

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

December 17, 2023

No. 51

The Second Coming of Christ

David A. Cox

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" — (2 Peter 3:10).

Many are intrigued with the question, "When is Christ returning?" The news is filled about the war in the Middle East, and people begin to question, "Is now the time?" Books are sold, and movies that give many ideas not found in scripture are produced. Through the years, many have debated and predicted the time Jesus would return. Let us consider briefly things the scriptures teach us about Jesus' second coming.

A Day Is Coming, and No One Knows The Day.

In 2 Peter 3:10, Peter declares a day is coming when Jesus will return. He will come "as a thief in the night." Paul describes the second coming in the same way, "For you, yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). As Jesus is answering the questions His disciples ask about the second coming said, "But of that day and hour no one knows, 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. There is no warning of the time it will occur.

The Appearance of Christ.

When Christ returns, the Bible tells us that it will be glorious. Paul speaks about how we should live, saying, "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). As John pens the Revelation, he says, "Behold He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him" (Revelation 1:7). Paul describes the events of Christ coming to the Thessalonians writes, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who 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” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Jesus speaking of His return said, “all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29). The appearance of Christ will be glorious, and every eye will see Him when He returns. Everyone in the graves will be raised from the dead to face judgment. There will be no secret return where some are taken, and others are left.

The Kingdom of Christ Will Be Given To God.

The second coming of Christ is not for Christ to set up His kingdom on earth. Paul speaks of the kingdom at Christ’s coming and says, “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God, even the Father, when He puts down all rule and authority which the Father has given to Him” (1 Corinthians 15:24). The verse says nothing about setting up a kingdom. As a matter of fact, the kingdom and the rule of Christ are now in effect (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). The return of Christ is not for a hope for something to be done on earth. It will be the end of the earth (2 Peter 3:12-13). Instead, the hope in Christ’s return is for our eternal home in heaven where righteousness dwells.

We do not know when Christ will return, but it will be a glorious day if we are in Christ. On the other hand, how fearful will the return of Christ be for those outside of Christ? Knowing this should cause each of us to look at our lives and compare them with what the scriptures teach. If we find things lacking in our lives, then correct those things so that the second coming of Christ will be a blessing for us.



How God Meets Our Greatest Need

Matthew H. Allen

In Luke 15, Jesus explores human sinfulness and divine redemption through a series of parables that not only illustrate our fallibility but also demonstrates the redemptive nature of the deity. The chapter is a masterful exposition of how Jesus, the Spirit, and God the Father each play a crucial role in our salvation.

Jesus: The Seeking Shepherd

Jesus defined his mission in His own words: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep, John 10:11. It is further defined in Luke 19:10, where Jesus clearly defines His primary purpose as being a Savior. He came to seek and save the lost. This role transcends His acts of healing, teaching, or performing miracles. Jesus primarily came for the purpose of rescue and salvation. As stated in 1 Timothy 1:15, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, with Paul acknowledging his own need for this salvation. Jesus is the great shepherd who relentlessly seeks out the lost sheep, demonstrating total commitment to rescue and care for the lost and the fallen.

The Spirit: The Illuminator

The parable of the lost coin, also found in Luke 15, reveals another aspect of the divine character — the illuminating nature of the Spirit. While the Son rescues, the Spirit reveals. This is in the parable by the woman who lights a candle and sweeps her house in search of the lost coin. The Spirit works in a similar way within us, disturbing and rearranging our inner lives to make room for God’s love and character. Through the Word, the Spirit acts as a light, illuminating the darkest parts of our hearts with the truth of the gospel.

The Father: The Receiver of the Lost

Perhaps the most touching story in Luke 15 is that of the prodigal son. This parable demonstrates the receiving nature of the Father. Despite his son’s waywardness and sin, the father’s love remains steadfast. When the son returns, admitting his faults and prepared to be treated as a lowly servant, the father instead runs to him, embracing and kissing him. This act of love is a powerful representation of God’s nature to receive and forgive, regardless of our transgressions. The father’s actions - dressing his son in a robe, giving him shoes, and

a ring - symbolize restoration, authority, and sonship.

The Inclusive Invitation

These parables in Luke 15 collectively demonstrate a powerful message of divine love and redemption. God, through the roles of the Son, the Spirit, and the Father, meets our every need, rescuing, revealing, and receiving us back into His fold. This message is summarized in the universal invitation extended to all, as found in John 6:37, "Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out," and in Revelation 22:17, which beckons all to come and partake in the water of life freely.

God wants to meet our deepest need for salvation, love, and acceptance. No matter how far we stray, the path back to God is always open, illuminated by His word, and marked by His unconditional love and forgiveness.

~via *Cornerstone church of Christ*; Centerville, Ohio.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Larry Holt	Larry Tucker
Ann McLemore	Jennifer Threet
Kenia Adams	Jay Baker
Margaret Carter	Shelby Kirkland
Pat Nixon	Jeanette Weir
Shirley Miller	Wayne Faulk

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

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

Updates:

Penny Bates received word from the doctor that the growth below the right and the growth on the left side of the thyroid will need to be seen by a specialist in Nashville or Birmingham... **Sherry Hasting** is making improvements in her bout with shingles... **Sherry Davis** is waiting for her appointment with doctor for her heart surgery and perhaps an arteriogram to determine the blockages she might have... **Dan Lovell** will be having back surgery after the new year ... **William Thomas** was diagnosed with pneumonia this past week ... **Sue Thomas' daughter, Amy Gill**, had her surgery this past week and is at home recovering... **Taylor Gregory's aunt, Monica Nelson**, had a scan on Monday for her cancer. The scan was clear and surgery is planned to be followed by radiation... 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
Betty Howard, rm. 109	

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

OUTOFTOWN: The Curriers: Kevyn & Mary Glenna are in Monterey, California this week. They are there for Keenon's graduation from the language school. They will return home tomorrow... **The Coblenz's: Tommy & Marcella** are in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this week ... **Brenda Eden** is back after being out of town. **The Nixons: Harvey & Pat** are back home after being in Jonesboro, Arkansas with Pat's family for Christmas.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Penny Bates and all the family** in the passing of Penny's brother, **Perry Adams**. He passed away on Saturday at St. Thomas in Nashville. He was an organ donor and was cremated and there will not be a memorial. May the Lord bless this family at this time... We want to express

our deepest sympathy to *Helen Blankenship and all the family* in the passing of Helen's son, *Dennis Craig*. He passed away early Sunday morning. The visitation and funeral were on Wednesday at Mt. Zion Baptist church in Madison. May the Lord bless Helen and all the family at this time... We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Joyce McGlocklin and all the family* in the passing of Joyce's nephew, *Buddy Romine*. He passed away last Saturday morning. The visitation and funeral were on Tuesday at Spry Funeral Home. He was laid to rest in the Higgins Cemetery. May the Lord bless Joyce and all the the family at this time.

BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS: The new quarter will begin the first Sunday in January, and teaching schedules need to be completed. If you are interested in teaching a class, or helping in teaching a class in our teacher's rotation in the Bible classes, please see *Danny Holt*, who schedules our teachers, and let him know of your desire to teach.

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: The singing on Tuesday evening at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care has been suspended temporarily. The plan is to resume the singings on January 9th.

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 Dec. 10th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	124
	Morning Worship	149
	Evening Worship	110
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	108



Communion Preparation for December

Communion Bread — Mary Cecile Keenon
 Communion Cups — Russ Wulfekuhl

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Snell
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Clayton Hamm
 Assisting Tommy Coblentz
 Serving Marvin Putman Tommy Burns
 Charles Vaughn Danny Holt
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Snell
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Christian Usery
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Clayton Hamm
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris
 Other Assignments for the week of December 17th:
 Usher Matthew Usery/Stephen Lynn
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

Wednesday, December 20th:

Song Leader Griffin Holt
 Bible Reading..... Frank Melton
 (Acts 21:1-14)
 Prayer..... Clayton Hamm
 Invitation..... Christian Usery
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Sunday, December 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Albert Haraway
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Danny Johnson Heath Dollar
 Sam Gregory Matthew Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Albert Haraway
 Closing Prayer Harold Ash
 Other Assignments for the week of December 24th:
 Usher Hunter Cox/Joel Hamm
 Work Sound System..... Russ Wulfekuhl