

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 XVI

January 14, 2024

No. 2

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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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

Jesus' Prayer For His Disciples

David A. Cox

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they all may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." — (John 17:20-21)

On Thursday night, just after the last supper with His disciples, Jesus uttered the words in prayer to the Father. Jesus prayed this prayer because He would no longer be in the world with His disciples (John 17:11). In praying for His disciples, Jesus prayed for the church. These believers would come to Him through the work of His disciples. Let us consider some things we can learn from this prayer.

The Importance of Unity.

The unity that Jesus desires must be noticed. The unity that the disciples were to have was the same kind of unity that exists between the Father and the Son. In a world filled with chaos, violence, and discord, the unity Jesus desires is vastly different. The disciples' unity proves to the world that Jesus is indeed the Christ, sent from the Father. As disciples today, we must see the importance of being united. The unity we should have is a unity that comes from the teachings of Jesus and His apostles.

We Can Be United With God.

Jesus prayed, "that they may be one in us" so the world would believe. It is evident in Jesus' prayer that we can be united with God. Many think that we cannot find unity, and it is because we are not united with God. When people surrender their lives to God and walk according to His word, they will find themselves united with God. The idea is that we are in fellowship with God. As we walk according to the precepts of God and practice the truth, we are in fellowship with God or united with God. (1 John 1:6-7). Our unity with God is grounded in the truth of Jesus, the words of Jesus, and the commands of Jesus.

Our Unity Helps Others To Believe.

Jesus prayed, "that the world may believe." What an amazing thought

that the world would be led to belief due to the unity among the disciples. Since that statement is made, the opposite would be true as well. If we are not united, we will be a hindrance to others coming to know Jesus and the salvation offered through Him. We must understand this is not manufactured, superficial unity but one expressed by the way we live. Will there be differences among us? Of course, we come from different backgrounds, cultures, and families. However, we will not allow our opinions and personal scruples to divide us from our unity with God and His people (Romans 14). We will insist on God's will being the ruling power in our life, and in doing so, the world will see the difference in us as individuals and as the disciples Jesus calls us to be.

Are you a disciple of Jesus? If so, then be a light for Jesus. Seek the unity of God and His people.



A Brush of A Stroke In A Mural

Tim Jennings

"He entered Jericho and was passing through"
(Luke 19:1)

You are in Mrs. Jackson's 7th grade math class, and a folded piece of paper is on the ground. You stoop to pick it up and discover this line written within, "I think you are one too!" Your mind fills with possible meanings.

You peek around and find two boys sticking their tongues out at each other. Could this note be an insult? You carefully examine the lettering on the note and find the dot on the "i" is a small heart. Just then you see a young lady wiggle her fingers to wave at a boy across the room. Now you understand better. This is a love note! The context leads you to an accurate understanding.

However, there is also another piece of information you use to understand the note. This evidence is not in the room. It is not in the note. However, this knowledge leads you to the truth more quickly and accurately. It is your awareness that children tend pass notes in class. That

is why you began your investigation with the children.

This exercise illustrates how an accurate comprehension of words is influenced by a broader understanding that is not explicitly stated in the text.

What does this have to do with good Bible study? Well-meaning Bible students will sometimes say, "I just want examine the text and say what the text says." That is a noble sentiment, but rather impossible. Each examiner brings a bushel of preconceptions to a text that will influence what he or she understands. We all do this.

So, here is the key question, "What preconceptions will we allow ourselves to bring to the text?" Some examine a text through the lens of how modern culture uses words, themes, and metaphors. Others examine a text through the lens of how a religious tradition addresses certain words, subjects, and doctrines. These common preconceptions have profound weaknesses to accurate Biblical understanding.

What if we examined a text through the lens of the broader story, doctrines, and themes of the Bible itself? The Bible itself becomes a divinely calibrated pair of glasses which allow us to see a text more clearly. Spirit given lens to see Spirit given truth. After all, since God is the underlying Author of the Biblical record, then His use of words, topics and types should be our primary concern.

How does this practically affect our Bible study? We should learn to read a text as a brush stroke in the huge mural of Scripture. This means we must step back from a text and ask if we have seen these words, themes, and storylines before. If so, God may be providing us the means to see the message of a text more richly and clearly.

Here is a fun example from the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19. Zacchaeus is a short, rich, despised tax-collector who cannot see Jesus. In the immediate context he is contrasted with the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-30) and compared to the blind beggar (Luke 18:35-43). Those comparisons create hours of meaningful meditation on discipleship.

When we read the introductory words, "He entered Jericho and was passing through" (Luke 19:1) as a brush stroke in the Biblical mural, another picture becomes clear. Jesus goes through Jericho on his way to conquer sin and death on the cross (This is the last narrative before the triumphal entry.). Zacchaeus is an outcast

in Jericho. He is singled out for salvation in a city of doomed grumblers. He has Jesus into his house.

These repeated themes point us to the story of the conquest of Canaan and the salvation of Rahab (Joshua 2,6). When the Rahab and Zacchaeus stories are held together, they magnify the gracious character of God and clarify the type of person God saves. They bid us to write our stories along side theirs.

When we examine isolated verses, we may allow pin pricks of light to peek through. However, when the Biblical record is allowed to illuminate a Biblical account you can see God's message more clearly.

~via *Focus Magazine*; July 20, 2020.



Communion Preparation for January

Communion Bread — Lisa Wulfekuhl
 Communion Cups — Marcus Morris

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Jennifer Threet	Larry Tucker
James Adams	Don Bates
Sheila Holt	Larry & Peggy Mitchell
Tony & Sue Thomas	Jewel Dean Kennemer
Shelby Kirkland	Pat Nixon
Shirley Miller	Wayne Faulk
Amy Gill	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Danny Johnson	Doris Lovell
Priscilla Tucker	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Anita Wheeler

Nikki Ogles
 Judy Vaughn
 Lloyd Adams
 Cindy Walker
 Anthony Sutton
 Henry Fusch
 Tim McGuire
 Mary Cox

Wynell Romine
 Jeanette Weir
 Charles Burns
 Al Pollard
 Jerry Lawrence
 Liz Fusch
 Monica Nelson

Updates:

Sherry Davis was not able doctor on Friday as scheduled. They rescheduled her appointment for this Friday...
Larry Tucker continues at home under very limited activity...**Larry & Peggy Mitchell** have been sick with the flu this past week. They are doing better...
Dan Lovell colonoscopy on Monday and will see his back doctor on Wednesday...**Penny Bates** has her surgery scheduled at Vanderbilt on January 24th ...**Jewel Dean Kennemer** has been sick with the virus ...**Sheila Holt** has been sick this past week and unable to be out.

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Brenda Wilson, rm. 38
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 2	Janice Moody, rm. 99
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Marie Nave, rm. 84a	Ann Bush, rm. 75
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Shut-In or Away From Home:

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

OUT OF TOWN: **Steve Bradley** is in Texas, **Marilyn** returned this week...**Keenon Currier** is in San Angelo, Texas...**The Hardisons:** **Nancy, Jaclyn & Sandra** are on a Western Caribbean Cruise this week.

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

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, January 22nd, at 10:30. If you want to be a part of this group, meet with them next Monday morning.

NEW BABY: We are rejoicing over the birth of *Dawson Ray Adams*. Dawson was born Wednesday afternoon in Huntsville. He weighed 7 lbs. and 1 oz. Dawson is now at home with his parents, *Landon & Lynsey Adams* and his big sister, *Jessie*.

COMMUNION BREAD: The Communion Bread sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for the ladies who would like to make the communion bread for the worship services.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at the *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care* at 5:30 p.m. Please join us to sing, if are are able.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: This afternoon at 4:15, we will be meeting with everyone interested in the VBS this summer. This will be for teachers and anyone who is interested in helping in other ways.

THE FLOWER FUND: There is a flower fund maintained by the members of the Market Street church for the sending of flowers and plants to families during periods of bereavement. If you would like to participate in this work, please contribute your money to *Ida Nell Griffin*, who looks after this fund.

PICTURES: Have you had your picture made lately? We have several that need to be updated. If you have not had your picture made or had it done lately please plan to to it soon.

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 January 7th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	113
	Morning Worship	159
	Evening Worship	110
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	93



MARKET STREET FOCUS – 2024
Making Disciples...

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Harold Ash
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting	Larry Snell
Serving	Matthew Usery..... Heath Dollar
.....	Charles Parks..... Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Frank Melton

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Tucker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt
Other Assignments for the week of January 14 th :	
Usher	Larry Mitchell/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl

Wednesday, January 17th:

Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Charles Parks
.....	(Acts 22:22-29)
Prayer.....	Matthew Usery
Invitation.....	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Albert Haraway

Sunday, January 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Jerry Baker
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Harold Ash
Serving	Hayden Pierce Landon Adams
.....	Sam Gregory Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Jerry Baker
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harold Ash
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds
Other Assignments for the week of January 21 st :	
Usher	Danny Johnson/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews