

MARKET STREET



"And this 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 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Albert Bowers (256) 233-4847
Jerry McGlocklin (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith (256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty Adams (256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand (256) 233-7343
Tim Craig (256) 233-4597
Joel Hamm (256) 230-6223
Bobby McGuire (256) 232-7887
Frank Noblitt (256) 777-0725
Stuart Wilson (256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass (256) 233-6086

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.org

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume I

June 14, 2009

No. 24

When The Going Gets Tough

David A. Cox

Life has its good, happy and easy moments, but there are times in life when life get tough. When that happens what are you to do? Do you think that when times get hard and rough, that you should take a detour? Many times people do. They just seem to think that since times are hard that everyone can understand if they take a break for a while. However, the scriptures do not teach such. As a matter of fact it teaches just the opposite.

The Example of Job

If anyone ever had a tough period of life, it was Job. Job was a man of integrity. God even asked Satan if he had noticed the faithfulness of Job (Job 1:8). Satan responds by accusing God of blessing Job with so much prosperity and ease of life that he had no reason to be unfaithful. Satan proposes that if the life of Job was cursed (made hard and rough) that he would turn away from faithfully serving God. So God told Satan to do as he desired, but not to harm Job physically. So Job's life was plagued with many hardships and tragedies. Job lost all his livestock, and a windstorm demolished the house where his children were and they died (Job 1:13-19). When Job's life took such a tough turn, did he take a break in his service to God or did his life take a different direction? No!! In Job 1:22 we read, "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job, in the midst of calamity and anguish, did not sin. Rather, he worshipped, and blessed God (Job 1:20-21).

How Can One Do As Job?

It is a matter of faith and trust in God and his promises. We must remember that God "will not suffer us to be tempted above that ye are able to bear" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Remember the truth that Paul reminded the Romans, "If God be for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31). We must understand that God does not want to see us fail. He does not want to see us turn our backs on Him when the going gets tough. We can overcome temptation. God has promised us. He is there for us and instead of taking a break or turning away from Him we must look for

the way of escape to overcome the trials. Be assured of two things:

1. Satan loves those who quit.
2. God loves those who hold on.

We must remember that and the words of the song that says, "Heaven will surely be worth it all." This is what Paul affirmed to the Romans when he wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). So when times get tough...hold on...look for the way of escape...put your faith and trust in God. For without God, what else is there?

"Should I Worry About This?"

Larry Rouse

Over the years I have carefully noted the circumstances surrounding Christians that fell away from the Lord. Some of these I knew very well, with some even being family members. Most of them started believing and professing things they had ardently opposed in the past. As time passed, some became more aggressive and even denied the plain gospel way of salvation calling it "traditionalism." These departures caused me great grief and I became determined to help others avoid this terrible "slippery slope." I often have asked the question "Why did the departures occur?"

Even though these departures were later characterized by radical doctrinal compromise, I do not know of one individual whose departure came solely from a doctrinal influence. If these individuals had studied and became convinced that these doctrines were true to the scriptures, some of these people would have talked to me with an open Bible. One thing that I found characteristic but puzzling, about my friends, was that they would no longer even talk to me about their change, even though we had good relationships in the past. Again I asked, "What causes a person to act this way?"

The answer that I discovered is the answer the scriptures supply when it describes the "works of the flesh," which in essence is the arsenal of Satan. All of

these people, I strongly believe, lost control of their hearts to issues such as uncontrolled anger, covetousness, unbridled lust and other temptations. One of the tools Satan used to destroy their faith and allow the flesh to dominate them was the stressful burden of worry.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus describes the unrelenting war that Satan has waged against a living faith, a faith that must be fed by the word of God. Jesus said: "Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when that have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity." (Luke 8:14)

Jesus taught about taking on unnecessary burdens when He plainly warned: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:34) The Greek word that is translated "worry" in the passage has this root meaning: "to care for, be concerned about," but also can be used in a bad sense where it denotes to "be anxious, be overly concerned about, be worried about." (Louw-Nida Lexicon) Paul plainly showed that a living faith can overcome worry when he wrote, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

How can we know the difference between the legitimate cares that God wishes us to handle and the burdensome cares that we take on ourselves through a lack of faith? The answer is very simple and very comforting. We need to open our hearts completely to Jesus and let Him sift every thought, priority and goal that is in our hearts and then let Him discard most of them, leaving us with the burdens that we can handle. Do you really trust the Lord? If you do, you can certainly live a worry-free life when you trust God like this. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Consider some of the needless burdens we bear: We cannot control, or even know all of the consequences of every possible choice that we face each day. Those men who think they can actually control "what may happen" are either blinded by pride or are simply foolish. The heart of faith simply asks, "What does the Lord want

me to do?" The burden of possible consequences is left to the God who sees and knows the very number of hairs on my head. "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from you Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31).

We cannot control what people think or how they might act. Some have become slaves of men with heavy burdens to bear because they fear "what others might think." What burden does God give us? He simply wants us to live for Him and let His power and His word speak to others through us. The apostle Paul knew that he had no power over the will of others but there was one thing he could do. "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:5-6).

What list of unnecessary burdens could you list? Here is a short one to consider:

1. I must not worry about who will be the leader of our country. (Revelation 2:26-27)
2. I must not worry about how I will pay the bills. (Hebrews 13:5-6)
3. I must not worry about my health (Luke 21:16-18).
4. I must not worry about the well being of my family (1 Corinthians 7:32-35).

What happens when a person fails to develop a faith that learns to take the light yoke of Jesus: In time, that faith will break down and that person will seek relief. This was the one characteristic I found in the departure of my friends. Some had become embittered by others and refused to let that burden be the Lord's. Others had burned themselves out through the pursuit of things that cannot last.

My friends ran to Satan with his false promises and his quick condemnation of the way of God as being "too hard." The sad truth is that the departure from God's way leads to a path of real hardship and trouble. Satan wants you to close your eyes and pretend that all is well. Many churches today will encourage you to cast off the commandments of God as "burdensome".

Which burden will you choose, God's or Satan's? Please see clearly the path of a living faith and stand

there! "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world---our faith." (1 John 5:3-4)

News Notes &

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Peggy Taylor; Athens-Limestone Hospital – rm. 301

Linnie Hardy; Athens-Limestone Hospital – rm. 218

Evelyn Hays; Hartselle Hospital

Tony Corsbie; Huntsville Hospital – ICU

Glen Keenon; Huntsville Hospital – ICU

At Home:

David Gardner

Marion Mitchell

Nancy Abernathy

Molly Wilson

Reba Byram

Polly Davis

June Dawson

Becky Munoz

Matt Poff

Angela Green

Jeff Waddell

Benton Hardy

Tim Melson

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118

Mary Smith, rm. 85

Christine McGuire, rm. 57

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Lorene Bradford, rm. 117

Rosella Pugh, rm. 33

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Pauline Lovell, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.

Jimmy Killen, at home

Reba Adams, at home

Jerry Gilbert; at home

Majorie Lambert, at home

Ellis Dunnavant, at home

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

Cody Brown; Iraq
Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan
Joel Smith; Iraq

BETHEL, TENNESSEE: The Lord willing, this week I will be with the church at Bethel, Tennessee in their Vacation Bible School. I am looking forward to being with the brethren there and teaching the class for the young people. The VBS will be each evening Monday through Friday.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: The word to describe this past week's VBS is "Great". It was a great four days, with 76 different children attending. We averaged 101 for the week. The teachers in the classes did a great job in preparing and teaching their classes. About half of the children that attended came 3 or 4 days. I want to express my appreciation to all the teachers and those that worked so hard to make this VBS a great success. Thanks to all of you who came to the VBS and encouraged it, those who brought people, those that invited and those who prayed for this effort.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* will begin a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with morning and evening sessions. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker...The *Elkton church* in Elkton, Tennessee will have a meeting/VBS this week with *David Eakin* speaking...The *4th Street church* in Cullman be engaged in a meeting this week through Friday. *Ken Chapman* will be the speaker...The *Brookhill church* in Killen will be engaged in a singing school this week through Wednesday with *Johnny Felker*...The *Elgin Hills church* in Elgin will be having a meeting through Friday evening. The speaker in the meeting will be *Frank Richey*.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of June 7th

Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 122
Morning Worship 165
Evening Worship..... 132

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 95

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Bobby McGuire
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Jack Cannon
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving David Terry Marvin Putman
..... Curtis Glass Cory Nelson
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Bobby McGuire
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Albert Bowers
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Marty Adams
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday June 14th:

Usher Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, June 17th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading..... (Proverbs 15:16-33)
..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, June 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving David Terry Marvin Putman
..... Curtis Glass Cory Nelson
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Preaching Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday June 21st:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Tim Craig