

# 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  
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

November 7, 2010

No. 45

## *On Flowery Beds of Ease*

**Terry Benton**

"Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world" (1 Peter 5:9).

The devil is looking for whom he may devour. Jesus has empowered us to be Samson against this roaring lion. But, we must put up the resistance and we must not let anything or anyone cut off our source of power. Our power is in the ingredients of "the faith". The faith is that body of teaching that God has given us in the Bible. That resource is rich with power but we must handle it and use it skillfully. It does not jump out of the book and into our head and heart. The power is in the gospel (Romans 1:16), but the gospel must be in the heart and working powerfully within us. We must be steadfast in the faith.

We must keep a constant flow of the milk and meat of God's word in our spiritual veins by digesting it daily or "steadfastly". This will give us the power we need to "resist him", the devil.

We know that other brethren in the world have put up the fight and have kept the faith in adverse circumstances. "Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease while others **fought** to win the prize and sailed through bloody seas?" If we weaken and fall under prosperity and no bodily persecutions, how would we do under more threatening and adverse conditions?

"Sure I must fight if I would reign. Increase my courage, Lord. I'll stem the flood, endure the pain, supported by thy word". Must the "brotherhood" of first century believers stand for the truth, while I buckle under the slightest threats and no threats at all? Must someone else carry the cross while I play the role of Judas and sell the Lord for thirty pieces of silver or a nice house and a car? Resist the devil, or he will devour you. He wants to take you to hell with him. Are you willing to go with him? Can he take you so easily? Resist him! Fight the good fight of faith! Put on the whole armor! Do not be so captivated by the world's glitter that you hope to be carried to the skies without a trial or difficulty on

flowery beds of ease. It does not work that way. Our brothers in the world have fought to win the prize and sailed through bloody seas. Ours may be more subtle battles within, and come in less physically threatening ways, but the spiritual threats of subtlety are always constant. Resist him brethren!

-via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas.



## *A Fork In The Road*

**Zack Lee**

Life is full of choices. Just take a moment and think about how many different decisions you made today. What time to get up? What to wear? What to eat? Each day we are confronted with choices. Some of the choices we make on a daily basis have very little impact on our lives, such as what and where to eat? Other choices can significantly change the course of our lives. Do we get married? Do we have children? Which career path will I choose?

Of all the choices that we make, the most critical of all is our decision about God and His kingdom. That is the ultimate choice that determines our eternal destiny. All the other important decisions in life hinge on that choice. It is a decision that Jesus calls on us to make. Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matthew 7:13-14). In our lives we quickly come to a fork in the road of life. We will be standing at the crossroads where two signs, one pointing to Jesus and eternal life and the other pointing toward a path of destruction. Each of us will have to make our own choice. As we stand at the fork in the road, what will we choose?

As we stand at the crossroads we are confronted by two gates:

### **The Wide Gate:**

This gate is wide and easy to enter. Many people will be making the decision to travel this way in life. It is attractive, indulgent, and self-serving. It is tolerant, non-judgmental, and non-offensive. To step through

this gate and walk on the easy road requires few, if any, restrictions or requirement. You can be your own boss, be your own Lord for that matter. Entering this gate will allow you to carry any baggage you want with you. Sin is tolerated. Doctrine is avoided. There is little emphasis on morality and commitment. Those who enter this gate will ridicule those who are squeezing through the other gate. What scares me about the wide gate is that it leads to hell, the sentence of eternal damnation away from God in a burning lake of fire.

### **The Narrow Gate:**

This gate is narrow and hard to enter. It is not a popular choice to make. This gate is so narrow that you have to go through it alone. You cannot take anyone else with you. Your husband, your wife, your children, your relatives and friends cannot enter hanging on to your leg. If they would enter, they must do so on the basis of their own choice. This gate is also so narrow that you cannot bring your baggage with you. Your sins cannot enter with you. Your pride cannot enter with you. All of your self-accomplishments, influence of money--all of it must be left behind if you are to enter the narrow gate. The rich young ruler discovered this when he wanted to become a disciple of Jesus. He was very wealthy and Jesus told him that before he could enter he had to give some of his possessions to the poor. The young man went away sorrowful (Matthew 19:16 -22). The gate was too narrow for him and his wealth. Choosing to leave everything behind and entering through the narrow gate has tremendous blessings but it is hard. It takes commitment, sacrifice, and devotion to stay on the narrow road. However, this road leads to eternal life. Those who squeeze through this narrow gate will enjoy being in the presence of God for eternity.

Life is all about choices and life is about the freedom to make those choices. God loved us enough to allow us to choose which gate we will enter. When you stand at the fork in the road of life, which gate will you enter?

-via *The Manslick Road Speaker*; Louisville, Kentucky

## *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*

# *Procrastinating Godliness*

**Mike Thomas**

It had been 16 years since the Jews returned from captivity, yet they still had not completed the rebuilding of the temple--a project God used to return them to Judah (Ezra 1:1-5). They promised to do this noble work, in honor of their Savior, but had become distracted with their own interest. Haggai the prophet was sent in to issue this reminder: "Thus speaks the LORD of host, saying: 'This people says, The time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built.' Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 'Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?'" (Haggai 1:2-4).

Their problem was not a fear of doing a poor job on the temple; they had enough skill and resources to panel their houses! Their problem was what we struggle with even today: procrastination. "The time has not come" is what they told themselves in putting off the Lord's work. The reality was, the right time was not coming as long as they cared more for their own houses than they did the Lord's.

We slowly poison our lives with the lies of procrastination. We convince ourselves that we will do more for the Lord when the time comes, but deep down inside we have as much intention in making those changes as the Jews had in finishing the temple. "One day, I'll apply myself to be the leader my family needs." "One day, I'll have more brethren into my home." But, one day never comes. Before we know it, 16 years have passed and we still haven't sent the first card or made the first call. Meanwhile, we enjoy all the luxuries we can in our paneled houses. As long as the satellite bill is paid and the pantry is full, we have all that we want out of life.

This is not to say it is wrong to enjoy the blessings of life (1 Timothy 6:17), or the portion God gives us under the sun. The question is are we putting forth the same effort in the work of God as we are in filling our lives with luxury? Are we as concerned about telling His gospel to a dying world as we are about earthly appearances? If we haven't done those good deeds yet, when will we? At what point will we teach that Bible class, lead that public prayer, or talk to our

family about God? When will we become a more skillful worker for the Lord? "The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly" (Proverbs 26:16). A procrastinator will always find ways to justify himself.

We only get one life to exercise faith in God and to make a difference in this world for Him--for "there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). The earth and its works, including your home, will burn up one day, but the work of God is eternal. Are you still going about your Father's business in seeking first the kingdom of heaven?

-via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam, Kentucky

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## 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

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## News & Notes

### **THE SICK:**

*In The Hospital:*

*Phil Pressnell; Vanderbilt Rehab.*

### *At Home:*

Jane Meredith

Hazel Toone

Patricia Abernathy

David Gardner

Mary Ruth Gardner

Eva Felker

Keena Adams

Jeff Mitchell

Ray Bailey

Jeff Waddell

Emma Clark

Jim Currier

Randy Graviett

Bernice Martin

Una King Currier

Jesse Carter

**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

Lola Colwell, at home

Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

**NURSERIES AVAILABLE:** There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other is in the east wing.

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

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Albert Bowers and all the family** in the passing of Albert's brother-in-law, **Claud Vining**, this past Monday. His funeral was Thursday afternoon at Limesotne Chapel.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The **Elkton church** in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with **John Zellner** preaching... The **Danville Road church** in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday with the following speakers: Sunday – **Eddie Littrell**; Monday – **Joe Corley**; Tuesday – **Jeff May** ... The **Helton Drive church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with **Frank Richey** preaching... The **South Cullman church** in Cullman is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with **Tommy Hagewood** preaching... The **Jackson Heights church** in Columbia, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with **Matthew Allen** preaching.

**THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of October 31st**

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes..... 134

Morning Worship ..... 167

Evening Worship..... 114

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes..... 96

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, November 7th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Jack Cannon  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Rusty Brand  
Assisting ..... Tyler Cox  
Serving ..... Mark Rogers ..... Nathaniel Adams  
..... David Terry ..... Marion Pepper  
Closing Prayer ..... Lifford Smith

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
Lord's Supper ..... Rusty Brand  
Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 7th:

Usher ..... David Terry  
Work Sound System ..... Stuart Wilson

**Wednesday, November 10th:**

Song Leader ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 7:1-9)  
..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
Prayer ..... Rusty Brand  
Invitation ..... Warren Glass  
Closing Prayer ..... Stuart Wilson

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**Sunday, November 14th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer ..... Jonathan Keenon  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Assisting ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Serving ..... Will Chumbley ..... Keenon Currier  
..... Ronnie Locke ..... Chris Sides  
Closing Prayer ..... Tommy Burns

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Rusty Brand  
Closing Prayer ..... Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 14th:

Usher ..... Tyler Cox  
Work Sound System ..... Marty Adams