

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

February 26, 2023

No. 9

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

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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

Following After Righteousness and Mercy

David A. Cox

"He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor." — (Proverbs 21:21).

Many believe that being right is more important than mercy. While others say that mercy far outweighs being right. The wise man, Solomon, declares that true wisdom will balance these two things together. It will be seen in striving to do right at all times and in every situation but just as eager to extend mercy to those who are hurting and need it. Let us consider how to follow or pursue righteousness and mercy.

Follow After Righteousness. To follow righteousness means that we are earnestly seeking after Christ. We pursue Christ over the things of life. Our focus in every situation in life is upon what Christ would do or how we can honor Christ by what we do. In other words, we follow His righteousness and live the way God desires us to live. We understand the life we are living is a life that Christ is living through (Galatians 2:20). Therefore, we follow His plan, His way, and His word. We pattern our footsteps by the example Christ showed us in His life.

Follow After Mercy. To follow after mercy is to be sympathetic, tender, responsive, and compassionate. Jesus taught us to "be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36). We see God, our Father, as sympathetic, tender, responsive, and compassionate. As we follow or pursue mercy, we should let the reflection of God's compassion pour out from our hearts and action toward others. Mercy will cause us to respond to situations in life differently than a heart with mercy absent. The heart of compassion and mercy will cause us to be kind, forgiving, and loving.

Righteousness and Mercy Finds Life, Righteousness, and Honor. Interestingly, righteousness and mercy will find the blessings that God has promised. It is more than just being right. Neither is it just having mercy. It is having both righteousness and mercy. Jesus tried to teach the Jews in His day about this fact. The Pharisees were very exacting and strict with their adherence to the Law. However, they fail in mercy.

An example of Jesus teaching them is in Luke 18. The Pharisee and the tax collector prayed at the temple. The Pharisee prayed and extolled all the virtues of his life but failed to be moved by the desperation of the guilt the tax collector was feeling. Jesus tells us the tax collector, “standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God be merciful to me a sinner!’ (Luke 18:13). Jesus says the tax collector went to his house justified, not the Pharisee. The Pharisee failed to see his need for mercy and failed to show any mercy too. Therefore, he would not find life, righteousness, and honor.

Let each one of us follow righteousness and mercy. Let us look to Christ and surrender our hearts and ways entirely to Him. Let Christ rule and reign over our hearts, then God will grant us life and honor.



Show Me Your Friends

Andrew Roberts

The Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes wrote, “Tell me what company thou keepest, and I’ll tell thee what thou art.” Cervantes was not a prophet, he simply understood the strong influence friends exert over our lives. You can tell a lot about a person by the company they keep. Scripture brings this truth to light.

Show me your friends ...

And I’ll show you your religious convictions. David wrote, “I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts” (Psalm 119:63). Our companions will help or hinder us in letting our light shine, doing good works, devotion to God and in getting to heaven. We ought to be concerned if we realize all our close friends are either godless or involved in false religion.

And I’ll show you your favorite activities. “Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man in rags”

(Proverbs 23:19-21). We do things with our friends. Obviously, we do not choose friends so we can **avoid** them. We want to spend time with them and generally pursue common interests. Are you involved with the party-hard, drunken, drug-using crowd? Well, guess what that makes you.

And I’ll show you your feelings about proper speech. “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise” (Proverbs 10:19). Some people’s mouths are a hotbed for sin: gossip, profanity, anger, criticism. Let us remember, “Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

What Do Your Friends Say About You?

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



They Call It Hate

Terry W. Benton

Calling something “sin” that separates you from God and the righteous is the modern “hate speech.” But the truth is that pointing out sin is love. It is like a doctor pointing out cancer. It may not be what we want to hear, but it is what we need to hear so that we can get it properly addressed and save us from the pain and misery of what untreated cancer can do to us.

If I point out that there are two genders, not three, four, or ten, that is not hate speech. That is truth! God made us “male and female” (Genesis 1-2). That is all! It is hateful to try to force us to recognize a third classification. God has the say! He made males and females. He expects us to accept what we are and be thankful to Him for who we are. We do not pretend to be other than what our birth shows that we are. If the baby has no choice, we have no right to change how God made us. God’s word talks about those “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie” (Romans 1:25) and then they pursue “vile passions” and “exchanged the natural use for what is against nature” (v. 26, 27). Thus, the homosexual movement and the transgender movement and bisexual movement is built on lies people tell themselves. After convincing themselves of the lie that we can over-rule

nature and God, they then expect the rest of humanity to play into their self-deception and give them approval. Romans 1:32 says giving "approval" is also sin. The modern deception hates any religion that will point out sin. The only sin to this modern philosophy is if you call something a sin that should not be approved. To us it is like doctors approving of cancer. Sin is a cancer of the soul, the mind, the heart. It either entirely rejects God or tries to make God in their own image, that is, they want only a god that accepts any sin that we accept. They call their imagined god "loving" because he never disapproves of us. They call any disapproval "hate," and will not be satisfied with you ever telling the truth. If the pattern holds up that we are seeing, they will remove articles like this, or shut down churches that continue to read Romans 1 or 1 Corinthians 5-6. They hate the truth and truth-tellers. Jesus said, "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed" (John 3:20).

There is the old philosophy that "there is no truth." Pilate asked "what is truth?" He didn't want to face the truth. People pretend there is no truth because they hate the truth. Truth is needed in our day. People need to hear it. Love shares the truth so that people can get back in a right relationship with God. Truth is not hate. Truth is love. It uncovers the cancer of self-deception. It uncovers those issues of departure from holiness and fellowship with God. The greatest life is in harmony and fellowship with God. Teaching about how and why to be reconciled to God is what love demands. That should never be allowed to be called hate.

~via *Sowers with Swords*; Springfield, Missouri.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Joe Hinkle	Harper Parks
Mitzi Carruth	Phillip Vaughn
Roger Hammonds	Steve Stringer
Helen Blankenship	James Adams
Shirley Miller	Betty Lovell
Doris Lovell	Keith Holt
Buzz Lovell	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Sharon Nave	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Doris Reid	Lloyd Adams
Charles Burns	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Sadricia Wilson
Wynell Romine	Anthony Sutton
Jerry Lawrence	Barbara Piper
Henry Fusch	Liz Fusch
Kimberly Pressnell	Tim McGuire

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
 Brenda Wilson, rm. 77 Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
 Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Marie Nave, rm. 84a Alice Roberson, rm. 49
 Ann Bush, rm. 75

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Goldton at Athens
 Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
 Irene Inman; at home
 Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Stan Stanford; Goldtron at Athens
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Bill Lewis; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 293

Updates:

Harper Parks had her tonsils and adenoids out on Tuesday... *Mitzi Carruth* is to have back surgery scheduled on Monday at Athens-Limestone Hospital... *Steve Stringer* is at home with hospice to assist them... *Kewyn Currier* had a stress test done this past Wednesday and will need further tests... Remember our expecting mother, *Laura Adams*, in your prayers.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible Drill this afternoon at 4:45 before our evening service. I hope all of 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.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Ashes:* Harold & Barb have been at Orange Beach but are now back home.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Marcella Falls church* in Ethridge, Tennessee, is to begin a meeting Friday, and it will continue through Sunday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Seth Mauldin*.

NEW BABY: This past Wednesday morning at 2:14, *Lucas Samuel Cox* made his initial appearance at the Huntsville Women's and Children's Hospital. Lucas weighed 7 lbs and 14 ozs., and he was 21 inches long. Lucas is now home with his parents, *Hunter and Heather*, and his big brother, *Beckett*.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SINGING: We had our Eleventh Annual Singing this past Friday night. This year's song leaders were *Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Tim Stevens*. The singing was excellent, as it always has been, and visitors from many places joined us. I appreciate all the work that so many of you did, from helping with parking, seating, inviting, and many other ways. The singing was recorded again this year, both video and audio recordings. If you would like a recording, please fill out a Member's Card and tell us what kind of recording and the number of recordings you would like. Leave the Member's Card in the holder at the end of the pew next to the aisle.

STEVENS WITH US: We are glad to have *Tim & Vicki Stevens* with us today. Tim was with us Friday night and then worked with our song leaders to lead our worship in song. Tim will speak to us during the Bible Class and Morning worship. We look forward to the time we have together today.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Feb. 19th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	132
	Morning Worship	154
	Evening Worship	114
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	94



Vacation Bible School

June 26-29, 2023 -- 10:00 a.m.

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Harvey Nixon
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Preaching.....	Tim Stevens
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Holt
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Heath Dollar
	Luke Vaughn
	Matthew Vaughn.....
	Hayden Pierce
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Harvey Nixon
Song Leader	Tim Stevens
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Larry Holt
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt
Other Assignments for the week of February 26 th :	
Usher	Tommy Coblentz/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl

Wednesday, March 1st:

Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Danny Johnson
	(Acts 5:33-42)
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Invitation.....	Larry Snell
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Sunday, March 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Danny Johnson.....
	Ronnie Locke
	Hayden Pierce
	Matthew Utery
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Griffin Holt
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Bob Broadus
Other Assignments for the week of March 5 th :	
Usher	Tommy Coblentz/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt