

# 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

November 21, 2010

No. 47

## *"Keep Thy Heart With All Diligence"*

**David A. Cox**

Solomon long ago recognized the importance of having the right kind of heart. He wrote, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). The reason Solomon was so concerned about the kind of heart man had was because man will be what his heart is (Proverbs 23:7). Let us consider the heart and why we should keep or guard our hearts.

### Why Should We Keep Our Hearts?

First, let us understand that the heart that is under consideration here is not the blood pump, but the Biblical heart. The scriptures describes its function as that which: thinks (Matthew 9:4); reasons (Mark 2:8); understands (John 12:40); loves (Matthew 22:37); and will or purposes (2 Corinthians 9:7). These verses clearly show that the heart determines what kind of person we are. We should guard our heart above all things.

The heart of man is susceptible to change. This change is good if one's heart is not what God is pleased with and changes in order to please God. However, the heart that pleases God must be aware of evil and watch carefully lest it be turned away from God. This is what Solomon exhorts us to be mindful of and to guard our heart; lest it be turned to do evil. Change in our heart can be so gradual that if we are not on guard, it can change without us being aware of it. Many people that we have known at one time had good hearts and served the Lord faithfully, but now their hearts have turned away from serving the Lord and doing His will.

### How Should We Guard Our Hearts?

*Keep Our Heart Fervent.* We need to make sure our zeal, intensity, and sincerity of our heart does not wane. Paul reminded the Romans to be "fervent in spirit" (Romans 12:11). Paul was telling the Romans that this was to be the life of a Christian, not on just special occasions. Christianity is not just something to be played at or a one or twice a week type of thing. Christianity deserves our fervent, earnest, zealous service at all times. In Revelation 3:16-19, the Christians in the church at Laodicea lost their fervor and zeal in serving the Lord. They were rebuked and

### 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*

told to change and serve the Lord faithfully. We must not allow our service to Christ to become old and just common place with no zeal or fervor of the heart being present. Let us guard our hearts from the things that cause our zeal to grow cold.

*Keep Our Heart's Affections Right.* Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). Jesus is reminding his followers to keep their hearts' affections in the right place. Paul exhorted the church at Colosse to do the same thing when he wrote, "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). We must guard our hearts and keep them focused on the things which will enable us to go to heaven. If we focus our attention on heavenly things, we will not have time to focus on the earthly things. In life, it is so easy to lose our focus and forget what our purpose on earth is, that is to "fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Let us guard our hearts from losing focus of the eternal things.

*Keep Our Hearts Reverent and Tender.* The heart that is not kept reverent and tender is not a heart that can please God. Reverent attitude of heart means that one will have deep respect, honor and standing in awe before God. The one whose heart is lifted with pride and arrogance cannot please God. The pharisee in Luke 18:9-14, prayed to God with a heart filled with pride and arrogance, but the publican prayed at the temple as well with a tender and reverent heart. Jesus commended the publican's attitude of heart, "I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." A heart like that of the Pharisee will become hardened and will not correct the errors in life that need correcting. Let us keep our hearts reverent and tender so that they can be easily shaped, molded by the truth, sensitive to what is right and wrong and submissive to the will of God.

Let us not neglect our hearts, but keep them "diligently" so that they will be hearts that will be pleasing to God. Is your heart one that God approves of?

**Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.**

## *Serving God Where We Are*

**Jim Jonas**

The city of Rome was the nerve center of the first-century world. All roads led to Rome; all significant decisions were made in Rome; all cities feared Rome. Yet even in the imperial capital amid the political intrigue, the idolatrous temples and the blood sport, Christianity took root and began to grow. It is not recorded how faith first came to Rome, but by the time Paul wrote to the church, ca. AD 55-59, numerous saints were living there (Romans 16:3-16). Some were even among Nero's palace guard (Philippians 1:13).

Since Paul had a "deep concern for all the churches" (2 Corinthians 11:28), he was interested in the welfare of the brethren in Rome. He expresses his "great desire these many years to come to you" (Romans 15:23). He confesses to them "that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established ..." (Romans 1:9-11).

So why hadn't Paul gone to Rome earlier? Concerning his work he says "I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named..." (Romans 15:20), and in view of his diligent pursuit of this objective God had not opened the door of opportunity for Paul to travel to Rome. God had work for him to do elsewhere, so Paul set aside his personal wishes and focused upon the task at hand.

But Paul asserts "that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ" (Romans 15:19). That is, he had fulfilled his assignment and was now ready to set his sights upon Rome. Little did he know that he would go in chains.

At different times in life we find ourselves in various situations, some desirable and some not. Perhaps a job takes us to a large city in the north when we prefer a small town in the south. Caring for an ailing mate or parent may hinder our ability to serve God in other ways. We may be asked to teach an age group with which we are not comfortable. Whatever the specific case, we're often in a place we'd rather not be, or we wish to be somewhere other than where we are. What should we do in times like these?

*Look for the bright side.* Instead of lamenting our lack of fortune, we must train ourselves to find the blessings and advantages inherent in our situation. In the midst of his Roman imprisonment, Paul suffers the added insult of men who “preach Christ even from envy and strife... supposing to add affliction to my chains” (Philippians 1:15-16). How does Paul view this? “What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice” (Philippians 1:18). Life is rarely pitch black. There’s usually a ray of light shining somewhere.

*Grow where you are planted.* Growth of character often comes from dealing with stressful situations. Each of life’s episodes can be added to our storehouse of experience. From this storehouse wisdom can be drawn as future complications arise.

*Draw closer to God.* Surely Paul and Silas would have rather been anywhere but a Philippian prison, bruised and aching from the unjust beating they had received (Acts 16:22-24). So what did they do? “At mid-night Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns” (Acts 16:25). The circumstances of life are often out of our control. All God expects of us in such situations is to do the best we can where we are.

-via *Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.

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## *Make Known Your Gratitude*

Harry H. Morris

I doubt if words can be arranged into any expression or message to the fellow men, that could bring richer rewards both to the sender and receiver, than an expression of gratitude or a note of thanks. It costs but little time and effort to write or say thank you, but this expression to those who care and bless our lives is calculated to bring rich rewards in warm friendship, a closer tie and mutual understanding. So little energy is expended to say thank you or I am grateful for what you have done for me — but the effect of such an expression is very real and very positive in the attitude of those to whom it is expressed. Haven’t you heard someone say; “Well he must not appreciate what we

did for him, he didn’t say thank you, I don’t think we will do anything else for him.” How easy it is to make known our appreciation for the favors we receive. How great is the effect on the attitude of those to whom gratitude is expressed.

Let’s learn to remember always to not only be thankful, but to express our heartfelt thanks to our fellow man and to God, for the many kindnesses and blessings we receive.

-via *Centerview Tidings*; Russellville, Alabama

[**Editor’s Note:** The above article was written by my grandfather over 50 years ago. I appreciate what he said in the articles and think how true it is. My grandfather preached for several churches in Florida, and Lauderdale County, Alabama. He was serving as an elder at the time of his and my grandmother’s tragic death in an automobile accident. May we remember that the Lord desires that his people be a thankful people. (Romans 1:21; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 3:15; etc.)]

## 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:*

*Jane Meredith*; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 656  
*Bertha Johnson*; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 651  
*Gladys Sandlin*; Crestwood Hospital, rm. 329  
*Phil Pressnell*; Vanderbilt Rehab.

#### *At Home:*

Janet Berryhill	Gilbert Hardy
Rachel Grubbs	Hazel Toone
Mary Ruth Gardner	David Gardner
Eva Felker	Phillip Harwell
Keena Adams	Jeff Mitchell

Ray Bailey	Bernice Martin
Jeff Waddell	Emma Clark
Mary Bates	Randy Graviett
Jim Currier	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

**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

**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.

**PLACED MEMBERSHIP:** We are pleased to mention that sister **Ruth Legg** has let it be known that she desires to be a part of the work at Market Street. We are glad to have Ruth back among us. Also, **Bobbie Adcock** has expressed her desire to be a part of the church here at Market Street. We are glad to have her here with us as well. Let us all make Ruth and Bobbie feel at home among us. We will be getting there updates to the directory to you in the next week or so.

**THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of Nov. 14th**

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 125  
 Morning Worship ..... 164  
 Evening Worship..... 114

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 110

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, November 21st:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements .....	Marty Adams
Song Leader .....	Tyler Cox
Prayer .....	Marion Mitchell
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting .....	Dwaine Allfrey
Serving .....	Will Chumbley ..... Keenon Currier
.....	Ronnie Locke..... Chris Sides
Closing Prayer .....	Landon Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements .....	Marty Adams
Song Leader .....	Tyler Cox
Prayer .....	Rusty Brand
Preaching .....	Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper .....	Rusty Brand
Closing Prayer .....	Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 21st:

Usher .....	Rusty Brand
Work Sound System .....	Danny Johnson

**Wednesday, November 24th:**

Song Leader .....	Stuart Wilson
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 8:1-10)
.....	Jack Cannon
Prayer .....	Jonathan Keenon
Invitation .....	David Cox
Closing Prayer .....	Bonnie Sutton

**Sunday, November 28th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements .....	TBA
Song Leader .....	TBA
Prayer .....	TBA
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	TBA
Assisting .....	TBA
Serving .....	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, November 28th:

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