

# 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 III

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No. 5

## *I Got Sick Of The World*

**Gerry Sandusky**

My religious background could be summed up by saying there was almost none. My Baptist grandmother took me to the Methodist church when I was five years old and gave me a Bible that I still possess. When I was about twelve years old, because there was no Baptist church nearby, she begged the Methodist preacher to baptize me by immersion. Though he insisted it was unnecessary, he baptized me in an Assembly of God building, so I would later call myself a Methodist Baptist.

### **I was a Wild, Drug-Using Hippie**

From that point, my life unraveled. My mother left my father for a young man, and my father remarried. I graduated from high school, joined the military, and left God far behind. I smoked, drank, and used other drugs, and was surrounded by pornography. During three years in the military, after which my grandmother died. I became sick of sin. My conscience always bothered me, which amazed me. While I was drinking or doing drugs, my friends would get frustrated because I would bring up God and want somebody to help me understand Him. But I was so confused and uninformed that I continually remained frustrated.

After leaving the military, I returned to work at International Harvester in Louisville, Kentucky. I began to associate with fellows affected by Vietnam and other things. I became friends with those like me: a long-haired, bead-wearing, motorcycle riding, drug-using hippie.

### **Provocative Spiritual Questions**

Then one day a man boldly approached me on the assembly line. He asked me three questions: "Do you believe in God?" I did not want to answer that question, so I continued working as if I did not hear, but he just waited. When he persisted, I decided to tell him the truth. I turned to him and said, "Yes, sir, I do." I hoped that would end the conversation, but then he asked, "If you die right now, do you believe you would go to heaven or hell?" I went back to work, but he raised the final question: "Does that bother you?" I pondered what to say and finally just looked into his eyes and said, "Yes, it does, and I'm going to

### **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**

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*

do something about it.”

I did. I went home, shaved of my beard, cut my hair, threw my pornography in the garbage, flushed some drugs down the commode, and poured out all the whiskey I had in the house. And I sat down on the couch, and tried to read my Bible, but I had a big obstacle: I had graduated from high school without learning how to read.

I sat and cried and thought what to do. Soon I went searching for the Bible on tape, and began to sit up until about three or four each morning and listen to it. I wanted to saturate my mind with just what the Bible said.

### **Where is the Lord's Church?**

My next step was to attend different churches on Sundays and ask everybody that I could questions about the Bible, but the more I investigated, the more confused and discouraged I became, until I began to see that some religious groups were closer to the Bible than others were.

Eventually, learning from the Bible that I needed to believe, repent, confess and be baptized. I found my way to the Christian Church. I decided that I would be baptized and join their work, until I told my grandpa, who I thought would be so proud. But when I told him what I was planning, he kept pounding his Bible on my leg, saying, “Don't do it, don't do it!” I was shocked and puzzled, because my grandpa had become a Christian at age 69 after being a Roman Catholic. I asked why not; the Bible said I should be baptized. He then questioned me about mechanical instrumental music in worship, which I believed was nitpicking, but then asked why I wanted to be baptized: “Why will you nitpick about the plan of salvation and not nitpick about worship?” For the first time, I was learning about biblical authority (Matthew 7:13-27).

It was a new concept to me, and I needed to learn more. I wasn't baptized that next Sunday, but I kept searching. Finally I approached Bill Bryant at International Harvester, I asked him where he went to church. He said he was a Christian, a member of the Lord's church.

### **Knowing the Difference Between Truth and Error**

Bill opened a door I never knew existed. He brought me tracts on instrumental music, but I was too ashamed to tell him I couldn't read. Finally he directed me to a

Church of Christ near where I lived, where Ken Green preached. I was determined to be baptized, so I went to services on Wednesday night, and Ken introduced himself. I said, “I'm Gerry Sandusky, and I'm here to be baptized and stuff like that.”

Well, naturally, Ken thought I was a nut. He did not baptize me, fearing I did not have any idea what it meant. I went back on Sunday and during the invitation song I went forward, determined that if I had to, I would embarrass him into baptizing me. When he asked me what I wanted, I responded loudly, “I'm here to be baptized and stuff like that.” He said, “OK,” and so my journey as a man who had found a clean conscience began (1 Peter 3:21).

You may wonder about all the sinful habits I had. I thought the battle with tobacco was a mountain I would never climb, but I knew the only way I would was to take one step at a time. Instead of putting cigarettes in my shirt pocket, I put the little Bible from my grandmother. Each time I reached for a cigarette, I would pull my Bible out of my pocket, search for the shortest passage, ask somebody to read it, and begin to memorize it. I didn't know that was a biblical principle, but the more I began to replace the sin in my life with the sincere milk of the word (1 Peter 2:2), the more I grew.

-via *The Sower*, Vol. 55 no. 6; Nov. - Dec. 2010.

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## ***Not As Easy As You Think***

**Bryan Gibson**

Of all the commandments found in the New Testament, which one asks the most of us? It just might be the one found in Mark 12:30, “And you shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart, with **all** your soul, with **all** your mind, and with **all** your strength.” Jesus calls this the “first and great commandment” (Matthew 22:38). There is much more to this commandment than most people think, evidenced by the fact that some people think they're keeping it, when in reality they are not. Jesus very bluntly told some Pharisees in John 5:42, “You do not have the love of God in you.” They may have thought they loved God, but according to Jesus, they didn't. To help us see whether or not we're

keeping this commandment, let's look at what the love of God requires of us.

**Love for God requires love for others.**

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 John 4:20-21); see also 1 John 3:10-18). You can tell those who love God by the way they treat their brethren.

**Love for God requires obedience to His will.**

Read carefully the following words from Jesus: "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15); "He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me" (John 14:21). Consider also 1 John 5:3): "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments."

**Love for God requires the surrender of everything; it requires a complete self-sacrifice.**

Everything we are, and everything we have, must be completely devoted to serving God. Are you familiar with the story of the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-22? This man told Jesus about the commandments he had kept, but then Jesus gave him another one: "Sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." His response? "He was sad at the word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." Did this young man love God? No, because there was something he was unwilling to give up for God--his money or possessions. Those who seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33) will be willing to make that sacrifice.

Perhaps money is not the problem; maybe it's time. Sometimes we're unwilling to give up our time--and it does take time to do the things God wants us to do. It could be any number of things, but this is the point. The life of a Christian is one of many sacrifices; those who are willing to make these sacrifices are the ones who truly love God.

**Love for God requires putting Him even before family.**

Family is certainly important. The Scriptures teach us to honor our parents, love our children, care for our grandparents, etc. But as important as family is, God must still come first. Jesus taught his in Matthew 10:37: "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not

worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." What do we do is family is pulling us in one direction, but God is pulling us in another? If we truly love God, we will do what he says, even at the risk of alienating our family.

Can we begin to see now how far reaching this commandment really is? So how do we develop the love for God that we should have? By learning more and more about His great love for us. After all, "we love Him because He first loved us", (1 John 4:19). The more our love for Him increases, the more willing we become to do all that this love requires of us. Look at it this way. He certainly deserves our all, because that's exactly what He has given us (Romans 8:32).

-via *The Stanley Avenue Bulletin*; Andalusia, Alabama.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Janet Berryhill*; Hartselle Hospital

#### *At Home:*

Bonnie Sutton	James Adams
Hazel Toone	Rachel Grubbs
Jane Meredith	David Gardner
Yvonne Sherbert	Mary Ruth Gardner
Bertha Johnson	Paul Adcock
Wynell Williams	Phil Pressnell
Doris Claxton	Phillip Harwell
Jeff Waddell	Jeff Mitchell
Keena Adams	Randy Graviett
Emma Clark	Jim Currier
Una King Currier	Jesse Carter

#### *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17      Rachel Clem, rm. 49

#### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Bernice Thomas, rm. 52	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Joe Leopard, rm. 108	Gladys Sandlin, rm. 107
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	Mary Smith, rm. 85

#### *Limestone Manor:*

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

#### *Shut-In:*

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
- Matthew Cox; Iraq

**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.

**WITH US TODAY:** This morning, we are pleased to have brother *V. J. Benson* with us from India. He will be speaking to us during the morning Bible class period about the work in India and the work of the various men we support there.

**WORK GROUPS:** Tonight will be the night for work group four to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening.

**ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING:** The elders and deacons will be meeting next Sunday morning at 9:00.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Margaret Carter and Bobbie Adcock* in the passing of Margaret's aunt and Bobbie's sister-in-law, *Helen Neely*. She passed away Tuesday and her funeral was Friday morning in Ardmore.

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

**THE RECORD:** For the Week of January 23rd

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 126  
 Morning Worship ..... 164  
 Evening Worship..... 132

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 104

## *Gospel Meeting*

May 15-19, 2011

Jeff May, Speaking

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

### **Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, January 30th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
 Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Prayer ..... Kennneth Smith  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
 Assisting ..... Rusty Brand  
 Serving ..... Jonathan Keenon .... Tommy Burns  
 ..... Keenon Currier ..... Hunter Cox  
 Closing Prayer ..... Lifford Smith

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
 Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Prayer ..... Landon Adams  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
 Closing Prayer ..... Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 30th:

Usher ..... Delmer Carter  
 Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson

**Wednesday, February 2nd:**

Song Leader ..... Marty Adams  
 Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 13:1-10)  
 ..... Danny Johnson  
 Prayer ..... Jack Cannon  
 Invitation ..... David Cox  
 Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn

**Sunday, February 6th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
 Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
 Prayer ..... Marty Adams  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Kenneth Smith  
 Assisting ..... Tyler Cox  
 Serving ..... Nathaniel Adams ..... Harold Davis  
 ..... Chris Sides ..... Paul Hasting  
 Closing Prayer ..... Rusty Brand

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
 Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
 Prayer ..... Ronnie Locke  
 Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
 Lord's Supper ..... Kenneth Smith  
 Closing Prayer ..... Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 6th:

Usher ..... Keenon Currier  
 Work Sound System ..... Stuart Wilson