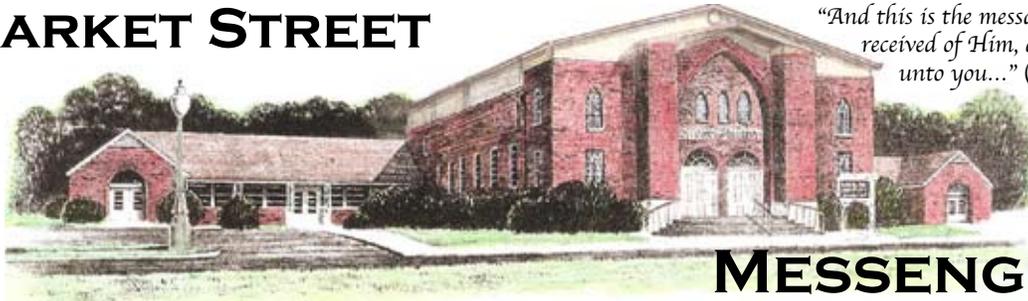


MARKET STREET

"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 II

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No. 9

Give The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Dee Bowman

That's a trite expression, albeit a true one. It makes sense to give a gift that lasts. Gifts that don't keep giving are superficial, impermanent. Gifts that last say something special about both the giver and the recipient. They suggest that there was considerable thought which went into the giving. More often than not, if a gift keeps on giving it shows that the giver genuinely cares for the recipient.

May I suggest some gifts that keep on giving? Please be advised, they are all gifts that anyone can give - no matter who they are, rich or poor.

Be Kind. Kindness is a gift, one not given much today, but a great one nonetheless. Kindness is a gift that procreates itself. One kind deed may generate dozens of similar acts before it wears itself out, or someone breaks the chain. It keeps on giving because there are so many different ways to give it. It costs nothing and yet it's worth a lot. If "brotherly kindness" is "in you and abounds," it brings forth wonderful fruit (2 Peter 1:8). Kindness is a great gift - one that keeps on giving.

Say something good. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11). Words paint beautiful pictures, most of the time moving pictures. Good words travel fast; they tend to generate more good words as they move along. Say something good to someone early in the morning and it will likely move around all day. "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life," Solomon said (Proverbs 15:4). Remember, all that good fruit started with just one little seed. Did you ever notice that when you compliment someone, they can't wait to return the favor? See? Kind words just keep on giving.

Be a friend. A friend is a gift that never stops giving. Want to give a great gift? Be a friend. Who can calculate the value of a friend, one that "loveth at all times" (Proverbs 12:17), one that is always there, day after day, through all kinds of weather? Good friendships grow over time; they keep on giving. A good friend is a gift from God. And, "what a

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
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.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

friend we have in Jesus!" He is at once the Gift and the Giver; and He never stops giving the gift.

Give yourself a gift. Read more Bible. "The entrance of thy words giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple" (Psalm 119:130). Light and understanding are continuous gifts that come from the word of God. You can't exhaust them. The more light you get, the better you see. The more understanding you get, the better you do. Bible reading enhances every relationship in your life. If you read the Bible you will be a better parent, a better teenager, a better worker, a better grandparent or friend. You'll even be a better enemy. Bible reading gives, and gives, and gives, all the days of your life.

But we've not yet discussed the gift of all gifts. There is a gift you can give that keeps on giving past this life and all the way into eternity. It is a gift that never quits giving - never. It's the gift of salvation.

You want to give the gift of gifts? **Bring someone to Jesus.** Bring them to know the Lord. Talk about a gift that keeps on giving!

In John 1:41, we are told that Andrew first found Peter and brought him to Jesus, saying, "We have found the Messiah! Look at all the good that came from Andrews' bringing Peter to Jesus. Thousands and thousands of people were saved; and are still being saved. And it all began with that simple gift. Andrew gave his brother and the gift of "the keys to the kingdom" given him later by the Lord. You can give that same gift of salvation to someone.

You can give no greater gift than to bring someone to Jesus. You don't know what may come of it. It could be the reason for many persons being saved. It's the gift with eternal consequences. Bring someone to Jesus and you give them the most precious gift of all. Oh, Gift of all Gifts! It just keeps on giving.

-via *The Stonegate Standard*; Port Arthur, Texas

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

A Man With A Problem

Dan S. Shipley

A man with a problem is a Christian who "comes to himself" as the member of the church caught up in unscriptural practices. He sees now that he has become an expert in rationalism and dodging issues. For instance, when the controversy arose over church support of human institutions, he really didn't make any serious objective study of the question. What others told him had been good enough. Anyway, who wants to be called an "anti"? So he went along.

Later he became involved in the popular bus-ministry program. From the start, he felt that if transportation was a problem, then busses were a waste of the Lord's money because members could provide that with their own cars. But, since so many were for it, he went along. However, he had second thoughts when he saw that children were being "bribed" with refreshments and prizes to ride the busses. Later he saw how convenient it was to use the busses for transporting members, especially the youth, to social activities. "Is this the work of the church?" he wondered, but never asked. Then came the "Fellowship-Hall." While he knew of other members who were not for it, some of the more outspoken brethren really pushed for it. No one objected much, so why should he? Initially its use was mostly limited to potlucks and "fellowship meals." However, since some could not see the difference between these and other social activities (neither could he), it was soon being used for quilting parties, youth parties, bridal and baby showers, wedding receptions and the like. Now most of his brethren automatically think of fun and games and eating when they hear the word "fellowship." His conscience gives him no rest. His contributions have helped to build and maintain something that is no part of the work of the church. The Lord's money is now used to provide for recreation and social activities and **he knows there is no Bible authority for such!**

A friend tells him not to worry because it's the elders who are responsible if things are wrong in the church. He knows better. He knows that elders cannot make laws and that they must function within God's laws. All shall give account personally (2 Corinthians 5:10) because all have an obligation to uphold truth. What if the elders decided to omit the Lord's Supper? Would

we be bound to follow them – or God? Every elder and every member is a partner (has a share) in what the local church does. That is what scriptural fellowship means. How then can the individual as a joint partaker be right when the collective (church) activity is wrong? For the man who wants to be sure of being right with God, that is a problem that cannot be ignored!

The honest man sees he is wrong. What does he do? For sure, he ceases to be honest or he ceases to be wrong. His friends or even his family may not appreciate his conviction. They may resent them. Staying with the “synagogue” may mean leaving the Lord (John 12:43). We pray for the man with this problem; that he will have the courage to resist compromise and stand for his convictions. If not, he has a worse problem.

-via *The Seeker*; Rosenberg, Texas



Part-Time Christianity

Shane Williams

We all know of people who claim to be Christians, yet do not regularly attend services. Some may show up on Easter or Christmas at some “church” and think that’s enough. It’s the whole mindset that Christianity is **not** a way of life but instead a part-time plan.

We must be especially careful that we do not engage in part-time Christianity. We do that when we pick the time and place to practice our faith instead of being consistent every moment of every day.

When we choose to sin, neglect our relationship with Christ or let the world squeeze us into its mold, we become part-time Christians. Jesus told us to take up our cross daily and follow Him (Luke 9:23). He didn’t suffer an agonizingly cruel death on the cross so that we could pick and choose when we want to follow Him.

Why do some turn their back on our Savior and in effect tell Him to step out for a little while? Usually it’s because they are thinking only of themselves. Yet a Christian is one who has died to self. He is no longer a

slave to sin but to righteousness (Romans 6:6-7, 17-18). As Paul said, “...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...” (Galatians 2:20).

-via *The Lilbourn Light*; Lilbourn, Missouri.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Gayle Ball; HealthSouth - Huntsville, rm. 323

Bernice Thomas; HealthSouth - Huntsville, rm. 210

Ruth Lawson; HealthSouth - Huntsville, rm. 204

At Home:

Robert Tinnon

Robert Beasley

Gladys Johnson

Frances Bowers

Harold Hays

Sue Warren

Evelyn Hays

Lola Colwell

Fay Ferguson

Polly Davis

Bobbie Adcock

Molly Weeks

Jeff Waddell

Wayne Garner

Thomas Lovell

Marie Welden

Sue Hargrove

Buddy Lawson

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 Mary Smith, rm. 85

Wilton Pepper, rm. 114-B J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Rosella Pugh, rm. 83

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Limestone Lodge:

Ruth Owens, rm. 12W

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.

Reba Adams, at home

Mary Coggins, at home

Majorie Lambert

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:

Joel Smith; Iraq

Whitney Smith; Japan

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Mary Will Johnston* in the passing of her sister, *Henrietta Word*. Her funeral was Tuesday afternoon in Pulaski, Tennessee.

SONG SERVICE: This evening at 5:00 will be the time that we regularly devote to song and prayer. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present at our song service this evening as we lift our voices in songs of praise to God.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: This afternoon at 4:30 will be the time for our Children's Bible Drill. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present.

WORK GROUPS: This evening, following our evening worship service, will be the time for Work Group 4 to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening.

OUR MEETING: Remember our Gospel Meeting with *Buc Chumbley* preaching is to begin on Sunday, April 18th and continue through Thursday April 22nd. There are some invitation cards at each exit for you to take and give to those that you invite.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Westview church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Tim Stevens* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Old Moulton Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Lee Wildman* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Elkton church* in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting series today on Exploring Islam and Christianity. The speaker in this meeting will be *Andrew Roberts of Columbia, Tennessee*.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent Center on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

NURSERIES AVAILABLE: There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other in the east wing.

THE RECORD: Attendance— Week of February 21st

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 132
Morning Worship 169
Evening Worship..... 112

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 75

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Don Cleek
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Monroe Pressnell
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Mark Rogers Ronnie Locke
..... Chris Sides Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Don Cleek
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Rusty Brand
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Albert Bowers

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 28th:
Usher Marion Mitchell
Work Sound System Tim Craig

Wednesday, March 3rd:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... (Proverbs 31:1-9)
..... Rusty Brand
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Invitation Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Sunday, March 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving Delmer Carter David Terry
..... Russ Wulfekuhl Tim Craig
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching Rusty Brand
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 7th:
Usher Marion Mitchell
Work Sound System Tim Craig