

# 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

July 18, 2010

No. 29

## *The Privilege of Private Prayer*

Dee Bowman

Prayer is such a privilege, such an exalted advantage. It implies connection to the Almighty, an adjoining to our Creator. What joy to pray and know we will be heard. What unspeakable joy! "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if ye ask anything according to His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:15). I doubt there could be a better or more blessed assurance than to know that God not only knows who we are, but hears what we say.

I was thinking awhile back about how we can pray the simplest of prayers, prayers, that are not intended to be heard of anybody but our Father, and know that we have come into His presence. Is that not wonderful, and does it not embolden our faith and enliven our hope, to know that He not only hears, but cares what we are saying and will grant what we wish according to His will?

It seems to me that simple prayers are the best. No flamboyance, no pretense, no seeking to be heard by anyone but our Father. He needs no assurance of our ability to articulate great phrases and employ educated terminology. He just wants a prayer that comes from the heart, one that is open, honest, without admixture or pretense. "I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding" (1 Corinthians 14:15) means more than just praying with a good attitude and with the truth. It means that I reach down into the inner-most parts of who and what I am, the reach up in adorning reverence for the approval of God, the Almighty. It means that I use that lasting part of me which He gave me-that eternal spirit-to give back to Him my filial devotion and unfettered worship.

Simple prayer is very personal, too. It is intimate, a private time reserved for you to make grand affirmations and glorious praises to God without any interference or intrusion. It is a time between just you and your Father, and, in my opinion at least, is a privilege superior because it involves the two of you in the most private of conversations, one where there is no facade, no dressing up or down, just plain, purely personal

### 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  
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*

talking between two who love one another.

Prayer deals with the heart. Without heart-involvement, there is no such thing as prayer—it becomes empty verbiage, vain talking devoid of any significance, a conversation without substance or marrow. To *“pray with the spirit”* is to give heart-felt devotion, punctuated with words of adulation and praise. No other kind is acceptable. In fact, no other kind is prayer.

Here are three simple prayers, prayers you can pray too, methinks.

**“Lord, give me a clean heart.”** *“Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me”* (Psalm 51:10) is a noble and honorable prayer. It suggests, first of all, that this kind of heart must be created; that is, only God can forgive sin and thereby create a new heart, one cleansed of unrighteousness and impure living. A clean heart is a heart forgiven. A prayer for a clean heart also suggests, by implication, that one is looking not only to have that clean heart, but to maintain its cleanliness, to exercise the most careful vigilance to keep it from the world and its tarnishments. A clean life can only come from a clean heart; and a clean heart can only come from God, the Father. ‘Tis a prayer worth repeating!

**“Lord, give me a clear heart.”** I use the word “clear” here to depict an understanding heart. *“The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge”* (Proverbs 15:14). This prayer for clear perception is purely practical, for it tends toward making wise decisions and choosing good ways to go. This clear heart understands what is vital, what is imperative, what is necessary. It differentiates between the carnal world and God’s eternal design for mankind. It sees life as a probation and looks past the partiality to the real and complete life, the one for which Christ died. This prayer is pragmatic, immensely practical.

**“Lord, give me an open heart.”** *“The entrance to thy words giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple”* (Psalm 119:130). A heart that is open can receive the words of light when they come. It is not so with the closed one. A closed heart is a prejudiced heart, one that has been shut up with its own presuppositions, one that is not disposed to any sort of intrusion from any source. Prejudice—the shut up heart—is the bane of our society. It keeps out the truth and closes the doors to true knowledge. It takes various forms, ranging from sheer ignorance to high intellectualism. It is not only acceptable among the intellectuals, but to such an extent

that snarling rebukes come to those who would dare question their “wisdom.” An open heart, on the other hand, is a heart disposed to look for truth, no matter its source, to revere and respect it, even when it indicts or accuses—and especially when it offers spiritual correction. The open mind is a mind acclimated to truth and tuned to verity.

Prayer. What a blessed privilege. What an exalted pleasure. What a tremendous asset to the Christian. Let us pray.

—via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

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## *The People of God*

**Bill Robinson, Jr.**

On four different occasions in the book of Deuteronomy, Moses summoned the people to receive instruction from the Lord by saying, “Hear, O Israel...” (5:1; 6:4; 9:1; 20:3). Someone has stated that it ought to be a matter of encouragement to every sane person that God has spoken to us.

Just prior to fording the Jordan river into the promised land, “Moses and the priests spoke to all Israel, saying, Take heed and listen, O Israel; This day you have become the people of God. Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today” (Deuteronomy 27:9). There is something significant about being called the people of God. While I write that I know none would dispute it though some by their teaching and practice make it void.

What it meant to be the people of God is that they were to “take heed” to what God says. It is not merely acknowledging that God has spoken. It is not some mere exercise in the reading and recitation of some facts. It is to give one’s self over to what God says for the sole purpose of obeying. One is not taking heed who argues, complains and becomes disgruntled with the message of God. A chief characteristic of the people of God is that they respond to God’s word without questioning, rationalizing otherwise discounting the word to mean

anything more or less than what it says. Furthermore, they do not allow circumstances, whether convenient or not, to determine whether or not they heed God's commands.

It is interesting to note Moses tells Israel to "Take heed **and** listen." Why this order of "take heed" and "listen?" Moses had reminded Israel earlier that they were a special people to God (26:16-19) and with that comes not only privileges but solemn responsibilities which should be carried out with all their heart and soul. To listen then, is another mark of the people of God, it indicates their readiness and willingness to hear God whenever and wherever He speaks. Again someone has well noted that listening is the beginning of all understanding (James 1:19-20). Thus, to listen is an expression of dependence on God; as obedience (from the heart and soul) is a expression of gratitude toward God by those who are called the people of God.

God speaks today through His Son Jesus Christ and it is contained in the New Testament (Hebrews 1:1-3; John 12:48-50). Can we do any less today, with respect to God's instructions through His Son, than "take heed and listen" if we truly desire to be the people of God? While Israel, the people of God, under the Old Testament received the earthly promised land, the Hebrew writer reminds those today under the New Covenant "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9). Let us, "Take heed and listen."

-via *Power Talk*; Lexington, Kentucky



## ***Gospel Meeting***

September 12-16, 2010

(Sunday through Thursday)

Bill Hall, Speaking

**Market Street church of Christ**

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

# ***News & Notes***

## **THE SICK:**

### ***In The Hospital:***

*Polly Davis*; Hartselle Hospital, no visitors

*Scott Adams*; Cancer Center of America – Chicago

### ***At Home:***

David Gardner

Judy Vaughn

Lola Colwell

Bobbie Adcock

Patrica Holt

Emma Clark

Jim Currier

Una King Currier

Molly Weeks

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.

**DIRECTORY UPDATE:** We are needing to finish up the pictures for the church directory. ***Rusty Brand*** and ***Joel Hamm*** have been making pictures of everyone for the directory. If you have not had your picture made yet, please see ***Rusty*** or ***Joel*** to get your picture made today. 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: Monroe Pressnell 1935 – 2010:** We are saddened with the passing of brother Monroe Pressnell this past Wednesday morning. Brother Pressnell fought a hard battle with cancer, but was at services on many occasions when it took much effort for him to be here. Monroe had served as a deacon and an elder in other congregations. He was an excellent student of the word of God. We will miss Monroe and his presence among us at Market Street. His funeral service was Friday afternoon and the burial was in the Oak Grove cemetery in Goodsprings.

**PLACED MEMBERSHIP: Marlon and Julie Meals** have expressed their desire to be a part of the church here at Market Street. We are glad to have them with us and want to extend a warm welcome to them.

**GOSPEL MEETING/VBS:** The *New Hope church* at Cross Key is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with services at 7:00 p.m. *Sewell Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Jones Road church* in the county is beginning a lectureship this week. There will be sessions beginning at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m. and 7:50 p.m. The speakers in the lectureship will be *Jeff May, Gerry Sandusky, Don Truex, and Ralph Walker*... The *Westview church* in Hartselle is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m. *Lowell Sallee* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Holland's Gin church* will be having a VBS and youth forum this Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m.

**HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDY:** Our next High School/College Age study will be this Saturday evening, July 24th, at 6:30 p.m. We will be looking at our *Relationship To Our Parents*. 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 July 11th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 134  
Morning Worship ..... 170  
Evening Worship..... 134  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 107

### *Remember Our Study Periods*

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

## **Men Privileged To Serve:**

### **Sunday, July 18th:**

#### *Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Marty Adams  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Joel Hamm  
Assisting ..... Marion Mitchell  
Serving ..... Delmer Carter..... David Terry  
..... Russ Wulfekuhl..... Mark Rogers  
Closing Prayer ..... Hunter Cox

#### *Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Stuart Wilson  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Steve Bradley  
Preaching ..... Joel Hamm  
Lord's Supper ..... Marion Mitchell  
Closing Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 18th:

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

### **Wednesday, July 21st**

Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
Bible Reading..... (Ecclesiastes 10:11-20)  
..... Kenneth Smith  
Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
Invitation ..... Marty Adams  
Closing Prayer ..... Joel Hamm

### **Sunday, July 25th:**

#### *Morning Worship*

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

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 25th:

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