **Brettlyn Currier** on her graduation from Auburn University this coming Monday. We wish the very best for Brettlyn and her continued studies.

RECEPTION: Tonight following our evening service there will be a reception to honor **Kenneth Adams** who is graduating from high school this month.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Brookhill church* is beginning a meeting today. The meeting will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Alan Yeater of Murfreesboro, Tennessee*.

OUT OF TOWN: **Steve Bradley** is in Houston, Texas... **Landon Adams** has been in Utah with his work... **Jim Whitt** is in Kentucky with his work... **Harvey Nixon** has been in North Carolina with his work.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of April 29th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	145
	Morning Worship	185
	Evening Worship	152
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	104

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Mike Ogles
 Assisting Steve Usery
 Serving Tony Thomas Keenon Currier
 Matthew Usery.... Matthew Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Arvid McGuire

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Mike Ogles
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for the week of May 6th:

Ushers..... Marvin Putman/Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, May 9th:

Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Bible Reading Mark 2:13-28
 Larry Tucker
 Prayer..... Larry Holt
 Invitation Buc Chumbley
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Sunday, May 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Marcus Morris
 Assisting Larry Holt
 Serving Tommy Burns Clayton Hamm
 David Terry Kenneth Adams
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for the week of May 13th:

Ushers..... Danny Holt/Steve Bradley
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews