

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

November 24, 2019

No. 47

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

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

The Power of Your Faith

Matthew Allen

*"By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household" —
(Hebrews 11:7).*

For just a moment, place yourself in Noah's shoes. What an incredible challenge! Noah had no prior experience in ark building. It had never rained before. What would everyone else think while he labored to build an ark? Despite the challenges, Noah launched forth. Faith will find a way. God may be calling you to your own building project with which you have no prior experience. Or, He may be calling you to begin again something you've attempted many times before, but met with failure. Your failures and your past do not define you. Will you respond to God's call? He is always working to teach you to depend on Him. And, as you learn to lean on Him, you will be amazed at His delivering and sustaining power, Ephesians 6.10. You can become more and more like Jesus. God will help you do what you once thought impossible.

What are some areas you need to stretch yourself? Is it:

- **Overcoming a weakness of the flesh? Bringing your body under discipline?** See 1 Corinthians 9:27.
- **Finding victory in the battles with your tongue?** See James 3:1-12.
- **Seeing more of the good in those you love? Your spiritual family?** See Ephesians 4:29-32.
- **Freeing yourself from distractions - so you can know God more intimately?** See Psalm 46:10a.

Faith will empower you to offer yourself as a complete sacrifice. "By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4). For Cain, life was all about Cain. For Abel, life was all about God. Selfishness and pride led Cain to destruction. Selfless devotion and trust in God led Abel to become a powerful example for us today, long after his death. When your faith is growing, you see the evidence of God's work and constant companionship. His protection and promises will

serve as motivation to follow Him wherever He leads.

Where is your heart? Have you sacrificed yourself so that you can know Him more? Embrace the power of faith and prepare to be amazed at what God can do with your life.

~via *Kettering Bulletin* Kettering, Ohio.



The Choices God Makes

Tim Jennings

We are taught early in life how to choose sides. Just chose the strongest, fastest, tallest, smartest, prettiest and trendiest and you can't go wrong. With a smiling face, you'll find your place among the stylish crowd.

But, what if our precious standards of evaluation are wrong? What if the best choices are not the most popular or comfortable? What if success is not found in the path of the beautiful and the bright? What if our method of selection is so flawed it actually leads to our ruin?

The history of human choices is not a good one. The original couple made a choice that had all the indicators of success. They choose a beautiful fruit to be smarter and stronger. How brilliant! But, it was dead wrong. Look around. Our ability to make wise choices isn't much better. There is something deeply flawed with the way we decide things.

However, God doesn't evaluate things like we do. Who would choose David over Saul to be king? God did. Who would choose a life of poverty for the Christ? God did. Who would willingly choose to die on a cross? God did. Clearly, God doesn't make choices the way we do. We would do well to throw away our flawed filters of decision and pay attention to how God chooses.

A case study: God chose Jacob, not Esau.

God's choice is explained at the birth of these twin boys (Genesis 25:19-26), and later examined by other Biblical writers (Malachi 1:2-3; Romans 9:11-14; Hebrews 12:15-17). We also learn about God's choice by looking at the families of Jacob and Esau (Genesis 36-50).

Genesis sets up the study this way,

Genesis 36:1

"This is the account of Esau."

Genesis 37:2

"This is the account of Jacob."

That similar beginning is followed by a shocking contrast!

Who God chooses is surprising! First, the family of Esau is described as large and powerful. They control twenty-seven chiefdoms and have eight kings, who rule the rising power of Edom. They are literally, a royal family. Align yourself with Esau, and you'll never lack food or protection (or so it seems; see Obadiah).

On the other hand, the family of Jacob is described, "This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen was tending the flocks" (Gen. 37:2). What? The hope of Jacob's family is pinned on a boy! A shepherd boy, from a dysfunctional family, surrounded by brothers who hate him.

Now, what family do you want your daughter to marry into? What family do you want to be a part of your church? That's easy, Esau! Yet, the hope of humanity does not rest with the numbers and security of Esau, but in the single, rejected, but faithful son of Jacob.

Take heart! God often chooses to work through unexpected and feeble people (1 Cor. 1:26-31). God's work is not often done among the many and the mighty! It is done among the few and the faithful.

Our value is not tied to how big a church we attend, but to the God we serve. Our future does not depend on the quality of our family tree, but on the newness of our life in Christ. Our hope does not rest on our plans, but on God's providence! We don't have to be many, powerful, smart, or even perfect. God chooses to work through feeble, but faithful people.

God does not choose to remove us from pain. Esau's family had so many possessions, they decided to leave the land of Canaan. They seized some land to the east and set up their own nation. On the other hand, Jacob "lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan" (Gen. 37:1). He has no nation, and before long he is nearly starving to death. Remind me, who did God choose?

Then, there is Joseph. The chosen one! Yet, his brothers hate him, toss him in a pit, and sell him into

slavery. He is later lied about, thrown in prison, and forgotten for over decade. Could God choose such a path for His people?

Yes! God often chooses the most painful path. Faith is not found on the couch of convenience, but by carrying our cross (Luke 9:23-24). It is fleshly religion that seeks to make comfortable spectators. Discipleship calls for sacrificial service (2 Corinthians 12:15; Philippians 2:17).

To make godly choices, we cannot run from the pain. When we sacrifice our time, affection, energy and possessions to know and serve the Lord, it is the best choice we can make.

Our salvation is the goal of God's choice. Yes, Esau's family was attractive, but ultimately, they became corrupt, ungodly, murders, who brought death, not life (The Herodian family of the N.T.).

On the other hand, Joseph's pain worked out to the salvation of his family. Joseph summarized the purpose of God's choice in this memorable statement, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20).

The ultimate purpose of God's choice is not to make things comfortable for us, but to save our souls and the souls of people around us (1 Timothy 2:4). So, the fundamental question behind each godly choice is, "Does this lead me closer to God and help me save more people?"

Our "decision maker" is broken! It is too corrupted by external appearances and personal comforts. It is time to ask, "What would God choose?" Then, do that.

"Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14).

~via *Cedar Park Bulletin*, Cedar Park, Texas.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Gina Werka	Matthew Vaughn
Midred Lambert	Vicki Stringer
Beverly Sutton	Helen Blankenship

James Adams	Minnie Carter
JoAnn Gilbert	Bobbie Adcock
Loretta Warner	Doris Lovell
Alvis McLemore	Yvonne Strickland
Ann Bush	Lloyd Adams

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	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	Gene Carpenter
Brittany Bates Carter	Denny Smith
Carrie Warner	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Arvid McGuire; Athens-Limestone Hosp. – ICU-4
Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Johnnie Leigeber, rm. 121
Brenda Wilson, rm. 73	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 105 Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Elease Barksdale, Limestone Lodge
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:

Gina Werka was not able to be at services last week due to kidney stones...**Bonita Dollar** is scheduled for out-patient surgery on Monday in Athens...**Matthew Vaughn** has been sick with a sinus infection and unable to be at services...**Vicki Stringer** has been sick with a kidney infection last week and was unable to be at services...**Bill Eden** has been sick and unable to be at

services this week...*Mildred Lambert* fell last Friday and was not able to be at services on Sunday...*Minne Carter* continues to wear a brace for three more weeks ...*Kim Rogers niece, Carrie Warner*, is continuing treatments for cervical cancer.

PICTURES: We are needing to finish the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. If you have not had your picture made yet or have not updated it, please do so this week or next. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing after services.

HOLIDAY PARTY: The Annual Holiday party and potluck is scheduled for **December 13th at 7:00p.m.** It will be at the *Deer Trail Clubhouse*. There are sheets with information located at the entrance of the building.. If you have any questions, you can see *Marilyn Bradley* or *Marcella Coblentz*.

DAVID TERRY (1943 – 2019): We are saddened by the passing of brother *David Terry*. David has been a long time member of the Market Street church and loved the church here. David was faithful to the Lord and desired to please God in his life. David's health had deteriorated rapidly over the last several weeks and he was confined to bed. We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Joy, Mike, Charlie, David, Jr. and all the family*. His arrangements are incomplete at this time.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our sympathy to *Brenda Jones* in the passing of her sister-in-law, *Maria Waddell*, this past Tuesday in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. There was graveside service Saturday afternoon at the Mapleview Cemetery in Smyrna, Tennessee. May the Lord bless all the family during this time.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Haraways: Albert & Brenda* are in Lexington, Kentucky today...*Mike Ogles* is in Germany with his work ...*Ida Nell Griffin* has been with the Athens Bible School senior class as they traveled to Washington, D.C. and New York...*Allison & Elizabeth Usery* are on their way home from Lubbock, Texas....*The Ashes: Harold and Barb* are now back home after their trip to Gulf Shores.... *Christian Usery* is in Long Beach, California with his work.

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 Nov. 17th:*
 Sunday: Bible Classes 149
 Morning Worship 183
 Evening Worship 112

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Terry Andrews
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Heath Dollar Sam Gregory
 Tim Griswold..... Matthew Usery
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Joel Hamm
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Bill Eden

Other Assignments for the week of November 24th:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, November 27th:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Bible Reading Clayton Hamm
 Hebrews 5:1-11
 Prayer..... Larry Tucker
 Invitation Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, December 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Terry Andrews
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harold Ash
 Assisting Hunter Cox
 Serving Roger Hammonds Danny Holt
 Marvin Putman Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Harold Ash
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of December 1st:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt