

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

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No. 48

Learning To Be Content

David A. Cox

"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content." — (Philippians 4:11).

We live in a day that bombards us with how to find a fulfilled life, and it all boils down to if you just had this gadget, these clothes, or this car, etc., your life would be fulfilled and happy. The fact is that regardless of how much or how little you have, there will be times when you will have more and times when you will have less. We do not need to allow our circumstances to dictate our view of life. Instead, we need to find joy in what we have and what the Lord is doing for us. We learn what Paul had learned about being content.

Remember To Want What You Have.

The accumulation of material things can consume our time and energy in life. There is nothing inherently wrong with having things, for God blesses us with things in this life to enjoy, but when the things in life affect how we view our lives, we fail to be content. Satan appeals to these desires, knowing our drives and insecurities. Indeed, as the people of God, we must remember to want what is best for us spiritually and for the kingdom of God. It is a matter of being thankful for what you have been blessed with and using it to glorify God.

Do Not Compare Your Life With Others.

Often, we find ourselves comparing our lives with the lives of someone else. We feel we have been shorted, deprived, or in second place. Paul reminded the Corinthians about getting caught up in the trap of comparing and measuring ourselves by others (2 Corinthians 10:12). By comparing ourselves with others, we have an insatiable desire to have something someone else has that we do not have. There will be no joy or happiness until we have it. Instead, we must focus on what God has uniquely placed within us and use it to glorify Him. The one-talent man would have pleased the Lord if that had been his focus instead of the fact that he only received one talent (Matthew 25:14-30).

Accept Your Limitations.

Nobody is perfect and can do everything or have everything. The motto of the discontented is “Just a little bit more.” How many people face frustration because they are unable to accept their limitations? We want to control what we cannot control. In other words, there will be no contentment if we feel powerless or helpless. The problem is that we then will not do what we could. If there are changes we can make to overcome our limits, then make those changes, but rest assured, God can use each one of us with all our limitations. Remember the one-talent man in Matthew 25.

Paul said, “I have learned.” We must understand that contentment is a learned behavior, and we must learn it. Learning to be content, we must develop a discipline of life, strive to be all we can be, and do all we can with what we have.



The Parable of Father's Last Words

David Osteen

There were three men lying in a hospital, all terminally ill. The first man was a very wealthy and successful businessman. His family was full of bickering and infighting, and not wanting that to ruin his industry, he had called his family together in those last minutes. His final words before passing were, “I love you. Please take care of my business.” In the next room over was another man that was passing. He too had gathered his family together in his final moments. As he was talking about the few minor things that he had left behind, and realizing that his time was near, he turned to his eldest son and said, “I’m sorry I couldn’t leave you more, but I do love you. Please take care of the family.”, and he passed. Down the hall was a man who was too weak even to listen, much less speak; a poor and humble man, who knew that his time too, was quickly coming to an end. With the family in the room, they gathered there to say their final “I love you’s.” As one of the children leaned in to kiss their father on the cheek, she could hear her father say one last thing. As he gasped for final breath, he simply whispered... “Love God.”

If we have the opportunity, our last words will say a lot about us; won’t they? When you say your last goodbye; what will your last words mean? What will your life have meant to those around you?

Death, though identified with separation, (ironically) has a way of bringing people together. Whether that be on a very mundane level, such as the gathering together at a funeral, or a higher, more emotional, or spiritual level, like strengthening the bonds of brotherhood or family, the assertion generally holds true. In the parable, all the families came to the side of their father in the final hours. Though they may have lived far apart, though certainly through the years there had been some rocky times for some, when someone is dying we can tend to put those differences or disagreements behind us and be there for the one we “love.”

What the Three Fathers in the parable chose to say, said something about what they loved, didn’t it?

The First Father was concerned with industry. He was worried about what he had built. The business that he had sacrificed his time and family for, he didn’t want that to be in vain. After all; how sad would it be to sacrifice your family on the altar of “success”, only to die and have your legacy become a failure? How truly sad. How truly tragic indeed (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23). This First Father’s last words showed that he loved himself the most. It was about his business, his work, his life, his legacy... his vanity.

The Second Father was concerned about more noble things; wasn’t he? He had lived his life in such a way so as to leave his family a “little something.” I can picture this man as a guy who put family first. That is, he put time with them first. He would be at their soccer games. Take them to boy/girl scout outings. They’d go camping as a family. Take vacation together. Watch TV together. Have big family BBQ’s. Thanksgiving and Christmas would just be a riotous amount of joy and laughter. Good times. But in the end, what good was that time if that time was never spent developing his family’s relationship with God? (Luke 16:27-28). Without God, what is the point of “spending time”? It’s time you don’t have. It’s time that’s wasted if you are gaining all the time in the world, but forfeiting your eternity! (Matthew 8:36).

The Third Father. The Third Father didn’t say “I love you” like the other two did. Why not? What does

that Father's last words say about him? What do they prove about his love for his family? Does it show that he didn't really love them? On the contrary.

The greatest thing a man can do on this earth is to lead his family to love God. To lead his wife, to lead his children, to lead his nieces/nephews/in-laws/grandchildren – *Everyone* – to love God! It's the greatest service any of us can do! It's what Jesus did for us! (1 John 3:16). He showed us, He taught us, He led us... to love God!

You see, when this Third Father said "Love God!", the reality is, he was saying, "I love you." He was saying, "I love you" in the most powerful and profound way that he could. With his last words he was reminding them that loving God is what is *Most* important (Mark 12:30). With his last words, he was reminding them of what he had spent his life trying to teach them (Ephesians 6:4). With those last words, he told them what every Father needs to tell their family... *Every Day!* What every father needs to tell their family, in both deed and truth (1 John 3:18).

"Love God" – they shouldn't just be our last words, they should be our first words. We should be declaring it throughout the day in our choices, our actions, our example, and our speech. They should be first in our hearts and minds as we worship God, and as we walk in His way, and as we work for His kingdom. They should be the first words when we rise up, and before bed at night, and they should be the first words as we strive to do what's right. "Love God" – they shouldn't just be our last words, but our first.

The *Best* way to tell our kids that we love them... is to tell our kids to love God. The *Best* way to teach our kids that we love them... is to teach our kids to love God. We don't best teach our kids we love them by working hard and leaving behind a big inheritance check for them. We don't best tell our kids we love them just by spending time with them. We prove to our kids that we love them, when we prove to our kids we did what was best for them... we taught them to love God. When your days are dim, and your life is coming to a close, when it's now your time for your family to gather by your side; what will be your last words? What will those words say about you? What will those words tell your family? Whatever words they are... I hope they truly do say... "I love you."

~via *O'Connor Road church of Christ*; San Antonio, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Patricia Abernathy | Jennifer Threet |
| Judy Brown | Kenia Adams |
| Sherry Davis | Danny Holt |
| Debra Holt | Steven Bradley |
| Ann McLemore | Shelby Kirkland |
| Pat Nixon | Jeanette Weir |
| Shirley Miller | Wayne Faulk |

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Danny Johnson | Paul Adcock |
| Doris Lovell | Priscilla Tucker |
| Sharon Nave | Peggy Pepper |
| Vicki Stringer | Anita Wheeler |
| Nikki Ogles | Wynell Romine |
| Judy Vaughn | Jeanette Weir |
| Lloyd Adams | Charles Burns |
| Cindy Walker | Al Pollard |
| Wynell Romine | Anthony Sutton |
| Jerry Lawrence | Henry Fusch |
| Liz Fusch | Kimberly Pressnell |
| Tim McGuire | Monica Nelson |
| Mary Cox | Larsen Plyer |

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Sharon Nave; UAB – Birmingham
Amy Hargrave; Athens-Limestone Hospital, ICU
Roy Hargrove; St. Thomas – Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Updates:

Sherry Davis is scheduled for CT scan on Wednesday...
Sharon Nave had her surgery on Monday at UAB in Birmingham...
Larry Tucker had a colonoscopy done on Wednesday at Crestwood ...
Penny Bates is still waiting to get the word from the doctor about her thyroid...
Jennifer Threet is having trouble with her hip and has been unable to be at services...
Keith Hinkle's daughter, Amy Hargrave, is in the Athens-Limestone Hospital with fungal meningitis...
Mary Cecile Keenon's brother, Roy Hargrove, is in the St Thomas hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and is not doing well...
Remember our expectant mother, *Lynsey Adams*, in your prayers.

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 |
|---------------------|------------------|

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 Upland Park, 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: *Marilyn Bradley* has been in Houston, Texas for a funeral of a dear friend and college roommate. She came back home on Thursday... *The Hardisons: Nancy, Jaclyn & Sandra* have been in North Carolina for Thanksgiving... *The Nixon's: Harvey & Pat* are in Ohio this week for the holiday.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Lynsey Adams and all the family* in the passing of Lynsey's grandfather, *John Harbin*. The visitation and funeral service were Friday at Spry Funeral Home. He was laid to rest in the Lentzville Cemetery. May the Lord bless this family at this time.

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 soon.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: Remember the Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30 in the West Auditorium. They are beginning a new study on "*Heading for Heaven*." 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 Nov. 19th:*

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Sunday: | Bible Classes | 126 |
| | Morning Worship | 158 |
| | Evening Worship | 118 |
| Wednesday: | Bible Classes | 80 |

Communion Preparation for December

Communion Bread — Mary Cecile Keenon
Communion Cups — Marcus Morris

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 26th:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Announcements..... | Marty Adams |
| Song Leader | Hunter Cox |
| Prayer..... | Harvey Nixon |
| Preaching..... | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding..... | Larry Snell |
| Assisting | Keith Hinkle |
| Serving | Harold Davis |
| | Ronnie Locke |
| | Christian Usery |
| | Matthew Usery |
| Closing Prayer | Danny Holt |

Evening Worship

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Marty Adams |
| Song Leader | Tommy Burns |
| Prayer..... | Landon Adams |
| Preaching..... | Song Service |
| Lord's Supper | Larry Snell |
| Closing Prayer | Bob Broadus |
| Other Assignments for the week of November 26 th : | |
| Usher | Hayden Pierce/Tommy Coblentz |
| Work Sound System..... | Larry Holt |

Wednesday, November 29th:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Song Leader | Clayton Hamm |
| Bible Reading..... | Tommy Coblentz |
| | (Acts 19:21-41) |
| Prayer..... | Stephen Lynn |
| Invitation..... | Hayden Pierce |
| Closing Prayer | Kenneth Smith |

Sunday, December 3rd:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Albert Haraway |
| Song Leader | Stephen Lynn |
| Prayer..... | Larry Tucker |
| Preaching..... | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding..... | Harold Ash |
| Assisting | Tony Thomas |
| Serving | Charles Parks..... |
| | Larry Mitchell |
| | Roger Hammonds... Hayden Pierce |
| Closing Prayer | Frank Melton |

Evening Worship

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Announcements..... | Albert Haraway |
| Song Leader | Griffin Holt |
| Prayer..... | Tommy Coblentz |
| Preaching..... | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | Harold Ash |
| Closing Prayer | Tommy Burns |
| Other Assignments for the week of December 3 rd : | |
| Usher | Sam Gregory/Clayton Hamm |
| Work Sound System..... | Russ Wulfekuhl |