

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

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church.

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume I

June 21, 2009

No. 25

Learning To Let Go

Matthew H. Allen

We are first introduced to Paul at the end of Acts 7. In a few words there, and a short collection of verses in chapters 8-9, we get a brief glimpse into his life before coming to Christ. In Philippians, Paul would go on to explain his zealotness for the Law, his dedication to the sect of the Pharisees, and his pride in his education and personal achievements (Philippians 3:1-7). Memories of his previous life must have revisited his consciousness on a regular basis. I have often wondered if he could still see the terrified faces or still hear the wails and weeping of Christians as they were detained into Jewish custody. How often did the memory of the events that took place with Stephen (Acts 7) rise into his view?

We know it must have been something Paul faced because of his writing in 1 Timothy 1:13-15. Here he writes, "though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor, yet was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all." While the memory was still there, he moved on. The ability of Paul to move on happened through the grace and forgiveness of God. Even with a violent and insolent past. Paul moved on and became one of the most beloved figures of the New Testament.

Many Christians today are haunted by their past. Memories of what was can tear us down. It can hamper spiritual progress as we go through life. How do we move on? How can we overcome? It has been said there are three things a person can do with sin:

Resolve to never sin again. This is impossible. 1 John 1:8; Romans 3:23.

Let sin make a coward out of us. Judas is a good example. Matthew 27:1-10 tells us of his great sorrow for sin, but instead of that sorrow moving him to repentance and

redemption, he committed suicide by hanging himself.

Learn from our sin. Peter proves to be a wonderful example here. In Luke 22:31, Jesus warned Peter that the devil had requested to sift him as wheat. We know what happened next. Upon his third denial of Jesus, Luke 22:61-62, says, *“The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had told him, ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.”* This terrible failure did not stop Peter. His writing in 1 Peter 1:3-4 proves it.

The point? We must learn to let go. The sinful behavior happened. We cannot take it back. We are not allowed “do overs” in this life. How many of us desire to go back and delete words we spoken? How many would change their actions, or places they have gone? We all would.

Since we can not go back, we must get on with living life for God. Christians now live life for Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:15). Christians live their life to please God (2 Corinthians 5:9). These must become our first priority. Make a commitment to fill your life with spiritual knowledge and walk in a way that pleases God. “Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). Learn to let go, forgive yourself, and trust in God. When we do this, we will begin to truly experience the freedom that is found in Christ Jesus.

-via *New Living*, Brownsburg, Indiana.



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Just As I Am

Joel Hamm

I am amazed how unsatisfied people have become with their own bodies. There was a time when all you could do to change who you were was to go on a diet. Today, you can have a surgery to change just about any part of your body you are unhappy with. You can make your skin darker or lighter. You can have your tummy tucked or your stomach shrunk. You can have muscles added, fat removed, hair extended, and just about anything else you can think of. All because people are unhappy just the way they are.

One of the oldest songs I can ever remember singing is “Just As I Am”. It is one of those songs that most of us probably know the words by heart. It is also one of those songs that we might sing out of habit instead of thinking about the content. When I sing this song, one verse of scripture always comes to mind. “But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”, Romans 5:8. Christ died for me, just as I am. A sinner, unworthy and unclean. A person who’s sin separated me from the God who created me. So how or why could God love me so much when I was so unlovable?

The answer is really quite simple. It is because God has a plan and that plan includes you and me. God loves us and cares for us so much that he gave his only begotten Son to die for us, John 3:16. But the plan does not stop there. John 3:17 tells us “For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved”. This passage clearly tells us that it is God’s will that we will be saved. His plan of salvation includes mercy and grace but also includes our obedience. God has given us the Gospel, his power unto salvation Romans 1:16. But where does my obedience fit into this plan? Belief. Belief that he is the one who created me. Belief that he is the one who has the power to save my soul. Belief that he can give me eternal life or sentence me to eternal condemnation. Belief that he died and rose again and now reigns supreme.

It is this kind of faith that God wants us to have. Is belief alone sufficient? We know the Bible teaches otherwise. James 2:19 tells us even the demons believe and tremble but surely they will not be saved. But notice God did not bestow to every man the same measure

of faith. Hence the song “Just As I Am”. Some will be faithful all of their days. Some will only remain faithful during the easy times. Some will become faithful quickly and others might take several years to gain any faith. But God loves us all and demonstrated his love for us by sending the perfect sacrifice to this earth. He wants us to come to know him and love him just as we are. “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life” (1 John 5:20).

So the next time you sing “Just As I Am”, think about those words in a new context. God created us. He did not create any of us without any faults. He created each one of us according to his plan. Do I have to read, study, and obey? Of course. Do I have to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord? Of course. Do I have to come to Jesus perfect? No. Just As I Am without one plea.

Two Evils

Billy Norris

“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

When people forsake the Lord, they commit a grievous evil. They choose to separate themselves from the Lord, the “fountain of living waters.” When certain disciples of Christ turned back and walked with Him no more, He asked His apostles, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life’” (John 6:67-68). Those who choose to separate themselves from the Lord, will be separated forever. “These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

There is a second evil. Those who forsake God and

His way provide their own way, but it is inevitably a way of failure. In vain they work to hew their cisterns—“cisterns that can hold no water.” The reason is simple: “...the way of man is not in himself...” (Jeremiah 10:23).

—via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 32 No. 9.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Linnie Hardy; Athens-Limestone Hospital – rm. 204

Evelyn Hays; Hartselle Hospital

Glen Keenon; Huntsville Hospital – 406

At Home:

David Gardner

Polly Davis

Reba Byram

Gladys Johnson

Angela Green

Jeff Waddell

Benton Hardy

Tim Melson

Matt Poff

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: It was a joy to be with the church in Bethel, Tennessee in their Vacation Bible School this past week. The VBS went very well with good attendance each night. I enjoyed teaching the young people in their class. I appreciate Rusty Brand for taking my class on Wednesday night.

BAPTISM: We are glad to announce that *Mike Sherbert* was baptized into Christ on Wednesday afternoon. We rejoice with Mike. Let us encourage him in a faithful life to God.

CONFESSION: We are rejoiced Wednesday evening as *Patrick Hooie* came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness. We are glad to have Patrick here and want to encourage him as he will us in living faithful lives in the service of God.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Jerry McGlocklin* and *all the family* in the passing of Jerry's nephew, *Terry Pugh*. His funeral was Thursday morning.

PEGGY TAYLOR (1945 - 2009): We are saddened to report the passing of sister Peggy Taylor this past Tuesday evening. Peggy has been in poor health for some time and has not been able to be at services. She fought a hard battle with her sickness and exhibited great faith in the struggle. We express our deepest sympathy to *Jason Wilmoth and all her family* in her passing.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Jackson Drive church* will begin a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with morning and evening sessions. *Aubrey Belue* will be the speaker on Sunday; *Jeff May* will be the speaker Monday through Friday...The *Tri-Cities church* in Muscle Shoals will have a meeting this week with *Gary Carter* speaking...The *Midway church* in Greenhill be engaged in a meeting this week through Friday. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker...The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia Tennessee will be engaged VBS Monday through Friday evenings with *Rusty Taylor*.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of June 14th

Sunday:

- Bible Classes..... 115
- Morning Worship 149
- Evening Worship..... na

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 93

Men Privileged To Serve:

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

Wednesday, June 24th:

- Song Leader Jack Cannon
- Bible Reading (Proverbs 16:1-15)
- Hunter Cox
- Prayer Frank Noblitt
- Invitation David Cox
- Closing Prayer Albert Bowers

Sunday, June 28th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Joel Hamm
- Song Leader Frank Noblitt
- Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Albert Bowers
- Assisting Rusty Brand
- Serving Marion Pepper Ronnie Locke
- Chris Sides Landon Adams
- Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

- Announcements Joel Hamm
- Song Leader Frank Noblitt
- Prayer Larry Mitchell
- Preaching Song Service
- Lord's Supper Albert Bowers
- Closing Prayer Tim Craig

Other Assignments for Sunday June 28th:

- Usher David Terry
- Work Sound System Cory Nelson