

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 XV

September 24, 2023

No. 39

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

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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

"Draw Near To God"

David A. Cox

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you doubleminded." – (James 4:8).

James writes, reminding that followers of Christ will submit to God. The one who allows God to rule in their life will resist the devil and his onslaught. But to submit to God involves more than saying "no" to Satan; it involves drawing nearer to God. Resisting the devil will cause him to flee from you, but if we do not draw near to God, the devil will come with more advances to trap us. Therefore, James adds that we must also "Draw near to God." Indeed, we need a strong relationship with the Lord so that when the times of temptation come, and yes, they will come, we can rely on the strength of the Lord. Let me suggest four things to help us draw nearer to God and bolster our relationship with Him.

1. **Take Time to Pray.** To draw closer to God, one must give more time in prayer to God. Jesus taught that "men ought always to pray" (Luke 18:1). Prayer does not just happen. Each one must be determined to make an effort and to take the time to pray. As one prays, he draws closer to God. Prayer is essential if one is to remain close to God.
2. **Read and Study God's Word.** Drawing closer to God will require that one spend time reading and studying the word of God. As we get to know the mind of our Father in heaven, it will help us to be more like Him. The world does not give us this standard, but the word of God provides us with the standard and reveals the mind of God to us (John 12:48; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16). When we draw closer to God, the necessary virtues will be added to our lives (2 Peter 1:5-7). The qualities mentioned here will replace the problems that hinder spiritual growth, such as selfishness, worldliness, and a lack of commitment.
3. **Submit to God.** As we read the scriptures, let us submit ourselves to the ways of God. When you submit to God, you will resist the devil, and we can draw near to God. Submitting to God then is not

passive but active. It is not just stating, "I believe," but actively living your faith.

4. **Grow in Faith and Service.** The growth of faith does not just happen; we must advance it. If we are to grow in faith and service, one thing that we must do is to be present and involved in the assemblies of the church. The Hebrew writer is encouraging Christians to grow in faith and service. In Hebrews 10:24-25 he tells them, "to consider one another so as to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..., but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching." The writer connects the growth of faith and service to our assembling together. We must understand the value in study, prayer, teaching in song, giving and reflecting upon God's will, and His marvelous grace has upon my life, causing me to be drawn nearer to God.

Let us each resolve to draw closer to God and encourage those around us to do the same.



Saints In A Strange Setting

Randy Harshbarger

Sometimes the hard circumstances in life cause some Christians to grow tired of living the life God demands; their despair leads them to give up all together.

Persecution, peer pressure, lack of faith, opposition from family, etc., can cause some Christians to think it is impossible to fight the good fight and remain faithful. This problem is not new. Christians of the 1st century were plagued with the same obstacles Christians in the 21st century face.

Consider the Christians at Philippi. In Philippians, Paul says that you can be a Christian regardless of the circumstances in life. "Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren that are with me salute you. All the saints salute you, especially they that are of Caesar's household.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit" (4:21-23). Saints are people set apart to the Lord. With faith in Christ and His word, the Christians at Philippi demonstrated this. Roman Caesars were not known for their spirituality. Nero was an avowed enemy of Christ and His church. Yet, the Christians in Caesar's household were able to remain faithful; they even demonstrated love and concern for those in other places.

Another example of someone who stood alone is Joseph. At the hand of ungodly brothers, Joseph was sold into Egyptian slavery; he was forced to serve people who had only contempt for the God of heaven. An ungodly woman sought to lead Joseph into sin. He suffered doing right. But Joseph did not lose God's respect!

What about the three Hebrew boys who were thrown into the fiery furnace? Surely they had the right to say: "Well, everybody else is doing it!" Remember Daniel who faced certain death in the lion's den. He stood and faced the crowd with "open windows."

There are saints in Caesar's household today. In the home relationship only one mate is faithful to God and faces an uphill battle to remain faithful. Often ungodly companions present strong pressures to give up. Paul believed that women could be faithful despite their unfavorable circumstances (1 Corinthians 7:12-14). Peter says that godly wives can use their influence to convert their husbands (1 Peter 3:1-3). Christians work with those who curse and swear. The pressure to drink alcohol is strong. But many withstand this type of pressure. Men and women in military service are exposed to many temptations. Cornelius was a military man and was also dedicated to God. Young people are tempted to conform. Pressure of peers to dance, engage in drug abuse, and illicit relationships is strong.

Remember: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

We can do right if the determination is strong enough. "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

~via *Lenexa Edifer*; Lenexa, Kansas.

Remember Our Bible Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 6:30 p.m.

Helping Others

Randy Yerby

*"Outside the will of God, there's nothing I want.
Inside the will of God, there's nothing I fear."
A.W. Tozer*

1 Thessalonians 4:3...7 – "For this is the will of God, your sanctification (that we be set apart)... for God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."

The apostle Peter implores us to be holy as God is holy. Holiness starts with us modifying what our desires truly are. No longer as a follower of God should I desire those things that trap men's souls, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or to be snared by the pride of life. Instead, my desire must be to be pleasing to the God of all creation. To be bound in a loving relationship with God that defies mere words and challenges human understanding. My desire is to be set apart from this world to want nothing this world values greater than the will of God.

All of this is made possible by God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~via *Marrtown Road church of Christ*; Parkersburg, West Virginia

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Patricia Abernathy	Betty Pepper
Judy Brown	Margaret Carter
Pat Nixon	Jeanette Weir
Steve Stringer	Shirley Miller
Amy Gill	Larsen Plyler
Fredia Lowman	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Paul Adcock	Doris Lovell
Priscilla Tucker	Sharon Nave
Harvey Nixon	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Anita Wheeler

Nikki Ogles	Wynell Romine
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Lloyd Adams	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Wynell Romine
Anthony Sutton	Jerry Lawrence
Henry Fusch	Liz Fusch
Kimberly Pressnell	Tim McGuire
Monica Nelson	

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:

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

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Updates:

Paul Adcock continues to take his treatments as he is able ... **Patricia Abernathy** was released from the hospital on Tuesday afternoon and went to her daughter, Michelle's house in Huntsville ... **William Thomas** got a clear report on his heart after a few days in the hospital and is now back at Madison Manor ... **Margaret Carter** continues her recovery at her sister-in-law Dot's home ... **Sharon Nave** continues to wait on the doctor to call her in Birmingham ... **Kerry Cox's mother, Fredia Lowman**, is taking therapy on her back for her herniated disk ... **Roger Hillis**, a preacher for the Olney church in Olney, Illinois had a heart valve replacement surgery this week and the surgery went well ... Remember our expecting mother, **Lynsey Adams**, in your prayers.

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

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.

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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* is beginning a gospel meeting today, and it continues through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Donnie Rader*. . . The *Singing River church* in Florence is beginning a gospel meeting this week through Friday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Stacy Crim*.

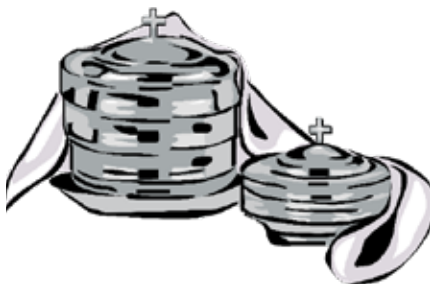
NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember we are planning to restart the singings on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 at the *Athens Senior Care and Rehabilitation*. You may have done this in the past, or you have not, but we meet and sing for about 30 to 45 minutes. The residents and rehab patients thoroughly enjoy us coming. If you can come, please do, and we will be encouraged as much as we encourage. The plans are to begin this on *Tuesday, October 10th*. Tell others about it.

CARD WRITING: A card writing group meets regularly to write and mail cards to people for appreciation and encouragement. The group will meet Monday morning at 10:30. If you would like to participate, join them in the morning.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Adcocks'* *Paul & Dale* are planning to be in Indiana this weekend. . . *Kewyn Currier* has been working this week in Daphne . . . *Heath Dollar* is working Nashville throughout the week . . . *David Cox* is in Bridgetown, Barbados this week in a meeting there.

THE RECORD: Attendance the week of September 17th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	115
	Morning Worship	141
	Evening Worship	111
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	121



Communion Preparation for October

Communion Bread — Peggy Smith
Communion Cups — Joel Hamm

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	Nathaniel Adams
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Snell
Assisting	Hunter Cox
Serving	Roger Hammonds
	Heath Dollar
	Matthew Usery.....
	Harold Davis
Closing Prayer	Hayden Pierce

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Larry Snell
Closing Prayer	Terry Andrews
Other Assignments for the week of September 24 th :	
Usher	Danny Johnson/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, September 27th:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading	Terry Andrews
	(Acts 16:1-10)
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Invitation	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Sunday, October 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Harold Ash
Preaching.....	Hunter Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Harold Davis
	Matthew Usery
	Marvin Putman
	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Bob Broadus
Preaching.....	Matt Taylor
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Christian Usery
Other Assignments for the week of October 1 st :	
Usher	Marvin Putman/Hayden Pierce
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl