

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

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
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

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

MarketStreet-church.com

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

Volume XIV

November 6, 2022

No. 45

Paul's Motives for Unity

David A. Cox

"Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" – (Ephesians 2:1-2)

At the end of Philippians 1, Paul strongly urges the brethren to stand unified against their adversary. There must be steadfast resistance against the onslaught seeking to divide and defeat them. In Philippians 2:1-2, Paul gives four motives for our unity as disciples of the Lord as we face opposition and advance the cause of Christ.

Encouragement in Christ.

Paul mentions the "consolation in Christ." Consolation means either exhortation or "encouragement." As Christians, they receive much encouragement from Christ. During their trials, great encouragement comes to those in Christ and the promises He has given to us. Think of Paul as he is writing this letter in prison and the encouragement he has in Christ. In living for Christ, we should find the motivation to press on and encourage others to live for Jesus. The encouragement will motivate us to be united for the cause and to work to help others in walking with the Lord. Remember in the church at Jerusalem, Barnabas, who was called the son of encouragement. You cannot think of Barnabas and think of division; instead, people are spurred to great unity for the work.

The Comfort of Love.

The second thing Paul mentions is the comfort of love. God has poured out His love toward us in so many ways. The greatest example of His love for us is in the giving of Jesus to die for us (Romans 5:5-8). God's love for us is deep, and His love should motivate us to love others as He does. The second commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). God's love shows us how unselfish we should be as we are molding our lives to be like Christ. Jesus taught His disciples "to love one another" (John 13:35). Finding the love that God desires for us

to have for Him and one another, we will be motivated to greater unity for the world to see.

The Fellowship of the Spirit.

Paul's third appeal for unity is the fellowship of the Spirit. The idea of fellowship has to do with participation in the Spirit. We share our spiritual life through the work of the Holy Spirit in revealing the mind and the will of God to us. We are able to have fellowship with the Father and the Son because of the message the Holy Spirit revealed to the apostles. In Acts 2, the Jews had made sure Jesus was crucified, and now they are convicted of the tragedy they are a part of. Through the inspiration of the Spirit, Peter tells them they can have fellowship with God by repenting and being baptized to receive the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38). Think about the motivation for those disciples to be unified in the fellowship they enjoyed. Undoubtedly, our fellowship should serve as a great motivator in unity in serving the Lord.

The Affection and Mercy.

The fourth motive Paul refers to is affection and mercy. As disciples enjoy the encouragement in Christ, the love from God and the fellowship in the Spirit should naturally follow with affection and mercy toward one another. When life flows with affection and mercy, unity will be easily maintained. The work of the Lord will be vibrant and active, and the cause of Christ will flourish.

Let us remember these four motives for unity in the body as we face life with its difficulties and work for the growth of the body.



Do I Pray Like Jesus?

Brent Paschall

In Matthew 26:36-56, Jesus poured out his heart in prayer to the heavenly Father. Do I pray like Jesus?

I am much better at teaching others from the example of Jesus in Gethsemane than I am at following Jesus' example. This is what I tell people. Is there something you urgently and desperately want or need from God? The only way to be content without it is to ask God for

it *As Urgently and Desperately As You Desire or Need it*. What if we only ask calmly or reservedly and we don't receive it? We will always have to wonder what might have happened if we had told God how we *Really* feel, and how much we *Really* need or want that blessing. We should fervently and repeatedly and completely *Pour Out Our Hearts To God*. Then, if we do not receive what we ask, we can at least be assured that as God's will being done, our human will has been fully taken into account.

How Jesus Prayed

Jesus was sorrowful and deeply distressed. He told his close companions, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death." As he prayed, he was "in agony, he prayed more earnestly, ... his sweat became like great drops of blood" (Luke 22:44) as a result of his emotional exertion in prayer. "He offered up prayers and supplications with vehement cries and tears, ... and was heard" Hebrews 5:7. He left the garden able to face the cross. He was able to do that because he had fervently, repeatedly and completely expressed his human will to God. Having done so, he could be sure his personal concerns were fully taken into account as God brought about His will.

Why am I Hesitant to Pray Like Jesus?

If you know me well, you know that there is a major trial in my future. It appears as certain as the cross of Jesus. It is probably the deepest my life will ever sink in grief and loss. I would do just about anything to avoid this tragedy, but I have no choice in the matter. In most respects, what is coming was fixed before I was born. But I can pray! And I do!

But how do I pray? Usually very politely, calmly and reservedly. In other words, not very much like Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Yes, silent prayers can be fervent, as in the case of Hannah. But I need to be acknowledging how I *Really* feel both to myself and to my heavenly Father. I need to get comfortable hearing my own voice crying out to heaven. I need to get alone in the woods or at the church building and have it out with God about this cup. Because I don't want to have to wonder if God would have spared me and my family if I had made my desires and needs known more forthrightly with my Heavenly Father.

And who knows? After I have this settled, God may show me some other things in my life or in the world that I should *Also* fervently pray about that have escaped my attention.

~via *The Blue Ridge Church of Christ*; Roanoke, Virginia

A Life Filled With Promise

Michael W. McLemore

Living the Christian life is more than emptying one's life of evil. It must involve filling the new life with good. The Lord told a parable where an unclean spirit left a man and upon its return, finding the house empty, swept and neatly in order, it reentered the house taking with it seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and the last state of that man was worse than the first, Matthew 12:43-45. This parable demonstrates that it is not enough to empty one's life of evil, but one must also fill life with good. The temple of the demon must become the temple of God.

Endeavoring to live a life void of evil without replacing the evil with good robs life of meaning and purpose. The Christian life must not only be thought of in terms of what one should not do, but also in terms of what one should be doing. Godly living must be viewed from a positive perspective thinking in terms of filling the new life with wholesome thoughts, right attitudes and good deeds. A close examination of the New Testament reveals that it implicitly or explicitly commends an act of righteousness to replace every ungodly act that it condemns.

In Ephesians chapter 4 Paul taught that telling the truth must supplant lying, 25; an honest days work would cause one to have no need of stealing, 28; filthy conversation is to be changed into a speech that will edify and minister grace to the hearers, 29. The works of the flesh must be displaced by the fruits of the spirit, Galatians 5:19-24.

The idle life is doomed to become the devil's tool. A life centered on Heaven's purpose is a life filled with promise. An untiring effort to have wholesome thoughts, to develop right attitudes, and to do good will drive out the former way of life and we will.

~via *Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama.



News & Notes

THE SICK:

Paul Adcock	James Adams
Dan Lovell	Shirley Miller
Betty Lovell	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Keith Holt

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Sharon Nave	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Doris Reid	Lloyd Adams
Charles Burns	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Sadricia Wilson
Wynell Romine	Anthony Sutton
Tim McGuire	Barbara Piper

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	

Limestone Health Facility:

Marie Nave, rm. 84a	Bobby Ogles, rm. 113
Ann Bush, rm. 75	Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Barbara Carter; Goldton at Athens
Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
Irene Inman; at home
Stan Stanford; at home
William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Cassidy Craig; UAB Hospital; - Birmingham

Updates:

Peggy Pepper is at home following her hip replacement... *Helen Blankenship's great-granddaughter, Cassidy Craig*, is in the Hospital in Birmingham with a brain bleed... *Harold Davis* went to the RA doctor on Monday and was diagnosed with Polymyalgia Rheumatica... *Jewel Dean Kennemer's granddaughter, Leigh Ellen Elliott* has completed her cancer treatments and has received a good report on the results of the treatments... *Doris McGuire's son, Tim McGuire* has had two chemo treatments and is doing well. He continues to be able to work.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30. They are beginning a study on "The Parables of Jesus."

OUT OF TOWN: *Jeanette Stinnett* is in Fort Walton Beach, Florida with her daughters... *The Tuckers: Larry & Theresa* are in Birmingham for Larry's uncle's memorial service today.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet Monday morning at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to do this, join them in the morning.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Larry Tucker* in the passing of his uncle, *Arvel Huffsetler*. His memorial service is in Birmingham this afternoon... We also want to express our sympathy to the Rollings Family in the passing of *Patricia (Trish) Rollings* last Saturday. There will be a graveside service on Monday morning at 11:00 in the Athens City Cemetery. May the Lord bless these families at this time.

CHARLOTTE GRIFFIN (1951 – 2022): With sadness we learn and note the passing of *Charlotte Griffin*. Charlotte was among us for a very short time. She suffered all during that time with her cancer. She was laid to rest in the Higgins Cemetery.

BOBBIE NELL DAVIS ADCOCK (1931– 2022): It is with sadness that we note the passing of *Bobbie Adcock*. Bobbie has been a member at Market Street since 2010. Bobbie loved the church here and missed being able to be at service in the last few years. Bobbie passed away on Wednesday afternoon. The visitation for Bobbie will be at Limestone Chapel on Monday from 12:00 to 1:00. There will be a graveside services at 1:30 at the Limestone Memorial Gardens. May the Lord bless all Bobbie's family at this time.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Q&A: For the next several Wednesday nights, I will be doing Question & Answer sessions. If you have questions that you would like for me to deal with, please write the question or topic you are interested in hearing about, and I will deal with them.

AWAY FROM US: Some of our people are away from home. Keep them in your prayers.

Kenneth Adams is in Auburn for school.
Keenon Currier is stationed in Monterey, California.
Addison Holt is in Birmingham for school.
Christian Usery is in Birmingham for work.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of October 30th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	118
	Morning Worship	138
	Evening Worship	116
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	80

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Marty Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Larry Holt
 Serving Roger Hammonds Sam Gregory
 Marvin Putman Matthew Usery
 Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Larry Tucker
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Hayden Pierce
 Other Assignments for the week of November 6th:
 Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Tommy Coblentz
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, November 9th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Bible Reading..... Griffin Holt
 (John 21:1-14)
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Invitation..... Christian Usery
 Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Sunday, November 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Terry Andrews
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Matthew Vaughn Luke Vaughn
 Roger Hammonds .. Clayton Hamm
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Frank Melton
 Preaching..... Frank Himmel
 Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
 Closing Prayer Jerry Baker
 Other Assignments for the week of November 13th:
 Ushers..... Danny Holt/Tommy Coblentz
 Work Sound System..... Russ Wulfekuhl