

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. 32

Potential Is Not Enough

T. Doy Moyer

"It is a most mortifying reflection for a man to consider what he has done, compared to what he might have done" (Samuel Johnson, 1770).

Potential has to do with something that can happen, but has not yet happened. It has to do with possibilities unrealized and undeveloped. While it is good to have the capacity to do many things, potential alone is not enough to accomplish what is necessary.

Christians have great potential. We have the potential for growth, to convert many people to the Lord, to make a strong impact on the communities around us. There are great possibilities; the future looks fantastic from this viewpoint.

But potential is not enough! Just because we have the ability to do something does not mean that we will do it. A congregation with great potential is no guarantee that they will make the most out of it. Remember, while something is still potential, it has not happened. What a tragedy it would be if, given the possibilities before to many Christians, these potentials were never realized!

Potential is realized when we press on with diligence to grow. We must act on our abilities and improve upon them. It takes work and commitment, not just recognition that we "can" do many things. The one talent man had the ability to gain another, but his laziness marked him forever as never reaching his potential (Matthew 25:14ff).

Sometimes we boast about our former days. "These seats used to be filled up. "We used to have so many classes going." "We used to be known for our singing." So? What are we doing now and where are we headed? Potential will never be seen by resting on the past. Paul understood this: "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected, but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one

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
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David A. Cox, Editor

thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14). Paul did not think in terms glorying in his past accomplishments or moping about his failures. His potential for perfection would only come through continually pressing toward the goal. Shall we expect less now?

God has provided for a local church to grow and be what He wants it to be (Ephesians 4:11-16). Teaching takes place, saints are equipped to serve and edify, unity is accomplished, maturity is accomplished, and the church grows as each individual member does his or her part. However, as long as there are Christians who do not do their share, the total potential of a congregation will not be seen. A church may accomplish much and be known for its faithfulness, but it will never attain to its full ability as long as there are some who do not work as they ought. One or two people cannot work for everyone else. "...the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (vs. 16).

Not everyone does the same work. One person may not have abilities that another may have, and vice-versa. But God expects each person to do what he/she can do. Potential means nothing unless we are willing to act on it.

There is a sense in which we will never reach our full potential on this earth. We must avoid the attitude that says, "I did it, I'm perfect" (see Revelation 3:14-22). If we become satisfied with our spiritual lives so that we do not work for further growth and knowledge, we are in serious trouble. So, while we recognize that we have potential, let's always be striving to grow and mature. If we will, our capacity for heaven will be attained when this life is over (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

So ask yourself, "What have I done?" Then ask, "What am I able to do?" Are you working hard toward fulfilling your abilities?

-via *Focus Magazine*; Vol. 5 No. 6; June 2001

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Gospel Meeting

September 11-14, 2011

(Sunday through Wednesday)

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

Learning Prayer

David Maxson

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God" (Colossians 4:12).

Prayer is a discipline that must be taught. When the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Lord, teach us to pray," the response was not, "There's nothing to it, prayer is just talking to God." No, Jesus taught them how to pray.

Perhaps one of the best ways to learn to pray is to listen to those who know how to do it. The best qualified are those we read about in the Bible like Paul, who included for us many prayers in the beginning of his letters, or David, who wrote down many of his thoughts to God in the Psalms. Of course, Jesus would give us the best example in His prayers.

Next to these biblical models would be godly men and women who know the scriptures well and have been fervently involved in prayer for a number of years. The disciples of John looked to their mentor as a model for prayer, and so did the disciples of Jesus. It is good and appropriate for us to have the same kind of relationship with someone.

We learn much from hearing godly men pray in public, but how much more when we hear their unguarded and uninhibited thoughts in their prayer closet. There are no time constraints. You can be much more

specific. And the emotion behind one's prayer in a setting like this can be intense.

If you've never prayed with someone like this in a private setting, you need to do it. Ask the most righteous man or woman you know if they wouldn't mind praying with you. You'll thank me later.

O God, thank You for this privilege of approaching You in prayer, and for giving us such examples of the priority and purpose we should have in this.

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



Working To Rule

Sewell Hall

The term "Work to Rule" is familiar to most people living in England. It means to work according to pre-defined minimum requirements for a given job. Thus, the worker will work no weekends, no overtime, and no relief. He will make no effort to make up the time following a breakdown or delay. He may refuse the paralyzing effect of such minimum effort, labor leaders use such action as an alternative to a strike.

"Working to rule" is common in the church. Many establish what appears to them to be a reasonable set of minimum requirements for staying out of hell and then live accordingly. Usually it involves attending Sunday for "breaking of bread" (unless on holidays), giving a certain percentage of their income, perhaps "saying a little prayer" before retiring, and avoiding the grosser forms of immorality. They do not advertise or attend gospel meetings. They seldom attend Bible classes or Sunday evening services. "These are not required," they explain. If all the members of a given congregation were "work to rule" people the church would be no more effective than an industry by such action.

The Lord has never stated any minimum requirements. He speaks only in terms of total commitment, of seeking first the kingdom, of giving our bodies a

living sacrifice.

The church in Ephesus, once a very zealous church fired by love for God, left their first love and settled down to "work to rule." They maintained a minimum program of work and remained sound in teaching. But the Lord said, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works, or else I come to thee and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent" (Revelation 2:5).

We wonder how many churches may have had their candlesticks removed, and how many Christians have had their names blotted out of the book of life, not because they were on strike, but because they were working to some rule of their own devising.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Rachel Grubbs

David Gardner

Jack Jones

Wayne Bolton

Jeff Waddell

Mary Dean

Joe Collier

Sarah Collier

Barbara Ogles

Paige Phillips

Robbie Shoulders

Doris Lovell

Mary Ruth Gardner

Martha Rice

Una King Currier

Matt Poff

Brent Lowman

Phillip Harwell

Wanda Taylor

Randy Graviett

Don Bowling

In The Hospital:

Delmer Carter; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 655

Gladys Sandlin; Health South Rehab., rm. 320

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. 98

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

SONGBOOKS: Some have asked about getting some new songbooks for their personal use. If you would like to do this these can order them for you for 11.00 dollars per book. Please let David know. He will place this order next Monday, August 15th.

BAPTISM: We have been rejoicing this past week over **Colby Neely's** decision to be baptized into Christ last Saturday evening. We appreciate the good heart that Colby has shown and we want to encourage him as he will us in our work together at Market Street We trust that the Lord will bless Colby with many years to faithfully serve Him.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We want to extend a warm welcome to **Ruby Ezell** and **Jo Nell Campbell**. They have express their desire to be members at Market Street. We welcome them and look forward to working with them for the cause of Christ at Market Street.

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 HOMESINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: For the Week of July 31st

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 134
Morning Worship 170
Evening Worship..... 106
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 104

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Landon Adams
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Stuart Wilson
Serving Nathaniel Adams Hunter Cox
..... Terry Andrews Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Tyler Cox
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 7th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, August 10th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 28:20-29)
..... Terry Andrews
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
InvitationDavid Cox
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, August 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Ronnie Locke
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Stuart Wilson
Serving Nathaniel Adams Hunter Cox
..... Terry Andrews Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 14th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Danny Johnson