

MARKET STREET

"And this 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 I

March 8, 2009

No. 10

The Reflection of Our Lives

David A. Cox

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

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty Adams(256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand(256) 233-7343
Tim Craig(256) 233-4597
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Bobby McGuire(256) 232-7887
Frank Noblitt(256) 777-0725
Stuart Wilson(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass.....(256) 233-6086

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.org

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

A mirror is a wonderful thing. It allows one to see their reflection so that adjustments in one's physical appearance can be made. The word of God is described by James as a spiritual glass in which one may look and see the reflection of their soul (James 1:22-25). The mirror of the soul reveals the origin of the soul (Genesis 2:7), the ills and imperfections of the soul (Romans 3:10, 23; Isaiah 59:1-2), and the destiny of the soul (Matthew 25:31-46). Some may refuse to look in the mirror for the soul, but our eternal destiny depends on the reflection our soul gives from the word of God. With this in mind, let's look at some ways the mirror of the soul must be used.

Frequently and Regularly – Imagine what each of us would look like if we never looked into a mirror and corrected our appearance. No one can keep up his personal appearance without frequent and the regular use of it. The same is true with the soul. We must frequently and regularly use the word of God to examine our soul's appearance. The soul, being the eternal part of man, is of greater importance than the body (Matthew 10:28). Should we not give greater attention to the soul than the body?

Skillfully – The Bible can meet the needs of every heart (2 Peter 1:3), but to do so the word of God must be used skillfully (2 Timothy 2:15). We must give ourselves wholly to studying and learning what the word of God teaches. We must take what the Bible teaches without any preconceived ideas and prejudices. The word of God stands alone and does not need the support from the creeds and works of men. Learning from the "things which were written aforetime" (Romans 15:4) concerning the purpose of the law of Moses (Galatians 3:24-25), and not bringing the law of Moses into the dispensation of Christ (Galatians 3:13; Colossians 2:14). Rather, bringing one's life into the image of Christ and the teachings of His law.

Obediently – James teaches us that if we do not use the mirror of the soul obediently, all else will be in vain (James 1:22-24). Think about what would be said about an individual that failed to make obvious cor-

rections to his physical appearance when he looks into a mirror. What does God think when one looks into the mirror of the soul and refuses to make the needed correction for his soul's well being?

Let us understand that God expects our lives to be the constant reflection of His word. People ought to be able to see us, not necessarily as perfect people, but as people that are making corrections in our lives; becoming a clearer and clearer reflection of the word of God. When the word of God is used frequently, regularly, skillfully and obediently, our lives will be a reflection of what God desires and expects (James 1:22-25).



Must I Be Baptized?

Steve Patton

Throughout Christendom baptism is looked upon as a revered part of Christian tradition. Few would want to disassociate baptism from Christianity. Most religious people realize there is great symbolism in the act. Some of the great paintings of history are of the baptism of Jesus or of John's baptizing in the Jordan. What a beautiful and meaningful act. Yet, the meaning and significance of baptism are greatly disputed. Some might become discouraged over the dissension concerning baptism. However, if you seek to please God, you will search the Scriptures to find baptism's significance and then submit to whatever God says. Let's try to put away all the traditional ideas concerning baptism and let God alone tell what it is and what it means.

"Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). This honest worshiper of God had just been taught about Christ by an evangelist named Philip. The Bible says, "And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him" (Acts 8:35). Something Philip said while preaching Jesus caused this Ethiopian to desire baptism immediately. New Testament evangelists must have preached Christ with a strong emphasis on the importance of baptism. They must have believed that Jesus wanted them to stress the urgency of baptism. Exactly what did Jesus say about it?

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All

authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...'" (Matthew 28:18-19). The reason Philip and the other New Testament evangelists attached great importance to baptism was that Jesus had said He wanted every believer to be baptized. That was enough to convince them that they needed to try to persuade every believer in Christ to be baptized. Thus, when Philip "preached Jesus", he included baptism. Other New Testament examples testify to the urgency of both the message and the response concerning baptism (Acts 2:37-41; 16:32-33). If such urgency is placed upon baptism by Jesus and His apostles and evangelists, then it must play an important role in someone coming to Christ. What significance does the Bible attach to baptism?

"And He (Jesus) said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned'" (Mark 16:15-16). Here, as Jesus charges His apostles, He identifies the role of baptism in His plan for saving man. He says that, along with belief in Him, baptism is necessary for salvation. That makes it pretty important. His followers faithfully taught the same concerning baptism. As the church began, Peter, along with other apostles, stood up and preached Christ in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and said, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Thus, they, too, taught baptism was involved in the forgiveness of sins. Later, when the apostle Paul first became a Christian, he was told, "And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16).

According to the Bible, baptism is the climactic act of obedience that puts you into Christ: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:27). Again, in Romans 6:3 Paul reminds Christians, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"

Whatever symbolism the religious world tries to attach to baptism, one conclusion is inescapable. The Bible says it is necessary for salvation or forgiveness of our sins. It could not be stated more plainly than in the

passages we have examined. Therefore, anyone who honestly seeks to please God will be baptized for the reasons stated in the Bible. If you haven't been baptized for those reasons, then I can only ask as it was asked of Paul: "Why do you delay?" Listen to the Bible, God's Word. He will not lead you wrong on this matter.

-via *The Stonegate Standard*; Port Arthur, Texas.



Tired of Being Alone?

Edwin L. Crozier

Nickelback expresses a feeling most of us have in one of their most recent releases.

*So I'll be holdin' my breath
Right up 'til the end
Until that moment when
I find the one that I'll spend forever with.
'Cause nobody wants to be the last one there.
'Cause everyone wants to feel like someone cares.
Someone to love with my life in their hands,
There's gotta be somebody for me like that.
'Cause nobody wants to go it on their own
And everyone wants to know their not alone.
There's somebody else that feels the same somewhere,
There's gotta be somebody for me out there.*

I certainly don't want to minimize the desire to be complete and have a partner who walks through life with you as a loving spouse. Clearly, the story of Adam and Eve and all the Bible says about marriage demonstrates that.

However, the problem is far too many of us are looking for that one person out there whose mere presence can provide happiness and contentment. We have the idea that if we just met the right guy or girl we could have satisfaction for life. This misunderstanding has caused most of the broken homes that exist today. Young men and women met and felt some kind of chemistry, thinking, "This is the one." Then after they were married for a time, that chemistry vanished and they believed they were mistaken. So they abandoned their spouse to search for that one special person.

Again, I know finding a good spouse is very impor-

tant. But if we are looking for that kind of contentment and fulfillment from another person, we are always going to come up short. There is only one who can provide that for us. That one is God.

Hebrews 13:5 says, "...be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (ESV). If we want true contentment, happiness, fulfillment and satisfaction, we have to find it in God. Just read the Psalms and note from where the happiness and contentment for those writers came. Their refuge was God. Their rock was God. Their comfort was God. Their security was God. Their sanctuary was God. Their self-esteem was God. Their salvation was God.

We have to quit looking for all these things from other people. They simply can't provide it for us. They will always fail and we will always be left hanging. God, on the other hand, can and will provide if we will simply let Him be our refuge and our comfort through all that life throws at us.

Are you tired of being alone? All those things you're trying to get from others, instead, try God.

-via *The Franklin Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Jerry Tucker; Athens-Limestone Hospital – ICU
Ellis Dunnivant; Athens-Limestone Hospital

At Home:

Wendell Sherbert	Annie Mae Bragg
Jerry Gilbert	Mary Norton
Carl Hargrave	June Dawson
Fay Ferguson	Martin Casteel
Yvonne Sherbert	Peggy Taylor
Benton Hardy	Jeff Waddell
Dwight Lovell	Mike Sherbert
Kennedy Pepper	Uyles Reid
Angela Green	Joe Giardina
Matt Poff	

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 108	Mary Smith, rm 85
Rosella Pugh, rm. 33	J.D. Clanton, 11E
Sarah (Jennie) Green	

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.

Jimmy Killen, at home

Reba Adams, at home

Mauvis Phillips, at home

Majorie Lambert, at home

Fred Varnell, at home

Ellis Dunnivant, at home

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are away serving in the military for our country. Those among us that are serving away from home:

Cody Brown; Iraq

LIFFORD ABERNATHY (1933 - 2009): It is with sadness that we noted the passing of brother *Lifford Abernathy*. He passed away late Wednesday night. His funeral will be this afternoon at 2:00 at the Spry Funeral Home Chapel and his burial will be in the Roselawn cemetery. He had been a member at Market Street for a number of years, but in recent months had not been able to attend services of the church. We express our deepest sympathy to all of the family in Lifford's passing.

SYMPATHY: We extend our deepest sympathy to *June Dawson* and all the family of *Mae Alesi*. She passed away on Monday and her funeral was Thursday in Moulton...Also we extend our deepest sympathy to *Gwen Bullock* and all the family in the passing of Gwen's daughter, *Debbie Cole*. She passed away on Thursday and her funeral was Saturday afternoon.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Jackson Drive church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *B. J. McGregor* is the speaker in this meeting...The *Northside church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Kasey Harbin* preaching.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of March 1st.

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 85
Morning Worship 94
Evening Worship..... 103

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 100

Remember our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Benton Ball
Serving Chris Sides Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Albert Bowers Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assingments for Sunday March 8th:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Tim Craig

Wednesday, March 11th:

Song Leader Jack Cannon
Bible Reading (Proverbs 8:22-36)
..... Landon Adams
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Rusty Brand

Sunday, March 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Steven Bradley
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Benton Ball
Serving Chris Sides Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Albert Bowers Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching Stuart Wilson
Lord's Supper Benton Ball
Closing Prayer Frank Noblitt

Other Assingments for Sunday March 15th:

Usher Tim Craig
Work Sound System Cory Nelson