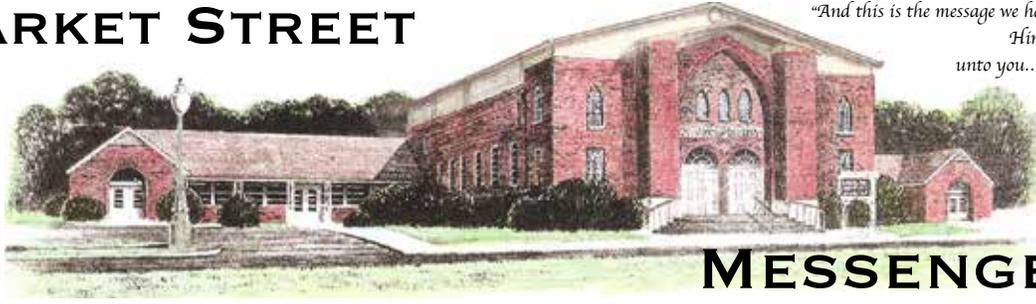


MARKET STREET



“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..... 6:30 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz..... (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 XV

July 9, 2023

No. 28

“For What Is Your Life?”

David A. Cox

“For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time then vanishes away.” — (James 4:14)

James asks solemnly, “For What is your life?” This is a question that man struggles to answer. Why? Because man does not know within himself the answer to life. Man did not create life. The farmer can plant a seed in the ground; from it, life springs forth, but he cannot see or answer the question of life. We can get answers to biological questions, but to understand the answer to life belongs to the giver and creator of life, God. James asked the question in the context that deals with the arrogance of people living life and making plans for the future without the thought of God. However, James asks the question to bring their thoughts back to the life God gives us and the purpose of life. It is vain for men to live their lives and deny giving honor to God. Consider a few thoughts about “What is your life?”

It Is A Must To See Life As Brief

James answers the question about life, saying, “It is even a vapor that appears for a little time then vanishes away.” We must see that the time we live is temporary, short, and brief. If we live to be 70, 80, 90, or even beyond, life is still brief. The psalmist refers to it “as a tale that is told.” (Psalm 90:9, KJV). What is the tale that is being told in your life? Is the “tale” one of pursuing the material things of life at any expense? Is it living and putting off what you should be doing by thinking there will be time for that later? We must understand that no one is promised anytime in the future. All we have is the present time. Let us not take for granted the time we have and waste the opportunities before us.

It Is What You Make It.

Life is given to us by God. There are things in life we cannot control and cannot change, regardless of how much we want to. But even in the midst of life with things that we cannot change, everyone has the choice to make or aim their life in the direction of their choosing. God gives us life but does not make our lives what they are; we do that by our own

choice. God gives us instructions from His word. We can choose to follow it, or we can choose to dismiss it. We choose to be vessels for honor to God or to dishonor God. Our lives are what we make of them.

It Is A Pilgrimage.

The Hebrew writer describes life of the faithful as a pilgrimage. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off and were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13). The fact is life is a pilgrimage to the life hereafter. As the faithful of God could see, by faith, as they journeyed through life by faith, God was their helper. They remembered, "Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life" (Psalm 54:4). As the faithful are on the pilgrimage of life, they trust in God and make their lives to please Him.

It has been said, "Time childhood of eternity." The statement is so true. We live with time on the earth. We value time, and we long for time. But as we live on earth, may we never lose sight of the reality of what life is about. Yes, life live, enjoy life, and make plans for life, but remember, life is not forever; it is a vapor. As the Lord wills, may we live, serve the Lord and honor Him.



Tolerating Black Shoes

Robert F. Turner

I like brown shoes and wear them most of the time. However, if you insist upon wearing black shoes, I will not argue the point. Go right ahead! I'm a very tolerant man with respect to shoes.

But some of my friends tell me I am intolerant in religious matters. They just can't understand why a kindhearted, tolerant fellow like me would say that they must obey God's commands and practice in religion only that which God has authorized. (Well, maybe that is the way they put it.) Sometimes they find it difficult to tolerate my intolerance.

Some intolerance is born of egotism - the product of

self-centered individuals who think they are the center of the universe, and that their ways must be accepted by all. This is very bad (James 4:11-12).

And there is an intolerance of sort, which is born of love. I love my granddaughter and insist that she not eat the shoe polish (the brown, that is). I can't bring myself to be unconcerned about this matter.

And there is an intolerance born of respect for authority and deep concern for those who fail to respect the divine will. Paul contended with the Israelites frequently because (a) he loved them, and (b) he knew they could not be saved while they followed their own erroneous ways. Paul's convictions, and his concern for men, made him seem intolerant (Romans 10:1ff).

People who really believe something - strongly enough to work for it, teach it, and practice it - are often called "narrow" or "bigoted." Meanwhile, the shallow-thinking, crowd-following, spineless fellow is likely to mistake his own lack of conviction for broad-mindedness and congratulate himself for being such a wonderful person.

It is well and good to be tolerant in matters of indifference - where the rights of men are equal. But to tolerate sin and transgression of God's law is to assume the right to judge that law (James 2:9ff), or to relegate divine matters to the category of black and brown shoes.

In the final analysis, tolerance is often a disguise for the lack of conviction and concern. In their liberal attitude toward shoe colors, men forget to prepare for a robe and a crown.

~via *The Lenexa Edifier*; Lenexa, Kansas.



Are We Cain or Abel?

Andy Brenton

"And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain

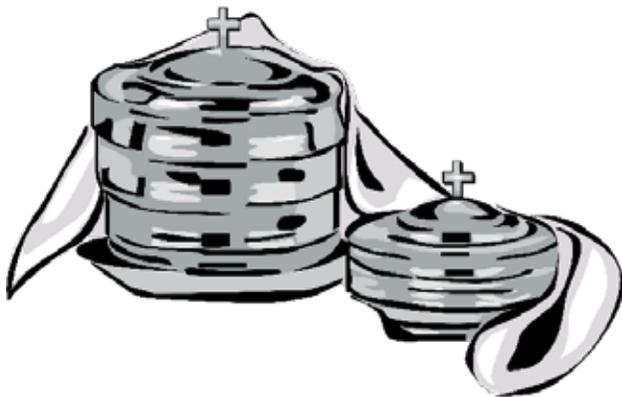
and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell” (Genesis 4:3-5).

God was very concerned, as we see throughout the Old Testament, with the heart attitude of the person who brought a sacrifice to the altar. Very often in the Old Testament era, people simply went through the motions, offering their sacrifices in a casual, careless, halfhearted, mechanical way, for which they were hypocrites. God said, “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5:21-24).

God was displeased by the faithlessness of the people as they went through their religious practices. Yet that happens in every generation. People go to church every Sunday and go through the motions of religion while their hearts are far from God. They act out their religion, as actors in a play, but without faith, without any real personal commitment to God.

God is no different today than He was then. Do we render spirit and truth worship unto God as He requires (John 4:24)? What will our worship be like this coming Lord's day? Will we offer a Cain or Abel worship?

~via *Knollwood Reminder*; Dayton, Ohio.



Communion Preparation for July

Communion Bread — Kerry Cox
Communion Cups — Russ Wulfekuhl

News & Notes

THE SICK:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Frank Melton | Bonnie Sutton |
| Jeanette Weir | Steve Stringer |
| Pat Nixon | Dan Lovell |
| Helen Blankenship | Shirley Miller |
| Doris Lovell | Virginia 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 | Wynell Romine |

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:

Wynell Romine; Florence Nursing & Rehabilitation

Updates:

Paul Adcock went to the doctor on Friday to get the results on the MRI he had done on his prostate. They told Paul that he had cancer. He will go back to the doctor on August 1st and have biospies done and determine from the biopsies what type of treatments he will be taking ... *Sharon Nave* will have some additional

testing on Thursday to confirm the effectiveness of her treatments... *Joyce McGlocklin's sister, Wynell Romine*, rehabilitation at Florence Nursing and Rehabilitation Center... *Meredith Parks' aunt, Sheridan Goodwin* had surgery on Wednesday for her broken hip. They were not able to do anything to help correct the problems. She is not doing well following the surgery... *Jeanette Weir* continues her recovery at home... Remember our expecting mother, *Laura Adams*, in your prayers.

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

FLOWERS: The fresh flowers in the auditorium today were given in memory of *JoAnn Gilbert*.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30. They are studying on "*Preparing To Teach My Neighbor.*"

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The *Jones Road church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday night. The speaker in this meeting is *Ben Walker*... The *Jennings Chapel church* is beginning a meeting and it will continue through Friday evening. *Eric Reynolds* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Russellville church* in Russellville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Don Miller*.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible Drill this afternoon at 4:45 before our evening service. I hope all our children can come and participate in this time of instruction and learning.

OUTOFTOWN: The Parks: *Charles, Meredith, Aabron, Harper & Carson* are in St. Louis, Missouri this week... **The Adams:** *Marty, Marvella & Kenneth* are in Auburn getting Kenneth settled in for the upcoming school year... **The Hamms:** *Joel, Sharma, Clayton & Ragan* have been at the Gulf coast this week... **Betty Pepper** has been at the Gulf coast on vacation... **The Snells:** *Larry & Louise* are at the Gulf coast this week with family on vacation... **Sheila Holt** is on a trip to Iceland this week... **The Holts:** *Larry & Griffin* are going to Dothan this Thursday to get Griffin setup for school.

THE RECORD: Attendance the week of July 2nd:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Sunday: | Bible Classes | 126 |
| | Morning Worship | 166 |
| | Evening Worship | 110 |
| Wednesday: | Bible Classes | 93 |

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 9th:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Larry Tucker |
| Song Leader | Joel Hamm |
| Prayer..... | Stephen Lynn |
| Preaching..... | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding..... | Tommy Coblentz |
| Assisting | Hunter Cox |
| Serving | Matthew Vaughn... Landon Adams |
| | Danny Johnson..... Jerry Baker |
| Closing Prayer | Albert Haraway |

Evening Worship

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Larry Tucker |
| Song Leader | Clayton Hamm |
| Prayer..... | Terry Andrews |
| Preaching..... | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | Tommy Coblentz |
| Closing Prayer | Christian Usery |
| Other Assignments for the week of July 9 th : | |
| Usher | Hayden Pierce/Marvin Putman |
| Work Sound System..... | Larry Holt |

Wednesday, July 12th:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Song Leader | Griffin Holt |
| Bible Reading | Joel Hamm |
| | (Acts 12:20-25) |
| Prayer..... | Tommy Coblentz |
| Invitation..... | Stephen Lynn |
| Closing Prayer | Dan Reed |

Sunday, July 16th:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Harvey Nixon |
| Song Leader | Stephen Lynn |
| Prayer..... | Larry Snell |
| Preaching..... | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding..... | Keith Hinkle |
| Assisting | Harold Ash |
| Serving | Heath Dollar Charles Vaughn |
| | Matthew Usery..... Luke Vaughn |
| Closing Prayer | Larry Tucker |

Evening Worship

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Harvey Nixon |
| Song Leader | Hunter Cox |
| Prayer..... | Kenneth Smith |
| Preaching..... | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | Keith Hinkle |
| Closing Prayer | Jerry Baker |
| Other Assignments for the week of July 16 th : | |
| Usher | Danny Johnson/Marcus Morris |
| Work Sound System..... | Terry Andrews |