

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

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
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 III

July 17, 2011

No. 29

The Greatest Task

Billy Norris

Great tasks have been given to men, such as building the pyramids and the great wall of China, digging the Suez and the Panama canals, orbiting the earth and landing on the moon. The greatest task, however, the world has ever known is taking the gospel to every creature on earth in every generation. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

This is the greatest task because:

1. **It has been assigned by the greatest being—God**, through Jesus Christ, his Son. God is described as "Almighty" (Genesis 17:1), infinite (1 Kings 8:27), eternal (Isaiah 57:15), omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12), omniscient (Psalm 139: 1-6). Paul said that even the foolishness of God is wiser than men (1 Corinthians 1:15).

Because of God's greatness we cannot question his way of carrying out this assignment. After his resurrection from the dead and just before his return to be with his Father in heaven, Christ gave to his disciples the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. In carrying out this assignment they had an individual responsibility, as do Christians today; but when the church was established a few days later, it had the responsibility as the pillar and ground of the truth of carrying out this commission (1 Timothy 3:15). Evangelists sent out by a local congregation would preach the word, establish other congregations, and then return to the congregation from which they went out to give a report of their work (Acts 13; 14). No other organization was used in their work of evangelism. The local congregation proved adequate in accomplishing the work God gave it.

Also, because of the success of God's way of evangelizing the world, we cannot question its wisdom. Without the use of any kind of missionary society, and without congregations combining their resources into some super organization, but simply by individual disciples going out on their own (Acts 8:4), and by local congregations sending out evangelists, in a relatively short time the gospel was preached throughout

the world of that day. Only thirty or so years after the establishment of the church, Paul said that the gospel “was preached to every creature which is under heaven” (Colossians 1:23).

2. It manifests the greatest love. Through the ages man has been rebellious against God, and has repeatedly transgressed God’s laws. Jeremiah said that God’s people had forgotten him days without number (Jeremiah 2:32). Since the wages of sin is death, and all have sinned, man is under the sentence of spiritual death and stands to spend all eternity in hell as the consequence of his transgressions. But even though man has been so rebellious, God has manifested his great love for us in the gift of his precious Son to die in our stead. Through the great sacrifice of Christ he has provided the gospel, which is his power to save our souls from the terrible consequences of our sins. “Him who knew no sin, he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). It is said that Ben Hogan, the great golfer, seeing that he and his wife would be involved in a terrible automobile accident, threw himself in front of his wife to protect her. His body was crushed, and he never was able to reach again the skill that he once possessed, but he saved the one that he dearly loved. God’s love was far greater, because he sacrificed his Son for all mankind, even for his enemies, and those who had been so rebellious against his will.

3. It makes available the greatest power—the gospel, “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). Paul said that the Corinthians were saved by the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:2.) Though they had been a very ungodly people, there was power in the gospel to save them from their sins when they obeyed. “Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Indeed there is power in the blood of Christ to cleanse “from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

4. It covers the greatest territory—“all the world.” The gospel is not limited by distance, nor by color, nor by station in life. It is for, and is needed by, every man, everywhere. It is mankind’s only hope for true unity; for by obedience to the gospel all men can be of “one

heart and soul” (Acts 4:32). It reaches out to heaven itself; for it is from the mind of God, will be the basis of man’s judgment in the last great day (John 12:48), and will make possible the entrance of the redeemed into the heavenly home (Revelation 7:9-17).

5. It can have the greatest results. It can save souls from an eternal hell. In the judgment day Jesus will have to say to the great majority, “Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41.) John says that the smoke of their suffering goes upward forever and ever (Revelation 14:11), and that they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:10.) Forever is time beyond our comprehension, and yet we can realize, at least in some measure, how terrible it will be to spend eternity—time that knows no end—in suffering and misery that knows no relief.

Carrying the gospel into all the world can not only save souls from hell, it can greatly affect the lives of men in their earthly relationships. It can turn men from the ways of evil to righteousness. After Paul had listed a great number of sinners in writing to the Corinthians, he said, “And such were some of you, but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11). When people obey the gospel, being baptized into Christ, they rise to walk in “newness of life” (Romans 6:3, 4).

Carrying out this God-given assignment of taking the gospel into all the world can fill the hearts of men with joy in this world and in the world to come. Even when Jesus was in the shadow of the cross, he said to his disciples, “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full” (John 15:11). Even in the terrible experience of the cross Christ could experience joy—“who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2.) Paul as a prisoner in Rome could speak of his joy and also write to the Philippian brethren, “Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:1-4).

6. It requires the efforts of the greatest number of workers. God has given to his people the task of carrying the gospel into all the world. It is for men everywhere to obey the gospel in order to receive its precious benefits, and then help to carry it into all the world until it covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. This is man’s hope, and only hope, both in this world and the world

to come. The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Millions are needed. Are you a worker?

-via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 1 No. 5, May 1969



Attitudes Towards The Weak

Bill Hall

The Messiah's attitude toward the spiritually weak is pictured by Isaiah in the following words: "A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench" (Isaiah 42:3).

In our zeal for purity and strength in the church, we may be guilty of doing the very thing that our Lord does not want done. We create a mental image of what the ideal church ought to be, and then go about to establish one. Every member is going to attend every service. Every member will be "sound" in his convictions. Worldliness will not be tolerated. This church is not going to have the weaknesses that characterize other churches we know of. This is going to be a strong church. A new convert is made, and immediately he is indoctrinated in what this church is, and the contribution he is expected to make to the maintaining of this ideal. Each new-comer is viewed as a potential threat. If he's not going to "line up," we don't want him. Weaker members are handled with a "shape up or ship out" attitude. People soon recognize that there is far more concern for the image of the church as an organization than for them as struggling and weak children of God. While the Messiah is tenderly and delicately nursing the "bruised reeds" back to health, we may be crushing them. While He cups His hand around these fluttering, dimly burning flames to protect what fire is left, we may be there quenching them.

We are not suggesting that unrepentant false teachers and immoral members ought to be tolerated. They must be warned, marked and withdrawn from. Nor are we suggesting that the weak ought to be left alone in their weakness. They must be taught, encouraged, reprovved, rebuked, and exhorted, but with all longsuffering, and with a view toward strengthening them. "Admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all" (1 Thessalonians

5:14). Ask not what they can do for the church but what the church can do for them.

As long as there is a little life in that "bruised reed," there is hope. Don't crush it! As long as there is a little fire left, it might be fanned to burn more brightly. Don't extinguish it!

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Marion Pepper	Delmar Carter
Gilbert Hardy	Rachel Grubbs
David Gardner	Gladys Johnson
Mary Ruth Gardner	Martha Rice
Brent Lowman	Una King Currier
Jeff Waddell	Wanda Taylor
Barbara Ogles	Mary Dean
Joe Collier	Sarah Collier
Matt Poff	Randy Graviett
Paige Phillips	Phillip Harwell
Robbie Shoulders	Don Bowling

In The Hospital:

Jim Currier; Trinity Hospital – Birmingham
Rhett Bailey; St. Jude's Hosp. Memphis, Tenn.

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65 Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Mary Smith, rm. 85 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Limestone Manor:

Albert 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:

Andrew Deen; Japan
Whitney Deen; Japan
Matthew Cox; Iraq

ANDERSON VBS: It was my priviledge to be with the church at Anderson this past week in their vacation

Bible school. The VBS went very well and was well attended. It was good to be able to spend some time with the brethren there and to see the good work that continues there. Aaron Andrews is the the preacher there and it was good to spend the time with him as well. I appreciate Warren Glass filling in for my class on Wednesday night, and for working with me around my schedule. Also, I appreciate Jordan Lovell for preaching on Sunday night.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS IN WEST WING: Remember there is a Bible class meeting in the little auditorium in the west wing. *Stuart Wilson* is directing the study on “*Denying Self*”. This study is just beginning for those that would like to be a part of it.

PREACHERS PASS AWAY: This week, there have been two preachers that have passed away that have meant a great deal to me. **Brother Billy Norris** passed away on Tuesday and his funeral was Thursday night in Russellville. Brother Norris was a preacher that it seems that I have always known. I guess I first met him after my family moved to Russellville when I was 6 years old. My father was preaching for the Eastside church in Russellville and brother Norris was preaching for the church in Phil Campbell. He was a book publisher of religious books and class materials. He edited and published the journal *Gospel Guide* for nearly 40 years. He meant much to the work in Franklin County. His grandson, *Scott Richardson* preaches for the Jackson Drive church here in Athens....Also, **brother George Harris** passed away in the night on Wednesday. Brother Harris was originally from England, but moved to South Africa and while there he was taught the truth and began preaching the gospel. He moved to the United States 13 years ago and began preaching in Lawrence county for the *Parkway church*, then for the *Hillside Chapel church* in Albertville and has preached the last several years for the *Somerville church* in Morgan county. George taught seventh grade Bible at Athens Bible School. We will miss these men among us. May the Lord bless their families.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We want to extend a warm welcome to **Tommy and Marcella Coblentz**. They have expressed their desire to be a part of the work at Market Street. We are looking forward to working together with them.

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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Marty Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord’s Supper
 Presiding Jonathan Keenon
 Assisting Tyler Cox
 Serving Stefan Fudge..... Will Chumbley
 Delmer Carter Mark Rogers
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 Preaching Joel Hamm
 Lord’s Supper Tyler Cox
 Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 17th:

Usher Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, July 20th:

Song Leader Marion Mitchell
 Bible Reading (Isaiah 27:1-13)
 Joel Hamm
 Prayer Wayne Vaughn
 Invitation Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Sunday, July 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord’s Supper
 Presiding Bonnie Sutton
 Assisting Joel Hamm
 Serving Ronnie Locke Marion Pepper
 Harold Davis Paul Hasting
 Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord’s Supper Bonnie Sutton
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 24th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System Danny Johnson