

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

Volume XV

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No. 49

Dealing With Bitterness

David A. Cox

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice" — (Ephesians 4:31).

Paul enumerates sins that often will find their way to the hearts and lives of people. Bitterness is the first sin that Paul mentions. It is the first step that will lead to the other sins he mentions. Bitterness is like a slow poison; it will begin with some hurt or sin one suffers and will continue until it saps the joy and goodness from life. What can one do to protect oneself from the destruction of bitterness and the life of sin it leads to?

Remember, God Requires Forgiveness.

Many things in life will bring disappointment and hurt. People will do something that will cause us to suffer emotionally, physically, and spiritually. When times like this come, we need to remember God requires forgiveness. Paul states, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). Forgiveness is the key to fighting and overcoming bitterness.

We Are To Forgive Because We Are Forgiven.

Someone may say, "That is not fair! You do not understand the hurt they caused me." Stop and think for a minute. Did Jesus suffer undeserved hurt from others? Was it fair that Jesus died on the cross? Remember, Jesus had no sin. Remember, as Jesus is hanging on the cross, and those who have put Him there are reviling and mocking Him, Jesus says, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). Yes, we may not understand the hurt. Still, Jesus does, and He gave us an example of the forgiving spirit we are to have. We are to forgive them as God forgave us. They may not change, and they will answer to the Lord for themselves, but we will answer for the bitterness we have in our hearts and the lack of a forgiving spirit.

Remember, Bitterness Is A Choice.

In overcoming bitterness, we must remember that we have a choice on

how we deal with the hurt and disappointments others have caused us. We cannot control many things, but our attitude is the one thing we can control. It is our choice as to what we will do about it. You can allow bitterness to linger in your mind and allow it to frustrate and cripple your ability to let the light of Christ be seen in your life. Or, you can effectively put it behind you and rid yourself of it. You can pray about it and focus on other thoughts (Philippians 4:8). The choice is up to you. It will be work, and you will have many opportunities to fall back into bitterness, but you can overcome it with the Lord's help (Philippians 4:13).

May we deal with our bitterness in a way that produces the mind and heart of Christ in us. In doing so, we can experience the joy in Christ and ultimately enjoy the hope we live for.



"The Roof Will Collapse"

Larry Schneider

Growing up, my grandfather always told me that he could not come to church with us because, if he did, "The roof would collapse" on everybody. He told me that he had done many things that made God mad. As a young child, I accepted that and wondered what he had done that was so bad. As I grew older and obeyed the Gospel, I began to study more of God's Word and the people in the Bible.

I wondered! Had my grandfather committed adultery with a married woman, and then killed her husband in an attempt to cover it up? David did that, but he is remembered as "a man after God's own heart" (2 Samuel 11 and 12).

Did my grandfather imprison Christians and have them killed? Saul of Tarsus did that but later became the Apostle Paul (Acts 22:3-4).

Did he forsake Paul and Barnabas as John Mark did on the first missionary journey? Paul later writes, "Mark is profitable to me for ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11).

Did my grandfather burn babies to idols and worship

idols like King Manasseh did? Yet near the end of his life, he humbled himself and repented. God had mercy on him and delayed judgment (2 Chronicles 33:1-13).

Was he like the "Prodigal Son" who squandered his money with sinful living and ended up eating slop with the pigs? Yet, it says that he "came to himself" and repented. His father welcomed him home. (Luke 15)

It is not what you have done. It is, "Will you repent?" When you repent and come back to God and obey his commandments, He will always be there. His goodness and His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 100:5, Psalm 103: 17, Ephesians 2:4-5)

"The roof will not collapse" on you. It did not on David, Paul, John Mark, King Manasseh, or the prodigal son. God welcomes His children home when they repent, obey His commandments, and return to Him. Never think that you are so bad that God will not welcome you home.

~via *Plainfield church of Christ*; Plainfield, Indiana.



The Way Paul Preached

Robert F. Turner

Soon after Paul had established the cause of Christ in Galatia, Judaising teachers appeared and began their work of destruction. They insisted that Gentiles must be circumcised, must come to Christ via a Jewish route of law; and in their effort to overcome the truth Paul had taught they questioned his apostleship. Paul defended his apostleship to establish the divine source of his message. We here note only the variety and nature of his appeal — the way Paul preached.

There was absolutely no toleration of "another gospel," even if an angel should preach it (Galatians 1:8-9). Nor could its principles be compromised, even by another apostle (Galatians 2:11-14). But strong, hard preaching and emotional appeals were not incompatible. He compared his early work with them to a woman in birth pains, suffering much to bring them to Christ. Now, "I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (Galatians 4:19). He reminded them of their apprecia-

tion for his early effort, saying, "If it had been possible ye would have plucked out your eyes, and have given them to me" (Galatians 4:15). That is a heart wringer!

He could become upset with them: "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you" (Galatians 3:1); but it is concern for their spiritual well-being that disturbed him. "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years" (as religious ceremonies); so he says, "I am afraid of you" (Galatians 4:11) and "I stand in doubt of you" (Galatians 4:20). This was the concern of genuine love.

But for those who brazenly contradicted the principles of the gospel Paul had some strong words. He said they were proselyting for the sake of numbers, and their own glory (Galatians 6:12-f). They "desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh." Perhaps his sharpest criticism is the irony of Galatians 5:12, "I would they were even cut off which trouble you." They preach a little cutting; I wish they were completely cut off.

Here is love, warning, concern, exasperation, tender appeal, fear and trembling, harshness, prayer, blood and thunder. Here is a genuine soldier of the cross; a man of flesh whose heart's desire was to serve the Christ; an example for us all.

~via *Eastside church of Christ*; Bowling Green, Kentucky

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Jennifer Threet	Ann McLemore
Jewel Dean Kennemer	Angela Vaughn
Priscilla Tucker	Matthew Vaughn
Luke Vaughn	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

Updates:

Sherry Davis had a CT scan on Wednesday and will be going to the doctor on Monday for the results... **Sbaron Nave** is at home recovering from her surgery last week in Birmingham... **Larry Snell** had out-patient surgery on Tuesday on his ear ... **Jennifer Threet** is having trouble with her hip and has been unable to be at services... 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
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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

OUTOFTOWN: **Christian Usery** has been in Orlando, Florida this past week... **The Ashes:** **Harold & Barb** have been in Gulf Shores this week.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Mary Cecile Keenon** and all the family in the passing of Mary Cecile's brother, **Roy "Sonny" Hargrove**. He passed away on Wednesday in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The visitation and funeral service will be Monday at Ephesus church of Christ, where he attended services in his early years. The visitation will 11:00 to 1:00. The funeral will be at 1:00. He will be laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. May the Lord bless this family at this time... We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Keith & Angie Hinkle** and all the family in the passing of Keith's daughter, **Amy Hargrove**. The visitation and

funeral service were Friday at Spry Funeral Home. He was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. May the Lord bless this family at this time... We also want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Marvella Adams and all the family* in the passing of Marvella's uncle, *Billy Mitchell*. He passed away last Saturday and his visitation and funeral were Thursday at Limestone Chapel. He was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

BIBLE CLASSTEACHERS: We are nearing the end of the 4th quarter and the end of the year. This means that a new quarter will begin next month. If you are interested in teaching a class or helping to teach a class you could be a great help for our teacher's rotation in the Bible classes. If you are interested, see *Danny Holt*, who schedules our teachers, let me know of your desire to teach.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Holland's Gin church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speakers in this meeting will be: *Sunday morning – Jonathan Bragwell; Sunday evening – Kasey Harbin; Monday – Jamie Persell; Tuesday – Jeff Henderson; Wednesday – Steve Klein.*

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. 26th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	139
	Morning Worship	160
	Evening Worship	110
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	95



Communion Preparation for December

Communion Bread — Mary Cecile Keenon
Communion Cups — Russ Wulfekuhl

Men Privileged To Serve:

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	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblenz
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

Wednesday, December 6th:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading.....	Kenneth Smith
.....	(Acts 20:1-16)
Prayer.....	Matthew Uesery
Invitation.....	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Keith Hinkle

Sunday, December 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Prayer.....	Albert Haraway
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Jerry Baker
Assisting	Larry Holt
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl Sam Gregory
.....	Landon Adams Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Jerry Baker
Closing Prayer	Marty R. Adams
Other Assignments for the week of December 10 th :	
Usher	Larry Snell/Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews