

# 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 XIV

November 27, 2022

No. 48

### 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](http://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*

## ***"Do Not Marvel..."***

**David A. Cox**

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you 'You must be born again.'" – (John 3:5-7)*

We find Nicodemus and Jesus having a conversation one evening. Jesus takes this opportunity to declare to Nicodemus the subject of the new birth and the necessity of it to "enter the kingdom of God." As a Jew and a Pharisee, Nicodemus marveled at the statement Jesus made. Jesus responded to Nicodemus by telling him, "Do not marvel..." The new birth is a marvel to all who are not spiritual. We must not marvel at Jesus' instructions, "You must be born again." Let us consider reasons not to marvel.

### **Marvel – As If It Is Unreasonable**

The wisdom of the world cries that the new birth is unreasonable. But God has made simple essential facts about the new birth.

1. The kingdom's seed is God's word (Luke 8:11; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.)
2. The seed is sown in soil which is the heart of man (Luke 8:12).
3. When the seed is sown and buried in good soil, birth is the result.

As we understand the germination process, we know that if a seed is to be born and produce a plant, it must have the seed in contact with soil. The new birth is not unreasonable; it is a matter of faith.

### **Marvel – As If It Is Impossible**

Some believe that reality only exists if it is explainable in the physical realm. Nicodemus fell into this line of thinking when he asked, "How can these things be?" (John 3:9). We must remember that we are dealing with God, who makes all things possible.

1. God gives life (Genesis 2:7; Luke 1:27-38). In the Garden of Eden, the seed is given for Mary to have a Son. So as God can place the seed to produce physical life, the seed, the word of God, can produce

spiritual life.

2. There is evidence of birth. We see the evidence of physical life all around us. Plants sprout and grow, babies are born and grow, and we see this evidence everywhere. Just as we see the evidence in the physical realm, there is evidence in spiritual birth and life. A change of life—affections, will, and conduct is proof of the new birth.

### Marvel – As If It Is Unnecessary.

Some will argue that the new birth is unnecessary, but if that were true, then it would declare that the old man and the sins of the past will not condemn him. We must remember Paul told the Romans the old man was crucified when they were baptized and arose to walk in the new life (Romans 6:4-6). Everyone is a sinner (Romans 3:23), and we must remove those sins to be made new. The process of spiritual birth occurs when the seed, the word of God, convicts us of our sins and causes us to repent and be buried in baptism. In Acts 2, three thousand Jews on that day were convicted by the preaching of Peter, and they repented and were baptized as Peter commanded them (Acts 2:38). If those Jews on that day had marveled and argued it was unnecessary to do anything to be born again, then they would have remained in their sins and would never receive the benefits of the kingdom of God.

May we remember not to look and marvel at the teachings of the Lord. Let us always be ready to heed the instructions of God and encourage others to do the same.



## *Exalting What God Has Exalted*

**Jason Hardin**

*I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;  
I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name  
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness...*  
(Psalm 138:1-2a)

As David sings and gives thanks to the LORD with his “whole heart,” notice what he says in the rest of verse 2:  
*...for you have exalted above all things  
your name and your word.*

To exalt is to raise in rank, power, or character. When we “exalt” someone, we are elevating them and acknowledging their worth.

Listen to Psalm 138. Your Creator has exalted his name and his word “above all things.” Think about that. Nothing—not one thing in the universe—is higher in rank, power, or worth than the name and the word of God. His name is more important than my name and your name. His word matters more than anyone else’s word.

Life, the way it was meant to be, recognizes these realities and follows the Creator’s lead. In fact, that’s the opportunity before each one of us on this, the Lord’s day—to say, “I give thanks to you with my whole heart. I sing your praise. I honor you for your steadfast love and faithfulness. I exalt your name and your word above all things.”

Let’s worship with that heart-fuel today. Let’s live and view the world through that lens this week. Could your prayers use a breath of fresh God-provided air? You’d be hard-pressed to find something better than adopting Psalm 138:2 and praying it as your own: “Father, help me to exalt your name and your word above all things.”

That’s the key to living with the confidence David expressed in Psalm 138:8: “The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me.”

~via *Charlestown Road Bulletin* ; New Albany, Indiana.



# *The Christ and His Church*

Sean P. Cavender

Based upon the confession that Peter made that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18). This is the first time that the church is mentioned in the New Testament. The church that Jesus refers to was His. He calls it "my church." The church was a prized possession of Christ and would that He would purchase and build at a high cost. He purchased the church "with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

Just imagine your favorite childhood toy, whether it was a shiny toy truck, or your favorite teddy bear. Think about how much you cherished that toy. You would show it off, take care of it, you wanted others to see it and know that it belonged to you. On a very basic level, this is how the New Testament speaks of Christ and His relationship to the church.

The husband-wife relationship is used to describe the relationship that Christ has with the church. Christ being the husband and the church being His bride (Ephesians 5:23-25). Christ has distinguished His church through cleansing her (Ephesians 5:26). The church is to be holy and perfect (Ephesians 5:27). Christ takes great care of His bride, "for no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church," (Ephesians 5:29). Do you begin to recognize just how important the church is to Jesus? He was willing to give His life and His blood for His bride. That is the true meaning of love!

There was only one church that Christ promised to build. He did not promise to build "churches," but promised to build "my church." His promise was to build the church that would be under His leadership and guidance. His promise was to build the church of His possession, or the church of Christ.

Christ is the head of only one body (Ephesians 4:4; 5:23). The church is not merely a cold, religious institution that seeks to control its members. The church of Christ is the ultimate expression of love, grace, and truth. We need to make certain that we are members of the church of Christ.

~via *Armor of Light*; Wichita, Kansas.

Remember Our Service Today at 5:00.

# *News & Notes...*

## **THE SICK:**

JoAnn Gilbert  
Doris Fisher  
Scottie Reed  
Bonnie Sutton  
Betty Lovell  
Keith Holt

Harold Davis  
Dan Reed  
Shirley Miller  
James Adams  
Doris Lovell

## ***Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:***

Sharon Nave  
Peggy Pepper  
Freddie Mae Elmore  
Anita Wheeler  
Judy Vaughn  
Doris Reid  
Charles Burns  
Kenneth Fisher  
Matt Bassford  
Wynell Romine  
Tim McGuire  
Henry Fusch

Priscilla Tucker  
Vicki Stringer  
Nikki Ogles  
Lona Jackson  
Jeanette Weir  
Lloyd Adams  
Cindy Walker  
Al Pollard  
Sadricia Wilson  
Anthony Sutton  
Barbara Piper  
Liz Fusch

## ***Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:***

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15  
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36  
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7

Connie Brock, rm. 62  
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77

## ***Limestone Health Facility:***

Marie Nave, rm. 84a  
Ann Bush, rm. 75

Bobby Ogles, rm. 113  
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

## ***Updates:***

**Dan Lovell** was released from the hospital on Friday afternoon after a week in the hospital...**Peggy Pepper** was released from the Huntsville Hospital after being there for over a week...**Jennifer Threet** was better and able to be back at Bible study Wednesday night...**Helen Blankenship's great-granddaughter, Cassidy Craig**, had the procedure to seal the aneurysm off in the brain on Wednesday in Birmingham...**Bonnie Sutton** is dealing

with issues with the collection of fluid and hinders his ability to be out as he would like... **Helen Blankenship** has been dealing with health issues and has been unable to be at services... **Doris Fisher** was sick and unable to be at services last week... Remember our expecting mother, **Heather Cox** in your prayers.

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

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Sue Thomas** in the passing of her cousins this past week. Sue's cousin, **Bruce Staggs**, of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee passed way last Saturday evening... On Sunday, Sue's cousin, **Willodean Prince**, of New Orleans, Louisiana... Then on Wednesday, **Tim Barnett**, of Lakeland, Florida passed away. May the Lord bless Sue and all her family during this time of much sorrow.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **The Ashes:** **Harold & Barb** are in Gulf Shores this week for the holiday... **The Hardisons:** **Nancy, Jaclyn & Sandra** have been in North Carolina this week for Thanksgiving... **The Coblentz':** **Tommy & Marcella** have been in Birmingham this week for Thanksgiving.

**CARD WRITING:** The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to do this, join them next Monday morning.

**PICTURES:** Have you had your picture made? We are continuing to make and update pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Please plan to get your picture made in the next few weeks.

**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 Nov 20<sup>th</sup>:

Sunday:	Bible Classes .....	122
	Morning Worship .....	146
	Evening Worship .....	102
Wednesday:	Bible Classes .....	79

**Remember Our Bible Study  
 Wednesday Evening at 7:00.**

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader .....	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Hunter Cox
Assisting .....	Keith Hinkle
Serving .....	Marvin Putman .....
	Ronnie Locke
	Heath Dollar .....
	Griffin Holt
Closing Prayer .....	Hayden Pierce

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader .....	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper .....	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer .....	Danny Holt
Other Assignments for the week of November 27 <sup>th</sup> :	
Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

**Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>:**

Song Leader .....	Griffin Holt
Bible Reading .....	Dan Reed
	(Psalm 1)
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Invitation.....	Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer .....	Tommy Burns

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting .....	Larry Mitchell
Serving .....	Sam Gregory .....
	Matthew Vaughn
	Roger Hammonds .....
	Luke Vaughn
Closing Prayer .....	Landon Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader .....	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Clayton Hamm
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper .....	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer .....	Joel Hamm
Other Assignments for the week of December 4 <sup>th</sup> :	
Ushers.....	Heath Dollar/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl