

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

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

Volume I

May 3, 2009

No. 18

The Second Coming of Christ

David A. Cox

The second coming of Christ is a central theme in the New Testament. According to statistics, the second coming is mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters in the New Testament. In our religious world there is much debate and many questions concerning the second coming of Christ. Because of all the misconceptions that are taught about the second coming of Christ, let us look to the Bible to see what it has to say about the second coming and the end of time.

When Will The Time Be?

This question has intrigued some to the point that predictions have been made as to when the return of Christ would be. Dates such as 1833, 1843, 1914, 1919 and 1988 have been predicted and this list is not a complete one at all. These years have come and gone and Christ has not returned. But this does not diminish the fact of the certainty of His return. Notice what the Bible says about the time of the second coming of Christ: *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night"* (1 Thessalonians 5:2). *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;..."* (2 Peter 3:10). *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my father only"* (Matthew 24:36). It is clear from these passages that the second coming of Christ will be unannounced, so it is needless for anyone to try to predict the time or an approximation of Christ's return. We should not put our faith in any prediction that comes from man.

The Glorious Appearing of the Great God

When Christ returns, the Bible tells us that it will be glorious. As Paul tells Titus about the grace of God that teaches us how we should live says, *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13). The appearing will be glorious because when Jesus returns in the clouds everyone will see Him. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, describing the events of the second coming of Christ, says, *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God:*

and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." This glorious appearing will be announced with a shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God. Also, the Lord will return in the clouds. The clouds have always been symbolic of nobility and grandeur. Again, in Revelation 1:7 we read, "*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.*" Notice that this second appearing of Jesus will be known to all. It will not be a secret appearance that is unknown to people, but it will be observed by all.

What About Christ Coming Back To Earth?

The second coming of Christ does not include Christ setting His foot back on earth and setting up His kingdom. As 1 Thessalonians 4 and Revelation 1 mentions, Christ's return will be in the clouds. We are also told that those still living on earth will be "*caught up...in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). The second coming of Christ is not for Christ to set up His kingdom on earth. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul, discussing the fact that Christians will be raised to be with Christ, says, "*then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power*" (1 Corinthians 15:24). This verse does not mention anything about setting up a kingdom on earth, but says that Christ will give the kingdom to the Father. Christ will lay down all rule and authority which the Father has given to Him (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). When Christ returns, the dead will be raised and given bodies of immortality (1 Corinthians 15:50-53). Our hope and desire for Christ's return is not for something to happen on earth, but for that which is beyond this life and beyond this earth. Peter writes concerning our hope in Christ's second coming, "*Looking for a hastening unto the coming of the day of God wherein that heavens being on fire shall dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness*" (2 Peter 3:12-13). Peter then gives the reason of the great expectation of Christ return is for our eternal home.

We do not know when Christ will return, but it will be a glorious day if we are prepared and are in Christ. On the other hand, how fearful will the return of Christ

be for those outside of Christ. Knowing this, it should move each one of us to look at our life and compare it to the word of God. If we find that we have not obeyed the gospel of Christ according to the scriptures, then we are still in our sins and outside of Christ. In that condition, we will not enjoy that home in heaven that Christ has prepared. Let us look seriously at our lives and prepare for the second coming of Christ, so that it will be a blessing for us.

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN – 770AM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

The Walk of Life

Drew Jones

Among the many metaphors or images used for our mortal lives, the "walk" (or road or path) is one of the most common. It can also be one of the most sobering, as it reminds us that each one of us is going somewhere – making some kind of progress towards an ultimate destination. For spiritual people, the idea is a very serious consideration, if for no other reason than because the Scriptures have much to say about how we are to walk, what path we are to follow and, perhaps most importantly, who accompanies us on the way.

After describing the means by which He would chastise the Israelites for disobedience, the Lord reveals the greatest punishment of all – "*If by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to you, and I will punish yet seven times for your sins*" (Leviticus 26:23-24). The promise sounds much like the rhetori-

cal question asked by Amos (3:2-3) as he prophesies to Israel centuries later, again pledging that the Lord would punish them all their iniquities – “*Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*”

The implication is clear – if we desire the presence of our God as we travel the road of life, we must be going the direction He wants us to go, taking the steps He wants us to take, keeping the pace He wants us to keep. If we set ourselves against Him, He will set Himself against us; we must be in “agreement” with Him, with His will and His word, if we are to share the way with the Almighty.

Though Paul uses “walking” language quite a bit in his writing, one excellent place to turn to for more specific information on how this can be accomplished is the apostle’s letter to the Ephesians. From it we can observe that in order to walk in agreement with God we must:

No longer walk in sin (Ephesians 2:1-5; 4:17-24; 5:8). A Christian should be different – different from the sinful world around him, different from the man he was before deciding to follow Christ. They say, “Old habits die hard,” but die they must if we are to find accord with our Lord. The grace of God has saved us from sin, and we would be foolish to waste such love by returning to the same cesspool from which He has snatched us.

Walk in good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). The negative must be replaced by a positive – having laid aside wickedness, we must take up the challenge to do the things we were created to do. These works have no saving power, of course, but they are simply part of the path God as laid out for us before we ever came onto the scene, tasks that we may joyfully take up to show the goodness of our Creator.

Walk worthily and in love (Ephesians 4:1-3; 5:1-5) A boaster, a self-promoter, a troublemaker, a callous soul with little regard for his fellow man, one who thinks he is owned something – these are not worthy of the calling. We must recognize our own lowly state, responding to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ with all humility, and a true desire to imitate Him in every thought, word, and action.

Walk wisely (Ephesians 5:15-17). Literally, we are to be “looking around” as we walk, the better to avoid pitfalls such as moral darkness, complacency, sluggish-

ness, and stubborn self-will. Though the Christian carefully considers his surroundings and keeps his mind focused on remaining true to the given path, he also sets a brisk pace, knowing that much must be accomplished in a short amount of time. In all things, the will of God is sought, assuring ultimate wisdom.

There is only one path which leads to eternal life – it is narrow, it can be difficult, but it is attainable. How is your walk going? Who is walking with you?

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Peggy Taylor; Athens - Limestone Hospital – ICU

June Dawson; Huntsville Hospital, room 447

Evelyn Hays; Hartselle Hospital

Norman Brown; Huntsville Hospital, room 532

Matt Poff; Huntsville Hospital, CIUC

Glen Keenon; Huntsville Hospital, room 573

At Home:

Elvin Stoffregen

Brandon Craig

Polly Davis

Gilbert Hardy

Benton Hardy

Tim Melson

Jeff Waddell

Angela Green

Becky Munoz

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 Mary Smith, rm 85

Rosella Pugh, rm. 33 J.D. Clanton, 11E

Lorene Bradford, rm.117

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 Dunnavant, at home

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

- Cody Brown; Iraq
- Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan
- Joel Smith; Iraq

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: This afternoon at 4:30 will be the time for our Children's Bible Drill. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present.

NEW BABY: We rejoiced this past Monday with **Cody and Tina Brown** on the birth of their son, *Gabriel Warwick Brown*. Gabriel weighed 7 lbs. and 10 ozs. and was 20.5 inches long. We look forward to having Gabriel with us.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Our VBS is rapidly coming upon us. The dates are June 8-11, Monday through Thursday mornings at 10:00. There are some postcards and door hangers to be taken to the and used for invitations. Let's all be working diligently for the VBS and inviting all that we come in contact with.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Valley View church* west of Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Gilbert Alexander* will be the speaker...The *Weatherly Heights church* in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. *Dee Bowman* will be the speaker...The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee is beginning a meeting and it will continue through Wednesday. *Buddy Payne* will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of April 26th

Sunday:

- Bible Classes..... 120
- Morning Worship 165
- Evening Worship..... 128

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes..... 96

Vacation Bible School

June 8 -11, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

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Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 3rd:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Kenneth Smith
- Song Leader Tyler Cox
- Prayer Larry Mitchell
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Joel Hamm
- Assisting Stuart Wilson
- Serving Chris Sides Cory Nelson
- Ronnie Locke Landon Adams
- Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

- Announcements Kenneth Smith
- Song Leader Tyler Cox
- Prayer Albert Bowers
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
- Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday May 3rd:

- Usher Tim Craig
- Work Sound System Frank Noblitt

Wednesday, May 6th:

- Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
- Bible Reading (Proverbs 13:1-14)
- Danny Johnson
- Prayer Wilton Pepper
- Invitation Warren Glass
- Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Sunday, May 10th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Rusty Brand
- Song Leader Tommy Burns
- Prayer Albert Bowers
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Joel Hamm
- Assisting Stuart Wilson
- Serving Chris Sides Cory Nelson
- Ronnie Locke Landon Adams
- Closing Prayer Jimmy Usery

Evening Worship

- Announcements Rusty Brand
- Song Leader Tommy Burns
- Prayer Frank Noblitt
- Preaching Warren Glass
- Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
- Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday May 10th:

- Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
- Work Sound System Danny Johnson