

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

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No. 45

To Live Is Christ, To Die Is Gain

David A. Cox

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21).

As Paul is writing the letter to the church at Philippi, he is in prison, and things do not look good for Paul. The life of service Paul lived as a Christian was difficult and growing even more difficult. Paul writes this letter to the church to reassure and encourage them that despite the circumstances he was experiencing and things he was yet to experience, all is well. In this letter, Paul spends much of it focusing on Jesus Christ. The words "for to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" seem to be the philosophy of Paul's life. Let us consider what Paul is teaching in this verse.

To Live Is Christ

Paul is making it clear that his life as a child of God was a life lived for the glory and honor of Christ. What hope did Paul have outside of Christ? All Paul would have is life in the flesh. Paul declares later in this letter that the things that were a gain for him in the flesh were only rubbish (Philippians 3:7-8). The life that is of any lasting value is the life that is life in Christ. Why is that the case? Because to live separated from Christ is to live with no hope. Life with all the tragedies, sicknesses, diseases, calamities, and chaos is all there is. How much the focus on life needs to be on Christ! Living the life that Jesus left us an example to follow. To live in this life to have hope for something better. It is that point Paul is emphasizing.

To Die Is Gain

In emphasizing the better life, live in Christ says, "to die is gain." To consider dying a gain is when one considers what Christ has done to redeem and save man. It is because Paul remembered the sacrifice for himself and gladly served, even to the point of being ready to die in the Lord's service. Paul understood that death is not the end. Rather, it was going to "be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:23). For the Christian, could there be anything better to live looking forward to? The answer is no. Only in Christ will one find peace, joy, and hope that will

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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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

not change based on the circumstances one is living in.

May each one live with the attitude of the apostle Paul, "To live is Christ, and to die is gain."



Do You Know the Value of a Soul?

Larry Jones

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth'" (Genesis 1:26). "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). All that God created was good, and that includes man whom He created in His image. He created man with a spirit that will live on, with a moral nature that can reason and freely choose to follow Him and to come into fellowship with Him. Every soul is of great value because man was made in the image of God.

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8). Every soul is of great value because Christ died so that every soul could have the opportunity to be saved!

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:4-7). I'm too far gone to be saved by Jesus, someone thinks.

Nonsense! The importance of every soul to Jesus, along with the rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents, tells us of the great value of one soul.

"When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:34-37) Every soul is of great value because even if a person could gain the whole world, it would not be worth losing his soul!

So many today do not know the value of their soul. They walk in darkness without direction and purpose. But man was created in the image of God! Christ died for all! Heaven rejoices over one soul that repents! Nothing gained in the world, not even the whole world gained, is worth one's soul! While some are willingly ignorant of these truths, our prayer is that God would give us opportunity to teach these truths to those who will hear. When you see someone outside of Christ, do you see a soul to try to save? Remember the value of a soul!

~via *Think On These Things*; Moscow, Idaho.



"Who Is Master Over Us?"

Jason Hardin

The Bible's message is plain: the One who created and sustains us is our master. When we carelessly forget, willfully ignore, or arrogantly reject God, life does not improve.

Consider the brief testimony of Psalm 12. As people created in God's image turn away from their Creator, what happens? The wicked prowl. Vileness is exalted. Lies are told. Double hearts fuel flattering lips. The poor are plundered. The needy are made to groan. And what

is the root of this sad swirl of unrighteousness? It can all be traced back to this fundamental question: "Who is master over us?" (12:4). When we ignore the Bible's answer and boastfully act as if we are our own, life does not improve. Relationships are damaged. Strangers suffer. We cut our own selves off from the Source of life, joy, and hope.

But in the middle of the ugliness documented in Psalm 12 is a simple reminder worth carrying with you this week.

*The words of the LORD are pure words,
like silver refined in a furnace on the ground,
purified seven times. (12:6)*

In an impure world, God's words are pure. Let's focus on them today. Let's fuel-up our hearts by singing them and meditating on them together. Let's receive them with open Bibles and eager hearts. Let's speak them in love to each other. Let's use them to comfort the weary, strengthen the weak, and heal the broken.

There are plenty of things we can't undo and situations we won't be able to change this week. But we can remind ourselves on this, the Lord's day, who the master truly is. We can resolve to practice and abide in his words, doing justice, loving kindness, walking humbly with our God, trusting that his way is the way.

He is the master. His words are pure. Let's rejoice in them and him today.

~via *Charlestown Road Bulletin*; Albany, Indiana.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Patricia Abernathy	Bonita Dollar
Jennifer Threet	Shelby Kirkland
Pat Nixon	Jeanette Weir
Shirley Miller	Amy Gill
Larsen Plyler	Lance McGuire

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Danny Johnson	Paul Adcock
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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	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Wayne Faulk; Ardmore Nursing-Rehabilitation

Updates:

Bob Broadus is scheduled to have surgery on his foot on Tuesday ... **Dale Adcock** received a good report from her test done this week regarding blood pressure issues. She is to see her heart doctor in Huntsville this week ... **Declan Adams** had his tonsils and adenoids removed on Wednesday ... **Patricia Abernathy** had a pacemaker implanted on Wednesday in Huntsville... **Paul Adcock** continues to take his treatments for his prostate cancer. ... **Sharon Nave's** surgery at UAB is scheduled for November 20th... **Marcia Thomas' nephew Lance McGurie**, received a good report this week from his cancer doctor and will not require any further treatments due to it not being spread. He is still recovering ... **Jackie Cox's daughter-in-law, and my sister-in-law, Mary Cox**, had a PET scan done on Thursday and will be getting the results on Monday... 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	Auteen Campbell, rm. 96
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; Goldton in 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

CARD WRITING: There is a card writing group that 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: *Kevyn Currier* has been working again this week in Mobile...*Sbelia Holt* is back home after being in Washington D.C. with her work...*The Snells: Larry & Louise* are in Memphis, Tennessee this week...*The Farris': Larry & Courtney* are in Nashville, Tennessee for a wedding for Courtney's brother.

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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Westview church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Greg Chandler*... There will be a gospel meeting at the *New Georgia church* in Lauderdale county beginning today and continuing through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Shawn Chancellor*... The *Helton Drive church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Josh Welch*.

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 October 29th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	148
	Morning Worship	176
	Evening Worship	120
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	93



Communion Preparation for November

Communion Bread — Heather Cox
 Communion Cups — Danny Holt

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Jerry Baker
 Song LeaderTommy Burns
 Prayer..... Hunter Cox
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 ServingSam GregoryMatthew Vaughn
Luke Vaughn Danny Johnson
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Jerry Baker
 Song LeaderClayton Hamm
 Prayer..... Marty R. Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's SupperTommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Terry Andrews
 Other Assignments for the week of November 5th:
 Usher Larry Mitchell/Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

Wednesday, November 8th:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Bible Reading..... Roger Hammonds
 (Acts 18:18-28)
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Invitation..... Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer Bob Broadus

Sunday, November 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Clayton Adams
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Hunter Cox
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 ServingAlbert Haraway Harold Davis
 Nathaniel Adams..... Heath Dollar
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Christian Usery
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Hunter Cox
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris
 Other Assignments for the week of November 12th:
 Usher Danny Johnson/Hayden Pierce
 Work Sound System..... Russ Wulfekuhl