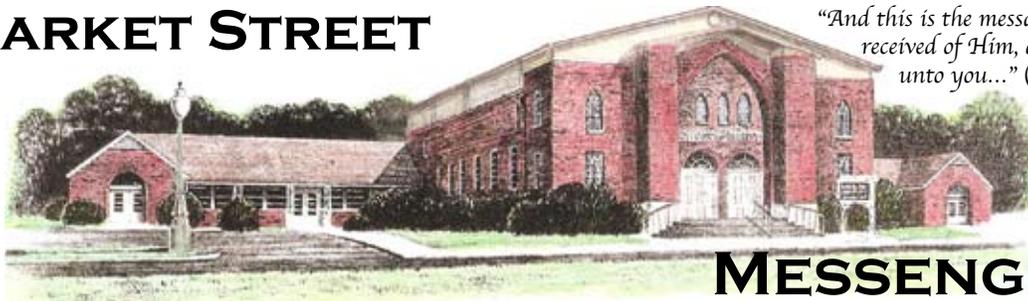


MARKET STREET



“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
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) 497-3138

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

Volume II

May 30, 2010

No. 22

“Ever Known Anyone Who Has Written The Bible?”

Jeff May

I love preaching about growing in our relationship with God. I speak often about reading the Bible, praying, and meditating. But I'd never thought much about writing or copying scripture as a spiritual discipline until recently I met a sister in Christ who remarkably has copied the entire Bible...by hand. Think about that!

I don't remember how I found out, but when I did I couldn't help but ask her about it. I knew enough about spending time with God and the rewards of it, that I just had to ask what her task was like and what she gained from it. I also told her I wanted to write an article. She consented, but asked that I not mention her name.

Upon first glance, this might seem a strange idea. She says, “When I first told my brother I was writing the Bible, he said, ‘You can't do that! God's already done that for you!’ His joking taught me to say I was copying God's word.” We are blessed with the printed word today, but prior to our days kings in Israel were required to write a copy of God's word for themselves to read and use as a guide for leading the nation (Deuteronomy 17:18-20). So, it's really not new.

This sister's time spent copying the scriptures was personal time spent with God's word and not designed for bringing attention to herself. However, it is my desire to share the fruits of her handwriting journey so that we all might see the value of private devotions. If someone can copy the entire Bible in love for it, can't we at least read it? I give the article to you in interview style.

Q: What motivated you to copy the Bible by hand? A: “In 1984, I copied several Psalms to help me survive depression. It was so comforting. I later copied Matthew and Joshua to celebrate my sons birthdays since they were named after these books. Every summer I studied Proverbs with them. After they left home, I copied Proverbs to remember those

special days. At a gospel meeting in 1985, Harold Comer asked the question, "Ever known anyone who has written the Bible?" I thought, "What a huge, time consuming accomplishment that would be! It sounded impossible! In 2005, I attended the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit. That was the match that lit the fire of my desire. Thoughts of great people who copied God's word and lost their lives flooded my emotions. I left the exhibit with a desire to hand copy God's word as a gift for my sons that they would find after my death. Never did I think I would be the one receiving such a huge gift to enjoy in this life! Also, my dad was a great inspiration to me while writing. He encouraged me to stay with it. It gave him so much joy as he envisioned the encouragement it might give to others to spend time in the Word. After I finished my tasking of copying the scriptures, I wrote some reflections about it. I gave that piece to my dad this past holiday season on the anniversary date of him obeying the gospel thirty years ago.

Q: What did the process of copying the scriptures by hand do for you spiritually? A: "God's perfect word going through my hand, fingers and eyes has helped my life's struggles of depression, grief, sorrow, anger, bitterness, loneliness, guilt and emotions that rob me of joy. God has blessed with hiding His word in my heart as Psalm 119:11 says. His word has made me know joy and gladness as written in Psalm 51:8. I have found a way to be still and know God" (Psalm 46:10).

Q: How long did it take you to write your own copy of the scriptures? A: "I first wrote the New Testament twice. One for each son. I started writing the Old Testament on my birthday in June of 2005. I finished on September 20, 2008."

Q: If you could mention one major thing learned from your copying experience, what would it be? A: "'Know Me.' God is teaching, 'I want you to know Me! I have made a way for you to know Me.' It became very personal. Ezekiel was the hardest book to write, but I learned my best lesson in my hardest writing. Over and over, the word 'know' is in Ezekiel."

Q: Are there any special memories that came from your time spent copying the Word? A: "I loved writing beside my granddaughters while they slept. It feels so comforting. One day I walked into the room to see my three-year-old granddaughter holding my Bible, pen and notebook. She was scribbling up her best over my writing. She saw me and said, 'Look Grammy, I am

writing just like you. This says, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And over here I wrote Jesus and God.' As she proudly spelled G-O-D my heart rejoiced. Also, one night when I was first writing, I looked up to see my husband watching me with tears. He said, 'What you are doing is so beautiful to watch!' He repeated those words many times during the next four years. My mother, who struggles with seeing, copied Philippians and gave it to me for my birthday. And other family members and friends have done some of their own copying as a way to concentrate on the Word. Once I was writing at a hospital and let out an 'Oh, no.' The nurse asked, 'What's wrong and what are you writing?' When I told her my glasses broke, she said, 'Come on. We'll fix this!' She took me to the specialist at the hospital and I got new glasses - free!! And too, I have had a special place in my heart for families who suffer from adultery and divorce. I encourage and challenge them to use copying God's word as a tool to rise above this 'heinous sin' (Job 31:11). We can have new strength and not be weary as Isaiah 40:31 teaches."

Q: Are there any other things you found amazing as you wrote? A: "I very soon learned that almost daily, where I was writing would correspond with something happening in my life. A fun example is that I dislike flying. On a flight to San Diego, I opened by Bible to write. I was at Acts 1:9; Jesus flying in the clouds! I looked out of my window at God's beautiful creation and laughed at my fears. And during a time when something wrong was done towards me, I was writing in 1st Kings 21 where Naboth's vineyard was stolen by Jezebel."

Q: you mentioned something about some fun verses. What do you mean? A: "My fun verses are Isaiah 55:12; Job 38:22 and Zechariah 10:8. Did you know God whistles? This reminds me joyfully of my whistling grandma."

Pertinent to our times, our sister said, "As those around our nation worry about losing stock, savings and 401K's, I have labored to leave a spiritual inheritance to my children and children's children as taught in Proverbs 13:22 and Psalm 78:1-8. Even if my copies are lost, my children know my gift to them and my love of God. That's a great comfort to me!"

Well said. Let us all be devoting much quiet time to God and His Word. It is the path to holiness and Christ-likeness. -via *The Exhorter*; Athens, Alabama.

The Fortress of Faith

Dan S. Shipley

As an encouragement to Christians living under the constant threat of persecution, the apostle Peter writes of a “living hope” made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. With such hope the faithful persevere in anticipation of an eternal inheritance reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1: 3,4). The source of their hope and the key to their endurance was faith. It has always been so with God’s people and ever shall be. “And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

It is in keeping with this idea that Peter writes of being “guarded through faith” by the power of God (v.5). This word “guarded” is a military term used in the sense “of providing protection against the enemy, as a garrison does” (Vine). So, our faith is our fortress for providing protection against all enemies of righteousness. This protective aspect of faith is also suggested in Ephesians 6: 16 under the figure of a shield — “Wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one”. Elsewhere, it is pictured as a breastplate (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Such references show plainly that faith is our protector. Faith is our strength and help in the quest to overcome and to gain the great victory.

But behind all of this, as suggested in the employment of these military terms, is the recurring allusion to a great conflict. If not, why the need for being guarded? Why the talk of such things as shields, breastplates and victory? Too, conflict implies an enemy. In an earlier noted passage, Paul identifies him as the “evil one”. In 1 Peter 5:8 he is referred to as “your adversary the devil”.

This is why Christians are encouraged to “put on the whole armor of God”— that we “may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11). Here it is: the enemy; the conflict; the protection. The battle is real. So are its casualties. And so is the need for protection.

Hence, the need for a strong faith. Old Testament history tells of great fortified and walled cities such as Babylon, built out of concern for physical safety. We need such concern for our spiritual safety! — for the protection of precious souls. There is a sense in which

every Christian is building his fortress of faith. How well we are able to withstand the testings of trials and temptations depends on the measure of our faith—the strength of our fortress. And be sure of this, the assaults will come! In our context, Peter writes of their “manifold trials” and later tells them to “think it not strange concerning the fiery trial among you, which cometh upon you to prove you, as though a strange thing happened unto you” (1 Peter 4:12). Knowing the trials will come, we must fortify our faith.

To this end we assimilate more and more of the word of God, our only source of strength and growth (1 Peter 2:2). This means not only knowing it, it means respecting it and applying it to every circumstance of life. As Jesus, we can face and repel the tempter with: “It is written”. Of him, Peter says, “withstand steadfast in your faith” (1 Peter 5:9). How strong is your fortress?

—via *Plain Talk*; Burnet, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Mark Hargrove; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 422

At Home:

Sue Warren	Martin Casteel
Monroe Pressnell	Landon Adams
Nathaniel Adams	Sam Wilson
Harold Hays	Polly Davis
Lola Colwell	Bobbie Adcock
Scott Adams	Molly Weeks
Jeff Bates	Jeff Waddell
Marie Welden	Thomas Lovell
Jeff Mitchell	Bernice Martin
Randy Graviett	

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Evelyn Hays, rm. 114	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Mary Coggins, rm. 97	Mary Smith, rm. 85

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Limestone Lodge:

Ruth Owens, rm. 12W

Shut-In:

Sarah Hallbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.

Reba Adams, 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

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Our Vacation Bible School is just four short weeks from beginning. The dates are June 21-24 (Monday – Thursday). There are some invitation cards and flyers advertising the VBS at each exit. Please take some of these with you and give them to those that you invite.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: We are in the process of updating the church directory. *Rusty Brand* and *Joel Hamm* are making new pictures of everyone for a new pictorial directory. Please see *Rusty* or *Joel* 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: *The Glasses:* Warren and Joan are in Bessemer today... *The Coxes:* Kerry, Tyler, Hunter and I are in Florida on vacation... *Will Chumbley* is in Florida this week on vacation... *Stuart Wilson* is out of town this weekend.

HIGHSCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDY: Our next High School/College Age study will be on June 26th. We will be looking at our *Relationship To The Church*. There are some fliers at each exit to distribute to those we invite to the future studies. If you know of some people in these ages groups, please invite them to join us.

THE RECORD: Attendance– Week of May 23rd

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 131
Morning Worship 162
Evening Worship..... 110

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 100

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Rusty Brand
Preaching Everette Conn
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Stuart Wilson
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving Landon Adams..... Kennon Currier
..... Mark Rogers Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Jonathan Keenon
Preaching Joel Hamm
Lord’s Supper Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 30th:

Usher David Terry
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, June 2nd:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... (Ecclesiastes 7:1-14)
..... Will Cumbley
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Invitation Rusty Brand
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Sunday, June 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Monroe Pressnell
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Stuart Wilson
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving Landon Adams..... Kennon Currier
..... Mark Rogers Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Rusty Brand
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 6th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Danny Johnson