

# 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 ..... 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 R. 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

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*David A. Cox, Editor*

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No. 14

## *The Faithful God*

Gary Henry

When we're tempted to worry about the uncertainties that are inherent in a changing world, it is reassuring to remember that the whole cosmos in which we live was created by a God who is eternal. He is *“the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End[...] who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty”* (Revelation 1:8). The comforting thing about God's eternal nature is not merely that He exists eternally, but that His **character** is eternal: God is changelessly **faithful**.

**What It Means That God Is Faithful:** Unlike the false gods of paganism, who were thought to be fickle and whose capricious anger was deemed unpredictable, the God who really made us and revealed Himself to us can be counted on to be the same always. *“I am the Lord, I do not change”* (Malachi 3:6), He has said. With God *“there is no variation or shadow of turning”* (James 1:17). We don't have to worry that an alteration in God's “mood” will result in a change in His personality or His principles.

But more than that, God's eternal faithfulness also makes Him different from Satan, the liar (John 8:44). God's word is unfailingly and infallibly true. God's truthful character is immutable—He *“cannot lie”* (Titus 1:2; cf. Hebrews 6:17,18). Long ago Isaiah prayed, *“O Lord [...] Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth”* (Isaiah 25:1). And when we say God's word is always “true,” we don't just mean it is accurate. We mean also that, **because** it's true, it can be **depended** on. God is never treacherous. He never cheats. Every word He has ever spoken has been *“a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance”* (1 Timothy 1:15). God's eternal truthfulness means that He is eternally trustworthy.

When He has spoken to mankind, God has often made promises. It is in regard to these promises that we see further what it means for God to be faithful. Faith as always meant taking God at His word when he promised something—and such faith has always proved to be well-founded. God has never failed to keep a promise. On the basis of that evidence, discerning people have long been willing to do as Sarah

did, who “judged Him faithful who had promised” (Hebrews 11:11).

A final thing involved in God’s eternal faithfulness is that the fulfilling of His **purposes** is no less certain than the keeping of His **promises**. The glorious conclusion to which God intends to bring His creation is unstoppable because His character is unchangeable. The Psalmist’s statement is true of everything God has ever purposed: “*The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations*” (Psalm 33:11). Through Isaiah, God declared, “*I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’[...] Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it*” (Isaiah 46:9-11). God has given us reason to be assured that though the world around us passes through change after troublesome change, He is still the eternal Sovereign whose purpose for His creation will not fail to be accomplished.

### **How Understanding God’s Faithfulness Helps**

**Us:** Learning the eternally changeless character of God is a wonderfully practical exercise. At the very least, it drives worry and fear out of our lives. How can we doubt that we will be taken care of by a God who has **always** shown Himself to be so faithfully concerned about His children? The Christian (who has not only the usual cares of daily living, but also may face various kinds of suffering **because** he is a Christian) can endure whatever trials and tribulations may confront him. Knowing that God remains on His throne and that He is working toward a victorious consummation of all things imparts strength to the suffering saint--strength because the saint knows that the eternal Judge will ultimately vindicate justice and right. Peter wrote, “*Let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator*” (1 Peter. 4:19).

Moreover, a comprehension of God’s eternal nature helps the Christian deal with sin. Knowing that God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7,8), that He will not fail to do as he has said about punishing sin surely ought to give us a more serious attitude about sin. On the positive side, knowing the steadfastness of God’s help is the very thing needed for us to resist temptation. As Paul put it, “*God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation*

*will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it*” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Finally, an understanding of the unchangeableness and faithfulness of God is the thing that assures us of our salvation and motivates us to remain faithful to Him. The Hebrew writer appealed to his readers: “*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful*” (Hebrews 10:23). In the long run, that person will be “*faithful until death*” (Revelation 2:10, NKJV) who sees clearly that **God** will always be faithful to us. Giving **credence** to God’s eternal truthfulness, we take on a **confidence** in God’s trustworthiness that imparts a **constancy** to our allegiance to Him. “Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day; earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changes not, abide with me!”

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama



## *Winning Last Place*

**Steve Klein**

We live in a society that is sports crazy. We love football and fishing, racing and wrestling, soccer and softball -- not to mention baseball, basketball, and golf. Nearly all of us have had the experience of cheering for our team or favorite player to win, whether the contest was professional, college, high school or just the youth league team that our child or grandchild played on. And many of us have participated in sports ourselves. We've personally experienced “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.”

From a spiritual perspective, sports are not necessarily a bad thing. According to the Bible, sports teach us important lessons about disciplining ourselves when striving for a goal (1 Corinthians 9:24-27), playing by the rules (2 Timothy 2:5), and running with endurance (Hebrews 12:1). Obviously, we can allow sports to become a bad thing if we place too much importance on them or allow them to crowd out spiritual concerns. But sports can also impact us negatively in other ways.

They can train us to be too competitive, self-seeking, and ambitious -- too concerned with winning at all costs.

In most sports competitions, everyone wants first place. But there are times in the life of every Christian when he should seek last place. In Mark 9:35, Jesus told the twelve apostles, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees because "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues" (Matthew 23:6). He told His disciples, "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place..." (Luke 14:10).

The Bible reveals that we should be striving to win last place in our relationships with others!

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3).

"...Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

"...Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion" (Romans 12:16).

Here are some practical suggestions for winning last place. The next time that you disagree with a brother in an area of judgment or opinion, insist that your brother get his way. The next time that your wife or husband neglects to do a chore that merely benefits you, do it yourself. The next time they are looking for a volunteer at work to do some menial task, volunteer! Win last place.

-via *The Auburn Beacon*; Auburn, Alabama

## *Gospel Meeting*

April 18-22, 2010

Buc Chumbley, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ  
514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

# News & Notes

## **THE SICK:**

### *In The Hospital:*

*Raymond Brown*; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 652

### *At Home:*

Janet Berryhill

Jerry Gilbert

Gladys Johnson

Harold Hays

Evelyn Hays

Polly Davis

Lola Colwell

Bobbie Adcock

Molly Weeks

Janet Jones

Jeff Waddell

Jeff Bates

Thomas Lovell

Marie Welden

Ruth Lawson

### *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118

Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Marjorie Lambert, rm. 91

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Bernice Thomas, rm. 98

Mary Smith, rm. 85

### *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

**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

**WORKGROUPS:** This evening, following our evening worship service, will be the time for Work Group 1 to meet. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group this evening.

**OUR MEETING:** Our Gospel Meeting with *Buc Chumbley* preaching will begin in just two short weeks, the Lord willing. Invitation cards at each exit for you to take and give to those that you invite or some invitations with an envelope to send. Buc will be speaking on

the theme of "Reasoning From The Scriptures". The lessons will be as follows:

- Sunday 9:45 a.m. "Let My People Go"
- Sunday 10:30 a.m. "What Does The Lord Require?"
- Sunday 5:00 p.m. "To Seek and Save The Lost"
- Monday 7:00 p.m. "My Sin Is Always Before Me"
- Tuesday 7:00 p.m. "To Know The Love of Christ"
- Wednesday 7:00 p.m. "Christ Lives In Me"
- Thursday 7:00 p.m. "We Have Hope In Christ"

Next Sunday afternoon, April 11th, we will start going out to invite people to our meeting. If you would like to help with this effort, let me know.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The *Jones Road church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Gardner Hall*.

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

**NEW CLASS ADULT CLASS:** Beginning next Sunday morning, April 11th, there will be a new adult class meeting in the east wing. The class will be studying the theme: "Increasing Our Faith". I hope this will be a profitable study for all who come.

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

**VBS MEETING:** Next Sunday afternoon, April 11th, we will be meeting with teachers and all that are interest in the planning of our Vacation Bible school. I hope that we have a good number present.

**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 March 28th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 121  
 Morning Worship ..... 153  
 Evening Worship..... 119

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 94

**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*

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, April 4th:**

*Morning Worship*

- Announcements ..... Joel Hamm
- Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns
- Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding ..... Wayne Vaughn
- Assisting ..... Rusty Brand
- Serving ..... Mark Rogers ..... Tyler Cox
- ..... Tim Craig ..... Marion Pepper
- Closing Prayer ..... Jonathan Keenon

*Evening Worship*

- Announcements ..... Joel Hamm
- Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns
- Prayer ..... Landon Adams
- Preaching ..... Warren Glass
- Lord's Supper ..... Wayne Vaughn
- Closing Prayer ..... Stuart Wilson

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 4th:

- Usher ..... Russ Wulfekuhl
- Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson

**Wednesday, April 7th:**

- Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox
- Bible Reading..... (Ecclesiastes 2:12-26)
- ..... Landon Adams
- Prayer ..... Monroe Pressnell
- Invitation ..... Joel Hamm
- Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith

**Sunday, April 11th:**

*Morning Worship*

- Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey
- Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson
- Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding ..... Wayne Vaughn
- Assisting ..... Rusty Brand
- Serving ..... Mark Rogers ..... Tyler Cox
- ..... Tim Craig ..... Marion Pepper
- Closing Prayer ..... Lifford Smith

*Evening Worship*

- Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey
- Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson
- Prayer ..... Nathaniel Adams
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper ..... Rusty Brand
- Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 11th:

- Usher ..... Delmer Carter
- Work Sound System ..... Marty Adams