

# 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. 23

## *Influence: The Potential For Good and Evil*

David Hartsell

### 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  
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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*

Influence as a teaching tool is not taken very seriously today. Yet, it is one of the most powerful forces that we can have over people. The world influence is from Latin and literally means, "to flow in." It is the power of people or things to act on others, seen only in its effects. In the physical realm radiation would be a good parallel to influence. Radiation can be used constructively, as in X-rays and treatment of cancer, or it can be devastatingly dangerous, as in radiation poisoning. Let us examine several characteristics of influence that mirror those of radiation. We will see the detrimental and positive effects of influence.

Influence, like radiation, is unseen but its effects are often very clear. Jesus once told His disciples to, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees" (Matthew 16:6). He was talking about the negative effects their doctrines had on so many people. Paul put it this way, "Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Sometimes it is difficult for us to see the bad influences surrounding us. We might be dating someone or have close friendships with people who do not hold to Christians ideals. Let us take inventory of the things that affect us. Are those influences making us better or taking us further away from God? There are avenues of good influence that we can choose. Early Christians were those who positively affected so many people. Their love and sacrifice for God and their brethren silently reached out and attracted many to Christ (Acts 2 & 4).

The longer we stay around radiation the more contaminated we become. Likewise, the influences that touch our lives have an accumulative affect. Peter instructed wives with unbelieving husbands to win them to Christ without constant nagging them about obeying the gospel. Instead, these godly women were to live the gospel message before them (1 Peter 3:1-3). Often the best lessons preached are delivered in this way. Sadly, Satan's sermons are given in similar ways. We might not walk among the ungodly but we might invite detrimental influences into our houses through various forms of media. How many have allowed TVs and

computers to take their hearts away from God?

Finally, large doses of radiation are deadly. This is also true of influence. Many understand this concept. They agree that the adulterous man at Corinth had to be withdrawn from immediately (1 Corinthians 5). There are occasions where the most deadly influences are disguised in "good people." Peter is an example of this. His partiality for Jewish Christians over gentile ones caused Barnabas and other Jews to take part in his hypocrisy (Galatians 2:11-14). We must never blindly follow people regardless of all the good they have accomplished in the past.

Influence is a wonderful tool for good and a dangerous one for destruction. Let us surround ourselves with those things and people that will help us go to heaven. Train our hearts to be the good influence that will aid others in reaching eternal salvation.

-via *The Auburn Beacon*; Auburn, Alabama.

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***Run!!!***

**Russ Bowman**

I can remember as a kid, taking an old red bandanna and wrapping it around a change of clothes before tying the ends together. The resulting bundle was, in my mind, absolutely necessary in order to run away from home. All I had to do was find a long stick on which to hang the bundle, and I could take my leave. I don't remember now just why I was determined to go, but I knew that everyone who ran away from home needed that red bandanna tied on the end of a stick. Eventually my mom discovered my plans and persuaded me that running away from home was not such a great idea. So, I never did.

On September 22, 2005, however, I finally ran away from home. Along with most of the population of Houston, Beaumont, Port Arthur, Orange, and every smaller town situated in close proximity to the upper Texas coast. After seeing the effects of hurricane Katrina on Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, running away from home as hurricane Rita threatened our area

was not a terribly difficult decision. Waking early on that Thursday morning and noting that the storm had changed its course, Tracy and the girls, along with my folks and sister, left out just ahead of the heavy traffic, while I secured some things around the house and followed a few hours behind them. It took me 5&1/2 hours to make a 1&1/2 hour trip. And I was lucky. Unfortunately, the storm followed us and we spent a long Friday night listening to what was still a category 2 hurricane rage around us. It was a frightening and tense experience and, if I ever have to run away again, I hope to be wise in my flight.

The Lord has cautioned His people about certain dangers in this life - dangers which should be avoided at all costs. In fact, His directive in these areas is to "flee" - to run away. "Flee sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18); "flee from idolatry" (1 Corinthians 10:14); flee from useless wrangling and the love of money (1 Timothy 6:3-11); "flee youthful lusts" (2 Timothy 2:22). Such matters are so destructive to a man's spiritual health that the best defense is simply to put as much distance as possible between oneself and the threat. And while we understand that our life as Christians demands that we engage in battle with the forces of evil, who will deny the instruction of God Himself when He tells us to run? Such flight is not the reaction of cowardice, but of wisdom. But let me suggest a few things that I have discovered about fleeing danger.

When you run, run to a safe place. If I had it to do over again, I would have tried to run in a direction that I knew the storm would not follow. Of course, such decisions are not always easy when dealing with storms, and when there are other factors involved, such as a shortage of gasoline and the proximity to home once the storm has passed. However, we really didn't run far enough away, or in the right direction, to fully escape the threat. There were numerous trees on houses all around our place of refuge. Power lines were down and dangerous circumstances threatened us as much at our place of escape as they would have at home. Lesson learned - when you run, get away from the danger.

So, it is spiritually. If we're fleeing sexual immorality, we shouldn't put ourselves in circumstances where there is merely "less danger" - we need to be where there is no danger. If it means that two young people need to avoid being alone together, then so be it. If it means disconnecting ourselves from the Internet in order to

avoid the threat of pornography, then, by all means, cut the lines. The same is true with the idols of money or leisure or ambition. Get far enough away from the problem so that it is no longer a threat.

When you have to run, don't wait too long. We have all kinds of adages that warn against the dangers of procrastination. And with good reason. It is possible to wait too long and then find ourselves exposed to the very danger that we wanted to avoid. There were people caught in a storm because they did not listen to the warnings and pleas of local officials who called for evacuations. Others were wary enough to leave long before either the hurricane arrived or the evacuation routes become clogged. So it is spiritually. Delay can be our destruction if we are not watchful. We need to identify the dangers to our faith early enough to run if we must. Again, one doesn't decide to flee sexual immorality after an hour in the backseat of a parked car, nor does a man run from the love of money after he has spent years pursuing his own material comfort. Such flight deserves some attention to circumstance.

Prepare to run. Hurricane experts are constantly preaching preparedness. Have your batteries and water and canned food and flashlights ready and within easy reach. Know where you're going and how you'll get there. Get ready to run. Spiritually, a wise man knows his weaknesses and prepares his defense and thinks through his escape long before the storm hits. 1 Corinthians 10:13 assures us of escape routes. Do you know yours?

I have no desire to ride out any future hurricanes on the gulf coast. I've had my fill. I'll run again, but hopefully, if there is a next time, I'll run smarter. Spiritually too.

-via *Think On These Things*; Texarkana, Texas.

## Radio Program

### Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN – 770AM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

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

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

#### *In The Hospital:*

#### *At Home:*

Sue Warren	Martin Casteel
Monroe Pressnell	Sam Wilson
Janet Berryhill	Lola Colwell
Evelyn Hays	Polly Davis
Cheryl Hill	Bobbie Adcock
Emma Clark	Scott Adams
Molly Weeks	Jeff Bates
Jeff Waddell	Marie Welden
Jeff Mitchell	Bernice Martin
Randy Graviett	Mark Hargrove

#### *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

#### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	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

**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 HOME SINGING:** 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 date is June 21-24 (Monday – Thursday). There are 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

picture made. They will be making the 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.

**SYMPATHY: Mary Coggins 1923 – 2010:** It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister Mary Coggins this past Wednesday afternoon at her home. Sister Coggins was a longtime member of the Market Street church and loved the church here very much. We have missed sister Coggins over the last several months as her health failed to the point that she was no longer able to attend. Her husband Robert “Shorty” Coggins served the church here as a deacon for a number of years. Her funeral was Thursday at Limestone chapel and burial was in the Roselawn cemetery.

**Harold Hays 1930 – 2010:** We are also saddened with the news of the passing of brother Harold Hays this past Friday morning. Brother Hays has not been able to be at services the last several months as he fought his battle with cancer. Brother Hays has long been a member of the Market Street church and has expressed his love for the people here to me on several occasions. We have missed brother and sister Hays’ presence here as their health declined. The arrangements for brother Hays are incomplete at this time. May the Lord bless and comfort these families as they deal with their loss.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The *Northside church* in Lexington is beginning a gospel meeting/vacation Bible school today. It will continue through Friday with *Shawn Smith* speaking in the adult class.

**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.

## Vacation Bible School

June 21-24, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### 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

### Wednesday, June 9th

Song Leader ..... Marty Adams  
 Bible Reading ..... (Ecclesiastes 7:15-29)  
 ..... Jack Cannon  
 Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
 Invitation ..... Rusty Brand  
 Closing Prayer ..... Joel Hamm

### Sunday, June 13th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements ..... TBA  
 Song Leader ..... TBA  
 Prayer ..... TBA  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord’s Supper  
 Presiding ..... TBA  
 Assisting ..... TBA  
 Serving ..... TBA ..... TBA  
 ..... TBA ..... TBA  
 Closing Prayer ..... TBA

#### Evening Worship

Announcements ..... TBA  
 Song Leader ..... TBA  
 Prayer ..... TBA  
 Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
 Lord’s Supper ..... TBA  
 Closing Prayer ..... TBA

#### Other Assignments for Sunday, June 13th:

Usher ..... TBA  
 Work Sound System ..... TBA