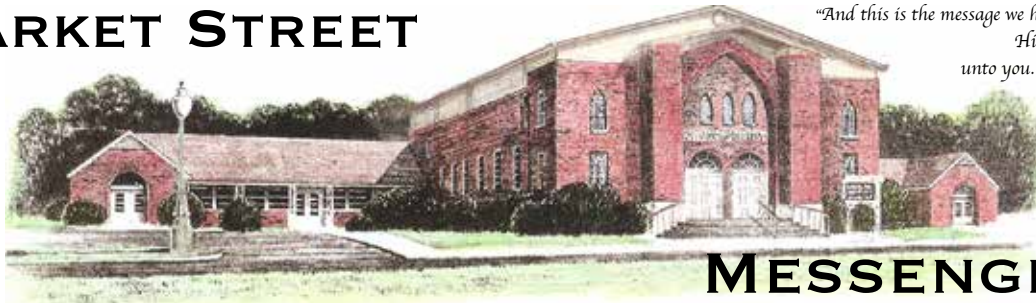


MARKET STREET



"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

August 11, 2019

No. 32

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 Coblenz.....(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

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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

When Nothing is Sacred, Everything is Profane

Ken Weliever

Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas are 1500 miles apart, but over the weekend became one in shock and sorrow, as a nation was once again stunned by two mass murders.

At least 31 were left dead and dozens more were injured, leaving pundits, talking heads, and average American citizens with the same old haunting questions. Why? What were the motives of the two young gunmen? And what can be done so this never happens again?

James Howard Kunstler, an author, social critic, and blogger framed it this way. "In a nation afflicted by fads, crazes, manias, and rages, mass murder is the jackpot for nihilists — begging the question: why does this country produce so many of them?"

His answer? "This is exactly what you get in a culture where anything goes and nothing matters. Extract all the meaning and purpose from being here on earth, and erase as many boundaries as you can from custom and behavior, and watch what happens, especially among young men trained on video slaughter games."

"For many," Kunstler wrote, "there is no armature left to hang a life on, no communities, no fathers, no mentors, no initiations into personal responsibility, no daily organizing principles, no instruction in useful trades, no productive activities, no opportunities for love and affection, and no way out."

As a nation mourns, many outraged citizens are crying out to our leaders, "Do something! Do Something," like the crowd did during a speech by Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine during a Sunday night vigil for the victims. Yet the stark reality makes us silently wonder not IF this will happen again, but **when**?

We are living in a culture, as Kunstler reminds us of the old truism "when nothing is sacred, everything is profane."

"And what could be more profane, he asked, "than slaughtering your fellow humans en masse, for no good reason? Just because you felt like it at the time? Another time, you might feel like scarfing some tacos, or

checking in on the free porn sites, or tweaking some crushed-up oxycontin. One message from the culture of anything-goes-and-nothing-matters comes through loud and clear: if it feels good, do it! And if you feel bad, do something to make yourself feel better.”

Kunstler and I were born in the same year. We have seen the changes in American society in the past 60 years, where human life is not deemed sacred. Abortion on demand. Calls for legalized euthanasia. The failure of a judicial system to exercise capital punishment on murderers. And an entertainment industry that glorifies violence.

I remember the days when school began with a prayer and saying the pledge of allegiance. All of the classmates in my elementary school came from a nuclear family—a father and a mother. People went to church. We were taught respect for authority figures. Society generally agreed on basic Judeo-Christian values. And imagine this, high school students had guns on the gun racks of their pickup trucks. But there were no mass shootings.

I’m not suggesting it was a perfect time. Or that returning to a nostalgic bygone era is the answer to our ills. We must go farther back than the values of a 1950’s America.

While Kunstler is probably correct that “the political process of recognizing what really ails this society is mired in bad faith, idiocy, and neuroticism,” he really doesn’t offer any viable solutions.

The answer is not in politicians passing more laws, or restricting gun sales. It’s not something that any President or political party can fix with secular solutions.

Our nation’s problem is the same as our personal problem. Sin. We live in a fallen, broken world. Evil exists. And evil men will “grow worse and worse.”

Only a return to Biblical values and God’s Word will restore some sanity to a crazy culture that has lost its way. The prophet of old was right when he cried, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23).

While we can’t personally stop the chaos in our culture, or eradicate the evil in our world, Christians can find God’s peace in our own hearts and shine as lights in a “crooked and perverse generation” (Philippians 2:15).

We can “depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it” (Psalm 34:14). We can look for ways to extend a helping hand to those who need it. Offer hope. And pray for our strife-torn world.

Rather than curse the darkness, let’s light a candle

to show others the way of righteousness. In our lives. Our homes. Our churches. Our professions. And our communities.

Let’s reject every vestige of hatred, pride, and prejudice. And be filled with the fruit of Spirit that produces love, humility, patience, and peace.

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

~via *The Preacher’s Word*, Homosassa, Florida.



Your Life as a Vapor

Steven Matthews

We like to think the best always wins. That the deserving always are rewarded. That the strongest overcome. That if you persevere, you’ll survive. Yet, we all meet our limit (Eccl. 9:11-12). James tells us that our lives are vanishing vapors or fleeting mists (4:13-17) — here today, gone tomorrow. But James does more than just make the statement that our lives are vanishing. He demonstrates that understanding this should change the way we live today.

Today, remember who is really in control: We may make plans, but the Lord decides what will really happen. He is in control, and we are not (Prov. 16:9). Little did the rich fool think that very night his life would be required of him (Luke 12:16-21). As Christians, we should not assume that we have tomorrow.

Today, acknowledge the Lord: Not only do we need to remember who is in control, we must openly acknowledge His control and involvement (James 4:15; Prov. 3:6). In every case — success and even failure — let us openly profess the Lord’s involvement in our lives. We must have an attitude that God is in control, not us.

Today, live in the present: Obviously, there is a proper place for planning. But some people live so much in the future they lose sight of the present. We don’t know what tomorrow holds, so don’t spend too much time living there. A concern for tomorrow can overshadow the needs of today (Proverbs 27:1).

Today, do what is right without procrastinating: In James 4:17, James is not talking about getting around to doing the right things sometime. His point is we don’t know what tomorrow may bring, so if we know

the right thing to do, do it right now. When we fail to do something positive that God has commanded us to do, it is a sin. When it is in your power to do good right now, do it (Proverbs 3:27-28).

For all of the frustrations in life, there is one great equalizer — every person dies (Hebrews 9:27). Would our lives drastically change if we constantly lived under the awareness that death can await us at any moment? Let us stop and appreciate the brevity of life.

Life is short. Eternity is long. Live like it.

~via *Tidewater Church*, Chesapeake, Virginia.



The Lord's Power to Forgive Sins

Heath Rogers

The Bible teaches that, while He was on earth, Jesus had power to forgive people of their sins. He exercised this power at different times for different reasons:

On one occasion, Jesus forgave a woman of her sins because of her faith. *"Then He said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven . . . Your faith has saved you. Go in peace'"* (Luke 7:48, 50).

On another occasion, Jesus forgave a man of his sins because of the faith of his friends. *"Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you'"* (Matthew 9:2).

On yet another occasion, Jesus was willing to forgive the rich young ruler of his sins if he would sell what he had, give it to the poor, and follow Him. The young man was unwilling to comply with the Lord's command, but the offer was made (Matthew 19:16-22). Indeed, Jesus has power on earth to forgive sins. He did so at His own discretion — whenever, however, and to whomever He chose. However, everything changed when Jesus died on the cross.

When Jesus died, His will went into effect (Hebrews 9:15-17). Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He commissioned His apostles to take the gospel into the whole world. When we compare these accounts (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47), we see that Jesus commanded belief, repentance, and baptism as conditions for salvation. These are the stipulations of

His will that are in effect today. Jesus has the power to forgive you of your sins, but you must meet these conditions in order to be forgiven. Don't try to be saved like the woman, the paralytic, the rich young ruler, the thief on the cross, etc. They were offered forgiveness before the Lord died on the cross. Your forgiveness is found in obeying the gospel. Please do so today.

~via *Plain Path*, Katy, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Bob Broadus	Sherry Davis
Russell Melvin	Nancy Abernathy
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Bobbie Adcock
Ann Bush	Lloyd Adams

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Arvid McGuire
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Janice Cagle	Judy Vaughn
Ella Melvin	Jeanette Weir
Cornelia Pepper	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier	Matt Poff
Susan Cox	Brittany Bates Carter
Gene Carpenter	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Joy Warner, rm. 94	Alvis McLemore, rm. 107
Flossie Smith, rm. 120	Mattie Murray, rm. 2
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Brenda Wilson, rm. 73
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	

Limestone Health Facility:

Robert Beasley, rm. 110 Mot Beasley, rm. 110

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Bettye Harrison, Traditions

Irene Inman, at home
 Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Ross Melvin is still awaiting word from his doctor as to the treatment...**Bob Broadus** is now at home after spending several days in the hospital with an infection...**Sherry Davis** had knee surgery done on Thursday at TOC in Athens...**Kenia Adams** was diagnosed with gastritis...**Donna Wright** continues taking her daily radiation treatments and one weekly chemo treatment in Huntsville...**Joy Warner and Alvis McLemore** moved Thursday to Athens Rehab...**Arvid McGuire** is nearing the end of his treatments.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Jackson Drive church** will begin a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker will be **John Gibson**... The **Eastside church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with **Lowell Sallee** preaching.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies Bible class will only be meeting this Tuesday morning at the Limestone Manor at 10:00 a.m.

PICTURES: We are in the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: After reviewing those that signed-up with interest in the **Men's Bible class**, it has been determined the best time and day is Monday evening. We will plan to begin the class next Monday, **August 19th at 7:00 p.m.**

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care.

OUT OF TOWN: **Ida Nell Griffin** will be going to Ohio on Monday... **Griffin Holt** has returned to Tuscaloosa for school... **Jim Whitt** has been in Arkansas and left for Iowa this morning with his work... **Christian Usery** continues working in Connecticut.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of August 4th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	134
	Morning Worship	182
	Evening Worship	128
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	96

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Russell Melvin
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Clayton Hamm
	Matthew Usery
	David Terry
	Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer	Steve Usery

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer	Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for the week of August 11th:

Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Danny Holt
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, August 14th:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Titus 1:10-16
Prayer.....	Albert Haraway
Invitation	Steve Usery
Closing Prayer	Larry Holt

Sunday, August 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting	Larry Holt
Serving	Roger Hammonds
	Harold Davis
	Danny Johnson.....
	Tim Griswold
Closing Prayer	Keith Hinkle

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Bill Eden
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of August 18th:

Ushers.....	Marvin Putman/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Will Chumbley