

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**
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Volume XV

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No. 23

I'm Rich! I'm Saved! I'm Happy!

Tony Mauck

Miserable Christians... isn't that a misnomer? Yet, frequently seen. Little joy. Little rejoicing. Misery most of the time. Something has gone terribly wrong. The horrible agony of the cross looms. This ghastly means of execution is within hours, and Jesus says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11). Paul and Silas endure a painful beating with rods, "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." Do not miss the significance of this verse. Their behavior contributed to a great opportunity to teach and the result of salvation for the Philippian jailer and his family (Acts 16:22-34).

Two important things are missing in the life of the miserable Christian – 1) Contentment; 2) Perspective. And the second relates to the first. Misery must issue from dissatisfaction with one's circumstances. The dissatisfaction is the result of perspective gone askew which leads to faulty expectations. The dissatisfaction emanates from a self-focus and a worldly-focus. When too much weight or importance is attached to events in this world, our whole disposition is affected. One loses sight of the bigger picture—things in the spirit realm—and focuses too much attention on the physical realm which is "passing away" (1 John 2:17).

If our hope is truly beyond this world, then we can cope when our favorite sports team loses (and mine do way too often for my liking, but what a minor thing this really is in relation to the big picture), we are struggling to make ends meet or even when you suffer injustice and/or mistreatment. Many experience their greatest struggles in the area of joy when they believe someone has done them wrong. It's even worse when this person claims to be a Christian. Spouses disappoint us at times, too. Children, parents, other family members could potentially upset us by their words and actions. When those closest to us in this world are the source of emotional injury, a tailspin into misery often ensues. The best of earthly relationships will occasionally disappoint.

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..... 6:30 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
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

We must not depend on external things for our happiness. Temporal setbacks and circumstance sadness must quickly give way to the joy of our hope. Do not the beatitudes teach us this (Matthew 5:3-12)? Believers mourn, but they also are comforted. And who relishes the thought of bodily persecution, insults and false accusations? But the Messiah's kingdom is all about turning sorrow and sadness into gladness and rejoicing (Isaiah 35:10). The kingdom is ours. We have Him. Our reward is great...no matter what this world, the devil, his allies or even misbehaving or unthinking believers dish out.

Constant misery is also an indication of inadequate fellowship with God. God provides a solution for our temporal troubles (Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7). In the context of "be anxious for nothing," we have instruction about rejoicing (4:4), contentment (4:11, 12) and the source of strength (4:13). Ongoing misery should be an indication of one's need to seek God's face. "Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face continually" (Psalm 105:4; see also Psalm 27:7-9).

Since the cause of misery is so often self-focus, set yourself to the task of assisting someone else. Focus on others. Decide to make someone else's day by some kind word or deed. Determine to lift another's spirit. You will likely find your own lifted in the process. Removing the focus from oneself and placing it on God and others will minimize our hurt and unhappiness. Benevolence toward another is a quick lesson in perspective. Everybody experiences difficulties of some kind and some have many greater difficulties than I do. The circumstances of many are far worse than my own. Realizing this truth should contribute to a clearer perspective.

Without a doubt, it's one of my favorite verses in all of the hymns we sing...verse 3 of "The Lord Has Been Mindful of Me." The title of this article is derived from it. "I'm rich! I'm saved! I am happy! I've health and prosperity! I've friends! I have doors ever open! The Lord has been mindful of me!" Now, that's a verse with a lot of exclamation points! I believe L.O. Sanderson wanted us to give those words extra exuberance and emphasis as we sing them. The whole song should be a daily meditation for a believer who is struggling to experience joy. "He blesses and blesses again...How excellent is His name!"

In the midst of your pain... When life seems to be handing you its worst... When discouragement abounds... When despair grips your soul... Remember, the prisoners are listening!

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

Thoughts About Christ's Kingdom

Jacob Holman

When we read the word kingdom in the Scriptures, two thoughts should come to mind. First and foremost, we should think of a king who is ruling. But secondly, we should think of a people over whom he rules. After all, if you have a "king" without "subjects," or "citizens" without a "king," you don't have a kingdom! It takes both parties to form a kingdom.

Such is true of Christ's kingdom. When we read of "the kingdom of God", "the kingdom of heaven" or "the kingdom of His beloved Son," we must first think of the King, but we must also think of those who are under His authority and are submitting themselves to His reign and rule.

First and foremost, **Christ is the King**. When Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You the *King* of the Jews?" He answered, "My *kingdom* is not of this world." Pilate then further inquired, "So You are a *king*?" to which Jesus replied, "You say correctly that I am a *king*" (John 18:33, 36-37). Later, as Jesus spoke to His disciples before ascending into heaven to sit at His Father's right hand, He said, "*All authority* has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). And as John described Jesus, the victorious Lamb, he wrote that, "He is Lord of lords and *King of kings*" (Revelation 17:14).

But secondly, **Christ's body, or church, is the citizens and subjects of His kingdom**. All individuals who have received Christ's grace, mercy, love and forgiveness, and have thus entered into a right relationship with Him, comprise His eternal kingdom.

Jesus opened His mountain message by saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the *kingdom* of heaven... Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the *kingdom* of heaven" (Matthew 5:3, 10). People who fit the description that Jesus gave in the Beatitudes are kingdom citizens! Later, the Hebrews writer informed us that we who belong to Christ "receive a *kingdom* that cannot be shaken" (Hebrews 12:28). And later still, John began The Revelation by stating that, "Jesus Christ...*the ruler* of the kings of the earth...has made us to be a *kingdom*" (Revelation 1:5-6).

So the next time we run across *kingdom* in the sacred

text, and it is Christ's kingdom that is in view, let's first think of both the King and His subjects. But let's also ask and answer some important questions like, "Is He my king? Am I submitting to Him? Am I a citizen of His everlasting kingdom?"

~via *Good News*; Little Rock, Arkansas.



The Meek Will Prevail

Michael W. McLemore

The Greeks employed the word "*praus*" for "meekness" to describe "a colt which has been broken and harnessed." When the animal finally relents to wear his master's harness and to work in the harness, he is meek. Hence, the large animal, possessing mighty strength, by submitting to the control of his master might be described as "strength under control."

Those people who accept God's Word as their harness, who have submissive spirits, who are more interested in doing the Lord's will than their own, have the quality of meekness. Jesus chose this word as His own self-description in His pleading for those laden with burdens to come to Him, Matthew 11:29. In the Bible the quality of meekness is associated with "humility," "gentleness" and "a quiet spirit," Ephesians 4:2, Titus 3:2, 1 Peter 3:4.

Inspiration characterized Moses as meek — "very meek, above all the men that were upon the face of the earth," Numbers 12:3. Of what did the meekness of this great man consist? Not in the absence of temper, but in the control of it; not in timidity, but in aggressive leadership. It consisted of gentleness and forbearance toward his critics. It consisted of submission, without a murmur, to God's plan though it thwarted his personal ambition.

Though Jesus was the embodiment of every virtue and the perfection of all these graces, meekness and lowliness of heart are the only qualities that He claimed for Himself. He harnessed indefatigable energy and power under the yoke of God's redemptive plan and became "obedient unto death." As noted before, He said simply, "I am meek and lowly in heart," Matthew 11:29. Toward the sinful He was never harsh, but gentle. He

was not cowardly, but a courageous leader. During the days on the earth He suffered much wrong, but did no wrong. He was not vengeful, but forgiving. He yielded to the will of the Father, though it led to His martyrdom.

The Master reminds us that the meek are richly rewarded. In His mountain message from Galilee He declared, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." His words are true. His promises will be fulfilled. It's not the pushy and self-assertive personalities who succeed with God. It's not the boastful, who violently thrust themselves upon others, who constantly demanded notice. They were rejected in favor of the gentle. The retiring and the unassuming are His people. David was given Divine preference over his more mature and proud brothers by his call from the sheepfold, 1 Samuel 16. His wise, gentle and unassuming heart was described as "a heart after God's own."

When Jesus said, "The meek shall inherit the earth," He did not mean that they shall necessarily become the actual title holder to the lands, rather in a very real sense they shall come into the real enjoyment of the things of God. The meek have a greater capacity for enjoyment. The man who has in his heart the quality of meekness finds more contentment in an humble cottage and simple meal than the proud man finds in his mansion and fine cuisine. This blessedness depends not so much on what a man has, but on what a man is.

F.W. Boreham in his work, *The Heavenly Octave*, reminded readers to remember, "It is the quiet, submissive, unobtrusive force that triumphs to the end. 'The gentle dawn will master the blackest night; the soft-treading spring will quell the storms of winter.' Modesty triumphs over might; and, as Aesop's fable (see *Weekly Walk to the right*) has shown, the soft sunshine effects what blustering wind failed to accomplish." Truly, the meek will prevail.

~via *Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama.



News & Notes

THE SICK:

Paul Adcock	Jeanette Weir
Steve Stringer	Pat Nixon
James Adams	Dan Lovell
Helen Blankenship	Shirley Miller
Doris Lovell	John Harbin
John Lovell	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Harvey Nixon	Sharon Nave
Priscilla Tucker	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Anita Wheeler
Nikki Ogles	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
Jerry Lawrence	Henry Fusch
Liz Fusch	Kimberly Pressnell
Tim McGuire	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Auteen Campbell, rm. 96

Limestone Health Facility:

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

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
 Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Stan Stanford; Goldton at Athens
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Frank Melton; Lifecare Center of Ooltewah

Monthly Communion for June

Communion Bread — Lisa Wulfekuhl
 Communion Cups — Danny Holt

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Snell
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Preaching.....	John Gibson
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Hunter Cox
Serving	Matthew Vaughn... Matthew Usery
.....	Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer	Luke Vaughn
.....	Keith Hinkle

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Snell
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	John Gibson
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams
Other Assignments for the week of June 4 th :	
Usher	Tommy Coblenz/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, June 7th:

Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Bible Reading	Danny Johnson
.....	(Acts 10:24-33)
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Joel Hamm

Sunday, June 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting	Christian Usery
Serving	Nathaniel Adams... Landon Adams
.....	Hayden Pierce
Closing Prayer	Sam Gregory
.....	Harold Ash

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Griffin Holt
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds
Other Assignments for the week of June 11 th :	
Usher	Danny Johnson/Tommy Coblenz
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl