

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 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 XV

October 22, 2023

No. 43

Paul's Perspective on His Departure

David A. Cox

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but to all who loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Paul is writing to Timothy near his life's close and knows he has faithfully served the Lord. It is in mindset Paul faces his impending death with confidence. He looks beyond the pain and sorrow in death to see the joy of salvation that he has lived and served to receive. He reminds Timothy that the salvation he sees on the horizon is available to all who will surrender their lives for the love of Christ and allow Him to rule on the throne of their hearts. Paul offers an excellent perspective on life and how he gave himself as an offering to the Lord.

Paul Fought the Good Fight. Paul understood that the life of the Christian is a life that will have its battles. Paul wrote, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against powers, against rulers or the darkness of the age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). Indeed, we see how Paul saw the things that were battles for the Christian. Satan is working and using many forces to cause Christians to succumb to sin. Paul fought these battles in his life and referred to it as the "good fight." Why was the fight good? It is an honorable fight for truth and righteousness. We engage in this fight because Jesus Christ is ruling, reigning, and has dominion in our lives. Paul reminds Timothy about the good fight in life.

Paul Finished the Race. It is a notable fact that Paul states that he finished the race. Paul had known many others who had run the race, but they had failed to finish. Some people may have run the race better than others. However, your standing before the Lord is based on how we run our race rather than how others run their race. Quite regularly, we

will hear people compare their service to the Lord based on how others are serving the Lord. Paul is reminding Timothy, as well as us, that we all must run our race. The Hebrew writer states, “let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). Running the race of life will require patience, endurance, and diligence to complete the race. It is what we see in the life of Paul.

Paul Kept the Faith. Paul states that he “kept the faith.” With all the assaults hurled at Paul in his life as a Christian, he never backed away from his commitment to Jesus Christ through the trials, beatings, imprisonments, attacks from the Jews, attacks from brethren, etc. Paul was never deterred from his work for the Lord. He had reminded Timothy earlier:

- “Guard what was committed to your trust” (1 Timothy 6:20).
- “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:13).

The gospel is of the greatest value and worthy of every Christian’s protection. Paul is declaring that as he comes to the time of his departure. Let us remember to keep or guard the faith in our lives.

The extraordinary statement of hope is what Paul’s life has relied upon. He will receive the “crown of righteousness” because of living a life with Christ ruling his heart. However, we do not need to overlook that this hope is not only for Paul but for all who love the appearing of Christ. Do we love His appearing? Are we faithfully serving Him? If not, make that change today!



The Other Sacrifice

Chuck Bartlett

To tell people that Jesus Christ left heaven to come to earth to be our Savior doesn’t make as much of an impact if they don’t know what a sacrifice it was to come to earth. I am not talking about the sacrifice of Him dying on the cross. I am talking about what our Lord left behind to come to this world.

He left Heaven.

Here on earth, we are doing all we can to get to heaven, yet the Son of God left that abode to help us. There is no pain, sickness or dying in heaven (Rev. 21:3-4). The reason Jesus came was to make a way for us to be with the Father (Jn. 14:1-6). Our God is in heaven and that’s where Jesus was (Jn. 1:1,14). It is hard to imagine leaving a place so glorious to come to a sin infested world that can never be compared to heaven.

He left His Father.

The scriptures clearly state that Christ was “with God” (Jn. 1:1). The fact that Jesus was a man of prayer reveals the relationship He and the Father have – they are one (Jn. 17:21). Understand that I am not saying that Jesus as a rebellious child would leave. On the contrary, Christ left to do the will of His Father (Lk. 2:49) knowing He would not be present with the Father in heaven.

He left heaven to become a servant.

The only begotten Son took the form of a bondservant (Philippians 2:7). One might think that it would not be a difficult task for Christ to become a servant because He is God. Perhaps that is true. However, this article is not written to demonstrate how easy it was for our Lord to sacrifice. The point is that it was a sacrifice. The whole idea of coming as a servant is to help us see that He didn’t come to this world the easy way. He made Himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7). Joseph and Mary were not a king and queen where Christ could be raised in a palace with all the comforts that can be obtained in the world. He was born in a stable (Luke 2:7) and even when He began His earthly ministry, He had no place to lay His head (Matthew 8:20).

He left heaven knowing what lies before Him.

The whole plan of Jesus coming to earth for the purpose of dying wasn’t “plan B.” Jesus came from heaven to go to the cross (Luke 18:31-33). This helps us to understand what Christ was going through in the garden prior to His death (Matthew 26). He knew what was about to happen. Jesus knew this was the plan before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-4). What is amazing is that He came knowing this. That, in and of itself, is a great sacrifice!

He left knowing His sacrifice would be appreciated by only a few.

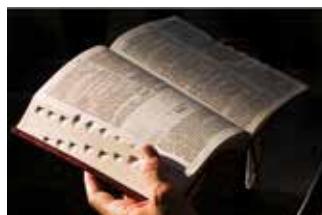
How sad it is to even think about the sacrifice of leaving heaven knowing that the majority of the people who you came to help will reject you (Matthew 7:13-14),

21-23). This isn't meant to minimize the few that would devote themselves to serving the Lord. The point is that Jesus came for the whole world (John 3:16). He came to save everyone (Mark 16:15; 2 Peter 3:9). Unfortunately, before the Lord even left His abode in heaven, He was aware of what would be gained in the end. The lesson for us: He came anyway.

He left knowing He would have to face and reject every temptation.

The salvation of the world depended upon the fact that a perfect sacrifice was required (1 Peter 1:18-20). Christ faced all the temptations we face, yet never broke any of God's laws (Hebrews 4:15). While Jesus did sacrifice Himself on the cross, let us not forget the other sacrifice of leaving heaven.

~via *Kirkwood Church Bulletin*; Kirkwood, Missouri.



Remember Our Bible Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 6:30 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Patricia Abernathy	Pat Nixon
Paul Adcock	Dale Adcock
Jeanette Weir	Steve Stringer
Shirley Miller	Amy Gill
Larsen Plyler	Lance McGuire

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Paul Adcock	Doris Lovell
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Priscilla Tucker
Harvey Nixon
Vicki Stringer
Nikki Ogles
Judy Vaughn
Lloyd Adams
Cindy Walker
Matt Bassford
Anthony Sutton
Henry Fusch
Kimberly Pressnell
Monica Nelson

Sharon Nave
Peggy Pepper
Anita Wheeler
Wynell Romine
Jeanette Weir
Charles Burns
Al Pollard
Wynell Romine
Jerry Lawrence
Liz Fusch
Tim McGuire

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Larry Faulk; Ardmore Nursing-Rehabilitation

Updates:

Dale Adcock is scheduled for a doctor's appointment for her problems with her blood pressure ... **Danny Johnson** has been diagnosed with stage three kidney disease ... **Patricia Abernathy** is scheduled for her follow-up doctor's appointment on Monday...**Paul Adcock** was ... **Sharon Nave** is scheduled for her surgery at UAB on November 20th. It will be a complex surgery, remember Sharon in your prayers ...Remember our expecting mother, **Lynsey Adams**, in your prayers.

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

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

Limestone Health Facility:

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

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Barbara Carter; Goldton at Athens
Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
Irene Inman; at home
Lona Jackson; Vitality Living Upland Park, Huntsville
Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee
Stan Stanford; Goldton at Athens
William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

CARD WRITING: There is a card writing group that meets regularly to write and mail cards to people for appreciation and encouragement. The group will meet next Monday morning, October 23th, at 10:30. If you would like to participate, join them next Monday morning.

SONG SERVICE: Remember this evening will be the time for our regular scheduled monthly song service. I hope that everyone will be able to come and blend our

voices together in singing and praising God.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Southside church* is beginning a gospel meeting today, and it continues through Friday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Tim Sutton*...The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee is beginning a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Buddy Payne*...The *Ardmore church* in Ardmore is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speakers in this meeting will be: *Sunday – Kevin Clark; Monday – Jason Shackleford; Tuesday – Greg Chandler; Wednesday – Jacob Gwin.*

OUT OF TOWN: *The Snells:* *Larry & Louise* are in Charleston, South Carolina...*Ann McLemore* has been in Valley, Alabama this week.

SOMERVILLE ROAD MEETING: It was my pleasure to be with the *Somerville Road church* in Decatur this past week in a gospel meeting. The work there is going well and it was encouraging to be with them in this effort. *Tim Sutton* continues to work there as the evangelist.

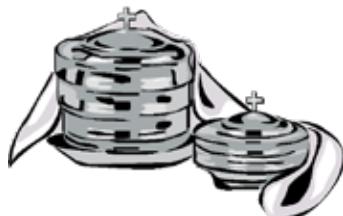
TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: Remember the Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30 in the West Auditorium. All ladies who are able to come are invited to be a part of this class.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care.

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.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of October 15th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	123
	Morning Worship.....	150
	Evening Worship.....	109
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	99



Communion Preparation for October

Communion Bread — Peggy Smith
Communion Cups — Joel Hamm

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting.....	Harold Ash
Serving	Jerry Baker..... Sam Gregory
	Nathaniel Adams..... Harold Davis
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Hayden Pierce
Other Assignments for the week of October 22 nd .	
Usher	Roger Hammonds/Matthew Usery
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl

Wednesday, October 25th:

Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Stephen Lynn (Acts 17:16-34)
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Sunday, October 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting.....	Marcus Morris
Serving	Heath Dollar..... Marvin Putman
	Matthew Usery..... Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed
Other Assignments for the week of October 29 th .	
Usher	Larry Mitchell/Hayden Pierce
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews