

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
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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

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No. 18

Spreading The Net

Drew Jones

"My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother, for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, 'Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like who go down to the Pit, we shall find all kinds of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil; cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse'- my son, do not walk in the walk with them, keep your foot from their path; for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. Surely, in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird; but they lie in wait for their own blood, they lurk secretly for their own lives. So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its owners" (Proverbs 1:8-19).

This passage in Proverbs seems to truly capture the essence of temptation; it is 'enticement', a promise of great things which inevitably ends in disappointment and destruction. Among Solomon's many wise observations and sayings, few are as astute, and worthy of our remembering, than the king's statement in verse 17 - "Surely, in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird."

The greatest danger is always the one which is most cleverly concealed. Such is the case with sin, just as it is in so many other arenas. There is always power in misdirection. Football teams run draw plays, counters, and play-action passes because they appear to be something else at first. A skilled boxer sets up power punches with jabs, feints, and head movement. Pitchers work for years to develop a "changeup" that looks like a fastball, but actually moves much more slowly. A con artist makes his target see an attractive business venture in what is really just a scheme for committing theft. And as in Solomon's example, a hunter doesn't take his prey by blatantly demonstrating to the quarry exactly when, where, and how he plans on trapping it - he makes sure the animal is unsuspecting and unwary.

Shedding Innocent Blood

David Bunting

However, even though these examples are so obvious and so easily observable, Christians still occasionally find themselves ignoring the principle, and charging headlong and heedless into positions of great peril. How sad to ignore the warnings of Scripture - "be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8); "see then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise" (Ephesians 5:15) - and to be preyed upon by the "lying wonders", "unrighteous deception," and "strong delusion" which will cause the condemnation of the unrighteous (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).

Here is the young person who refuses to put away ungodly friends because they always have fun together as a group. Here is the man who finds himself all alone with a woman who is not his wife, insisting that it is just time spent with a friend. Here is the college student who goes to a party where the beer is flowing freely, because "it's not that bad if I'm not drinking, and hey, you've got to get to know people while you're in college, right" Here is the woman who regularly calls up her friend who is sure to have the latest bit of gossip, both of them telling themselves that they are just casually discussing some problems without malice. Here is the weary Christian who talks himself out of assembling with his brethren, certain that God won't condemn just one minor oversight, convinced that such a small indiscretion won't have any long-term effects upon him or his soul.

All of those excuses can sound convincing - "enticing", even. And that is simply because Satan is a wise hunter, one who doesn't spread the net out before us while we're watching. He would never advertise that the wrong choice in any of those situations might lead us into the entangling web of sin (one misstep seems to open up many new opportunities to trespass again, doesn't it?), because he wants us to focus on the shiny, appealing lure he has attached to the hook.

Please don't be deceived, brethren; "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). It's impossible to "over-use" that particular passage of Scripture, because of the inestimable importance of its point. Think carefully about what circumstances you are placing yourself in, what the possible outcomes of your decisions might be, and just what you might be earning as the reward for your actions.

-via *Lost River Bulletin*; Bowling Green, Kentucky

God created male and female in His image and commanded them to be fruitful (Genesis 1:27-18). Offspring are a blessing. "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate" (Psalm 127:3-5).

The world can be a dangerous place for children. Evil exists in society. One of the greatest threats to children is a failure to value their lives before they are even born. Before "the fruit of the womb" has the opportunity to be born, millions of people choose to end the lives of unborn children. Since 1973 there have been more abortions just in the United States than all the people killed in World War II.

King Solomon stated that "hands that shed innocent blood" are an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 6:16, 17). What is more innocent than the defenseless life conceived and growing in the womb? God condemns murder (Exodus 20:13; Romans 1:29; Revelation 21:8). Under the law of Moses accidental interruption of a pregnancy was punishable (cf. Exodus 21:22-25). What does that infer about deliberately shedding the innocent blood of the unborn?

Life in the womb is a work of God (Psalm 139:13, 14). That life is a child, not an expendable fetus. Rebekah's two children struggled in her womb, not two fetuses (Genesis 25:21-23). Unborn John was a babe in Elisabeth's womb (Luke 1:44). A pregnant woman is a woman with child (Ecclesiastes 11:5).

Child abuse is immoral, and abortion is a form of child abuse. The aborting of unwanted pregnancies is a selfish solution to escape accountability and responsibility. Is it right to destroy the innocent to free the guilty and the careless? A person who purposely takes the life of a child in the womb is one who is truly "without natural affection" (Romans 1:31). God condemns that.

-via *Manhattan Memo*; New York, New York.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

No-So-Undercover Boss

Troy Nicholson

A new hit show is called Undercover Boss. It involves a boss going undercover and working alongside his lower level employees for a week before finally revealing his true identity to them.

In the Bible we read of a not-so-undercover "boss." Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth and worked alongside those whom He had created. While on a few occasions He told them not to tell others, He did not try to hide who He was from His immediate observers. He often left them amazed at His teaching and knowing that He had more authority than other teachers (Matthew 7:28-29). He did or told them things that led them to conclude beyond a shadow of doubt that "You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel" (John 1:47-49).

The undercover bosses are often moved by something they learn about their employees and help them in some way. Jesus was often moved with compassion for those who surrounded Him. He "healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14), fed thousands (15:32-38), gave sight to the blind (20:34), cleansed the leprous (Mark 1:40-42), and even raised their dead (Luke 7:12-15). "Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, 'A great prophet has arisen among us!' and, 'God has visited His people!'" (Luke 7:16).

Unlike some of the undercover bosses on the TV show who cannot accomplish what they expect those under them to accomplish, Jesus demonstrated what He expects of us. He not only told us to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44), He demonstrated it by praying for God to forgive those who nailed Him to the cross and were mocking Him (Luke 23:33-37).

At the end of the week the undercover boss reveals himself to his employees, presents some of the things he has observed during the week, and responds accordingly - all while the employees are still in disbelief. Someday "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10), so don't be surprised when that time comes - there's been nothing undercover about it.

-via *The Lakeview Lamp*; Hendersonville, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Harold Hays; Athens-Limestone, rm. 311

At Home:

Jerry Gilbert	Raymond Brown
Marvin Wales	Bernice Thomas
Monroe Pressnell	Polly Davis
Lola Colwell	Bobbie Adcock
Molly Weeks	Ruth Lawson
Jeff Waddell	Jeff Bates
Thomas Lovell	Marie Welden

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Pauline Lovell, rm. 90

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Marjorie Lambert, rm. 91	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Evelyn Hays, rm 110-A	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

Andrew Deen; Japan

Whitney Deen; Japan

WORK GROUPS: 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Our Vacation Bible school is scheduled for June 21-24. I hope everyone will mark this on your calendar and beginning praying for

the efforts that we will make for the cause of Christ.

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

NEW ADULT CLASSES: The new adult classes meeting in the east wing have begun. The Sunday morning class will be studying the theme: "Increasing Our Faith". I hope this will be a profitable study for all who come. The Wednesday night class in the east wing will be studying "History and Geography of the Bible." *Marty Adams* will teach that class.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Hays Mill church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *David Cox*. . . The *Oakland church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker for this meeting will be *Lowell Sallee*.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: Beginning today and continuing for the next few weeks, we will be making new pictures of everyone for a new pictorial directory. So please see *Rusty Brand* or *Joel Hamm* to get your pictures made. They will be making these pictures in the little auditorium on the west wing.

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.

OUT OF TOWN: *Nancy Abernathy* has been out of town in Arkansas. . . *The Rogers: Mark, Kim and Peyton* are in Vernon this weekend. . . *Danielle and Kaden Moses* are also in Vernon this weekend.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the children's Bible drill this afternoon at 4:30 in little auditorium in the west wing. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present.

THE RECORD: Attendance— Week of April 25th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 133
Morning Worship 173
Evening Worship..... 128

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 93

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, May 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Jonathan Keenon
Serving Marion Pepper Nathaniel Adams
..... Russ Wulfekuhl Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching Stuart Wilson
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 2nd:

Usher Keenon Currier
Work Sound System Marty Adamson

Wednesday, May 5th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading..... (Ecclesiastes 4:4-16)
..... Hunter Cox
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Invitation Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Sunday, May 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Jonathan Keenon
Serving Marion Pepper Nathaniel Adams
..... Russ Wulfekuhl Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Evening Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 9th:

Usher Marion Mitchell
Work Sound System Stuart Wilson