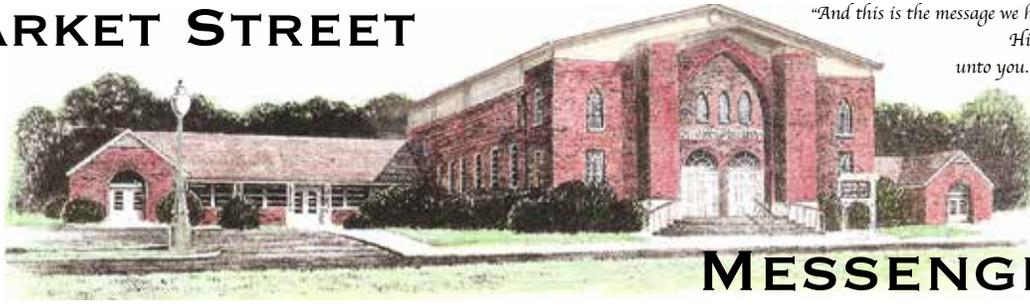


MARKET STREET



“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 XI

January 20, 2019

No. 3

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

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

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web
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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

Everybody Needs An Abram

Mark McCrary

“Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. They also took Lot, Abram’s brother’s son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.” (Genesis 14:11-12)

Much like the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15, Genesis 13 sees Lot separating himself from Abram to venture off to his own far country—in his case, toward the sinful city of Sodom. Unfortunately, like in the prodigal story, things soon turned south for Abram’s nephew. An alliance of kings attacked the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and overcame them. Lot and his family were captured in the fighting, victims of uncontrolled forces around them and his own foolish decision to venture too close to the wicked cities. In truth, Lot and his family were always in danger because of their move; this action just made that danger a reality they could actualize and experience.

Abram, his uncle, however, was compassionate toward his imprudent relative. When he learned of the situation, he gathered a force of 318 servants, set out after Lot and rescued him, his family and all his goods. Lot was saved.

How easy might it have been for Abram to write off his foolish nephew? To shake his head and say, “That’s too bad...”, but do nothing about it and go about his own life?

About as easy as it is for us. We all know people who have recklessly left the Lord for the allurements of the world, only to have these allurements soon lose their luster. We have heard of brethren who have begun to struggle with the consequences of their decisions.

Everybody needs an Abram. Someone who won’t forget about them. Someone who will come after them when they find themselves in danger. Someone who will help and have mercy, not pass judgment and offer lectures. Will you and I be that Abram? Will we care about those who have wandered away and not forget about them? I must confess, I’ve forgotten about people all too often. After all, out of sight, out of mind, right? Well, not for Abram, and we must discipline ourselves enough to say, not for us, either.

Be an Abram today. Think about a brother or sister who has gone off toward Sodom. Don't even limit it to them; think about brethren who are struggling, not because of foolish decisions, but just because life is hard in this wicked world. Remember them; pray for them; maybe even reach out to them. Let them know they are not forgotten and that you still care. Because, one day you may need an Abram to ride to your rescue as well.

Let's apply this to our lives.

~via *Apply God's Word*; Louisville, Kentucky.



Heartfelt Religion

Ken Weliever

John Eldridge tells a story in one of his books about a businessman who called his daughter and asked her to join him for dinner. She was surprised but delighted. For years she had longed for a closer relationship with her father, for his interest in her.

She met him at the appointed restaurant, and almost immediately after they were seated, he pulled out his Day-Timer and began to review the goals that he had set for her that year. "I wanted to burst into tears and run out of the restaurant," she later related.

"We don't want to be someone's project," Eldridge observed, "we want to be the desire of their heart... The heart is the connecting point, the meeting place between any two people."

I wonder if we have done the same thing at times with our relationship with God. How easy it is to spend our whole lives mastering principles, learning precepts, doing our duty, pursuing programs in the church, yet failing to develop an intimate relationship with God.

Sometimes Christians are accused of lacking heartfelt religion, due to lack of emotionalism in the worship services. While it may be true that sometimes we may fail at worshiping God "in spirit" as Jesus commanded (John 4:23-24), the issue of the heart is bigger than a charismatic display during an assembly.

In Matthew 15 Jesus responded to the Pharisee's criticism of his disciples' failure to engage in the ceremonial washing of hands with a scathing denunciation of their religion. They had replaced heart-felt religion with their rules, regulations and rituals. Tradition had become more important to them than truth. Oral law had superseded the law of Moses. Outward appearance was more compelling than inner devotion.

Jesus said they "transgressed the law of God because of (their) tradition." Then he quoted the prophet Isaiah: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:8-9)

While this passage is often quoted to condemn man-made denominational practices that ignore plain Bible teaching, it is well to remember this was directed toward God's people then. The Jewish religious leaders. The scribes. The Pharisees. The religious conservatives.

It is possible for us to place so much emphasis on a specific order of worship, times of meeting, and the form of our outward practices that we miss the heart of the matter. Worshiping God. Serving Christ. Daily walking with the Lord.

Jesus further reminds them that the heart drives what we do, who we are, and how we live.

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man" (Matthew 15:18-20).

Immorality is a problem of the heart. So is greed. Ingratitude. Lying. And lukewarm worship. That's why the wise man counseled "Guard your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

Heartfelt religion is more than emotion. It involves our intellect, will, and conscience. It is thinking and feeling. It is conviction and choice. It is the whole of who we are. As Solomon said, "As he thinks in his heart so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

We are all well advised to heed the words of A. W. Tozer from his book *The Root of the Righteous*.

"The widest thing in the universe is not space; it is the potential capacity of the human heart."

Being made in the image of God, it is capable of almost unlimited extension in all directions. And one of the world's worst tragedies is that we allow our hearts to shrink until there is room in them for little beside ourselves."

Indeed the root of the religion of Christ ought to be rooted in our hearts.

~via *The Preacher's Word*



The Cross Is Always About Christ

Dan Lankford

In Bladensburg, Maryland, a forty-foot tall cross stands in a highway median as a memorial to soldiers who died in World War I. A group known as the American Humanist Association has recently sued to have it removed since it is on public land. Their claim involves two ideas:

1) Since the land is public, it should have no association with a particular religion, lest it violates the Constitution. 2) Although many advocates of keeping the monument have said, "It's just a memorial; it's not a religious statement," these humanists understand that a cross is always the premier symbol of Christ and Christianity.

It is not my intention in this writing to argue whether the monument should remain, but rather to highlight that second idea: that, even from a perspective that denies God's sovereignty, a Roman cross is inherently seen as a reference to Jesus Christ and his religion.

This case has already gone through a major appeals court (on its way to the Supreme Court), and the writer of the majority opinion said, "Even in the memorial context, a Latin cross serves not simply as a generic symbol of death, but rather a Christian symbol of the death of Jesus Christ."

There is something encouraging in the fact that the world must still face the reality of Jesus' cross. It's not just a relic of history; it is always the message of "Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and

Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:23-24).

~via *Eastland Bulletin*; Louisville, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Pat Nixon	Helen Blankenship
Janice Cagle	Joy Warner
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Tony Thomas	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Ann Bush
Dawn Gentry	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Lona Jackson	Paul Hasting
Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Patsy Thomas	Ella Melvin
Marvin Putman	Cornelia Pepper
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
Cindy Glass	Una King Carrier
Susan Cox	Gene Carpenter
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Wayne Wooldridge	Kenneth Fisher
Matt Poff	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Paul Hasting; North Alabama Medical Ctr., rm 2307
Dean Holt; Huntsville Hospital, rm 470
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, 77
Evelyn Hogan, 36	Dorothy Draper, 73
Joyce Martin, 63	Valeria Dalton, 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
Bettye Harrison, Traditions Assisted Living
Irene Inman, at home
Virginia Meyer, Traditions Assisted Living
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Paul Hasting has been hospitalized with pneumonia this past Wednesday... *Beverly Sutton* went to Birmingham

this week with her back. She will be going again this week to have more MRI's done...**Dean Holt** has continued to be delayed in her move to the *North Alabama Specialty Hospital* due to the stint procedure done last Friday and redone on Sunday. The plans are for her to move early this week ...**Carol Dean's son-in-law, Matt Poff**, received a report that his cancer has returned.

JANE MEREDITH (1932 – 2019): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister **Jane Meredith** this past Wednesday morning. Sister Meredith was a longtime member of the Market Street church. She loved coming to services and as she has experienced health problems in the more recent past she had regretted not been able to be at services more regularly. Sister Meredith's funeral was Friday afternoon at the *Spry Funeral Home*. She was laid to rest in the Limestone Memorial Gardens. May the Lord bless her family at this time.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Nell Barksdale**, in the passing of her brother, **Don Elmore**, last week. The funeral was at *Spry Funeral Home* and Don was laid to rest in the Pettusville Cemetery. May the Lord bless Nell and all the family at this time.

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.

OUT OF TOWN: **Steve Bradley** continues to be in Texas for several more days...**Keith & Angie Hinkle** are in the mountains this weekend...**Mike Ogles** has been out of town this past week with his work in Auburn... **Joe Hinkle** has gone to Port St. Lucie, Florida to visit with family.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Jan. 13th*
 Sunday: Bible Classes 131
 Morning Worship 158
 Evening Worship 117
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 98

Eighth Annual Singing

February 22, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Wiley Deason & Johnny Felker



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Terry Andrews
 Assisting Tommy Coblentz
 Serving Tommy Burns..... Matthew Usery
 Clayton Hamm Russ Wulfekuhl
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
 Closing Prayer Christian Usery

Other Assignments for the week of January 20th:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Hunter Cox
 Work Sound System..... Marty Adams

Wednesday, January 23rd:

Song Leader Larry Holt
 Bible Reading Marty Adams
 Mark 12:18-27
 Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin
 Invitation Larry Tucker
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Sunday, January 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Albert Haraway
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Marcus Morris
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Marty Adams
 Assisting Steve Usery
 Serving Charles Vaughn Danny Johnson
 David Terry Sam Gregory
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Albert Haraway
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Wayne Vaughn
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for the week of January 27th:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Steve Bradley
 Work Sound System..... Will Chumbley