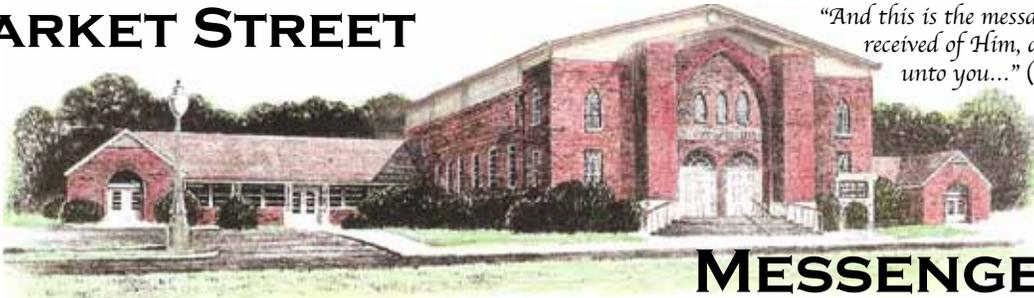


MARKET STREET



“And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you...” (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
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P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume IV

October 14, 2012

No. 42

Overcoming Insecurities

Dennis Carrow

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) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm..... (256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
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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

One of the most common practices we engage in as we attempt to justify ourselves while in sin is to compare ourselves to others. The Bible tells us that this is unwise. “We dare not...compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2Corinthians 10:12). This practice of comparing ourselves to others can lead to complete spiritual blindness. The reason for this is when we look into the lives of others we can always find weakness, imperfection, and sin. If this becomes the standard by which we gauge our lives we can become prejudicial hypocrites. We are always justifying ourselves through the weaknesses of others. This state of blindness never allows us to see our selves as God sees us.

It is critical that we determine where this practice has its origin and why we engage in the practice so readily? Primarily, the answer is that it hurts to look at our own failures. The sincere, honest heart when confronted with indiscretion and sin will find itself weeping bitterly. Consider the emotion experienced by Peter when the Lord looked at Him as Peter denied knowing Him. Peter could have compared himself to Judas, and said, “At least I am not as bad as Judas.” However, rather than attempting to justify himself, “he went out and wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:75). It is this place that Peter realized his insecurity that enabled him to overcome. While he faced the sad reality of his failure he became a faithful servant of the Lord. As history records, one day he did sacrifice his life for his faith in Jesus as the Christ.

The defense mechanism that Peter had used to protect himself in the courtyard from his association with Jesus was a reflection of his insecurity. He was unwilling to suffer with or for Christ - he was living in fear. However, in the eyes of others he appeared defiantly confident - to the point of cursing and swearing. Consider how self-deceived Peter was when he was speaking to the Lord about the possibility that he would

deny the Lord three times. He had told Jesus just hours earlier, "Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny You" (Matthew 26:35).

This emotion mechanism of insecurity leads to hypocrisy that is very, very illusive and can allow us to commit grievous sin. We are repeatedly warned to beware of the deceitfulness of sin! This means we can become so deceived by sin that we can depart from the living God (Hebrews 3:12). Such warnings ought to cause serious reflection and self-examination. We can become hard hearted.

The Challenge To Overcome

It is self-examination and absolute humility that enables us to overcome our insecurity. Interestingly it is Peter that writes, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1Peter 5:6). In the preceding verses of this text Peter speaks of suffering for Christ sake. The instruction is that we refuse to allow the treatment we receive from others to become the catalyst for our insecurity. We remain tenderhearted, courteous, not returning evil for evil (1 Peter 3:8-9).

Beginning The Process of Overcoming

Laying aside all malice and deceit! Herein is the challenge-honestly securing my emotions based upon MY spiritual sacrifice to God, and with all sincerity loving others with a pure heart (1Peter 2:1-5).

One of the only practical ways to know our insecurities and overcome them is to observe our response to positions of power. Is it within our power to be a forgiving person? If so, why do we hold bitterness? Is there unrepented sin that we simply hide rather than confess? Do we allow the failing of others to become the means of our justification? Our emotional barometer, (how we feel toward others), may be the best indicator of our insecurities. Once we honestly identify these barriers that keep us in the bondage of sin we can then open our hearts to God, repent of sin, be honest with ourselves and others, and become recipients and purveyors of mercy.

Insecurity is an ugly and ungodly thing that enables us to dislike people we do not even know, and become cynical towards others. This is the hardening of the heart that allows one to depart from the living God. Our godly influence is destroyed!

Every insecurity grows out of weakness. It does not

matter if the weakness is real or imagined. Until we find strength for this area in our life we will function in fear. The way that we find strength for this weakness is only through Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted (Hebrews 2:18). It is our recognition of Jesus and His love for us that casts out fear. We learn that mercy causes us to love without fear. Mercy is the act of our will that is not predetermined by the world around us. It is this state of obedience and compassion that we overcome sin and self-deception. We become secure in Christ!

~via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Striving For Unity

Robert F. Turner

The Lord's prayer (John 17:1-26) is widely quoted, in part, to emphasize the need for unity among God's people. I challenge you to study the chapter carefully, looking for the means of attaining and maintaining that unity.

There are three parts to be considered: Christ's prayer for Himself, for the Apostles, and for those who "believe on me through their word." In Christ's prayer for Himself (John 17:1-5) He says He came to earth to give eternal life, and He identifies that with "knowing" the Father and Son. His work on earth glorified the Father, and as this is finished (in the crucifixion) he asks to be returned to His original glory with the Father.

As the Father was glorified in the Son, so Christ is glorified in His Apostles (vs.10). Also, in the second part of the prayer Christ says He has manifested God's name and given them the Father's word. (John 17:6-14) to the end they may "know" God (receiving, believing, and keeping His word; see 1 John 2:3-5). Being so "kept" the Apostles are "one, even as we are." They are set apart, sanctified, through truth (John 14:17-19).

Finally, Christ prays for all whom the Apostles teach. The "glory you have given unto me I have given unto them; that they may be one, even as we are one;

I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one..." (John 17:22-23). These too have "known" God, as a result of having received the declared truth.

Is it asking too much to expect a discerning reader to notice certain recurring thoughts? First, there is divine Glory, in which the Father and Son are **one**. Then there is declaration of that Glory (manifestation and teaching of God's word); and a sharing in that Glory, as the taught come to **know** God. It is in the way that those other than deity, come to be **one** with deity.

The oneness of believers for which Jesus prayed was the common quality to be found among all who partake of the Divine image. Unity exists because they are one. The Divine plan is not some organizational or creedal mold that forces heterogeneous people into the same society; it changes the people, in very essence as respects their spiritual life, so that they are now homogeneous, and therefore **one**. "I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one." The ideal is God-like people; having the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) and in word and deed doing all in His name (Colossians 3:17).

The ideal nature of this unity is no different from being holy as God is Holy (1Peter1:16), pure as He is pure (1 John 3:3). etc. It is not attained in the absolute sense; but its principles are accepted, it is our constant goal, the mark toward which we press. If we fail to recognize the ideal aspect of this unity, we may consider the level of our attainment as the standard, and begin to measure others by ourselves. This can defeat the unity for which Christ prayed and promote our brand of sectarianism.

~via *The Northwood Messenger*, Northport, Alabama



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

I Am A Restorer

Ed Harrell, Jr.

I am a restorer - unbowed, undaunted, extremist, and eccentric...The centerpiece of my intellectual universe is biblical primitivism, a search for the first pure truths and ordinances. I am seeking that illusive image of Christianity as it came from the mind of God. You may say that it is not there: it is an illusion. I have decided to seek it anyway...You say I will not find it because I carry on my back the baggage of my own past, of the culture in which I live, of the language with which I think. Self-consciously and with as much self-awareness as possible, I have decided to try. You may say I will fail and be disillusioned. So far I have not... But I have never been alone. God has provided others of like mind to be my fellow travelers. It has been a rigorous journey, but I know no other way. The search has served me well and should you come to look for me, you will find me a bit further down the same road.

~via *Lincoln Bible Reader*; Iron Station, North Carolina.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Irene Mitchell	Ronnie Locke
Gilbert Hardy	Wayne Gooch
Wynell Casteel	Yvonne Sherbert
Abby Gilbert	Mary Ruth Gardner
Carrie Miller	Betty Faye Holt
Charles Burns	Mike Wulfekuhl
Ava Brooke Campbell	Phillip Harwell
Jeffery Miller	Matt Poff
David Hartsell	Marie Bates
Eli Williams	

In The Hospital:

Una King Currier; East Glen Rehab; Birmingham

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 16 Virginia Miller, rm. 62
Mary Holt, rm. 98 Beulah Pope, rm. 100

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B Albert Norton, rm. 36
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Billy Sutton, rm.

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74
Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. They are engaged in a study called "The Barnabas Factor". If you are a lady, and are able to meet with them, please join them in this study. It will do you good.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group three will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. If it is where you can come, please come participate in this good work.

OUT OF TOWN: *Ida Nell Griffin* has been out of town this week in Washington, DC... *The Morris'* *Marcus and Bonnie* are visiting in the Smokey Mountains this weekend and plan to be back this afternoon.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *South Cullman church* in Cullman is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday evening. *Wilson Adams* will be the speaker in this meeting. Services will begin Monday through Thursday at 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.... The *Elgin Hills church* in Elgin is conducting a meeting this week through Wednesday with services beginning at 7:00 p.m. *Mark White* will be the speaker in this meeting.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The Children's Bible Drill began last Sunday. Remember it will be each Sunday afternoon at 4:40 and last about 15 minutes. It will be in the auditorium and will end about 5 minutes before the beginning of our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jonathan Keenon
Assisting Jerry McGlocklin
Serving Tommy Burns Paul Hasting
..... David Terry Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 14th:
Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, October 17th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading Isaiah 51:9-16
..... Heath Dollar
Prayer Marcus Morris
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Sunday, October 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Wayne Vaughn
Serving Stefan Fudge Danny Johnson
..... Mot Dollar Delmer Carter
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Dan Reed
Preaching Todd Williams
Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 21st:
Usher Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams