

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) 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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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 IV

October 28, 2012

No. 44

Parents and The Prodigal

Dee Bowman

The Parable of the Prodigal (Luke 15:11-32) is at once one of the most pensive and disturbing of Jesus' famous illustrative narratives. It connects to the human heart in a way that is direct and arresting. It speaks of losing, but it speaks of winning, too. It speaks of sadness, then gladness, then sadness again. It's very much like life, this parable. Please note these things parents can learn from the parable of the prodigal.

The far country is an enemy of the family. Forbidden fruit has always had its appeal. It's the same with the lights of the far country. This lad didn't just get up one morning and decide he was going to "waste his substance with riotous living." It was a process. He had thought about how great it would be for a long time. He had dwelt on its pleasures and contemplated its delights long before he decided to go over there.

We live in an age where restrictions are few and where the far country is not really very far. Its enticements, furthermore, are not frowned upon in many families and its allurements are not discussed because the family is not actually together very much. We need to wake up to the dangers of the culture we live in and warn our kids about its possible encroachments and the ease with which it can tantalize and tempt them and how quickly it can carry them away. It's fine to let out a little rope, but we need to pull on it once in a while, too.

Good families can have bad kids. There is no indication in the parable that the Father's values were ill-defined, or that his restrictions were loose and ambiguous. Actually, the indication is that the rules were strict and the values carefully stated and that's the reason the son wanted to be loose. He felt cramped by the rules, and his fun was hampered by the restrictions. No one knows what causes good families to have bad kids, but one thing is certain: every person has his own will and ultimately makes his own decisions. This young fellow came from a good family; but he wanted something else. He decided what he wanted by himself. And so a good kid went bad. Why? Who knows? He just went

bad because he decided he wanted to.

But if a kid goes bad, it ought to be after we've done all we can. Far more youngsters go bad on account of a lack of restrictions than go bad in spite of them. We should not despair because our restrictions are thought to be impositions. We should not grow weary because our rules are disdained and our restraints despised by our children. We must keep in mind that love and discipline are always connected (Hebrews 12:6).

Bad kids don't always stay bad. This kid went bad—really bad. He “wasted his substance with riotous living,” and probably “devoured thy living with harlots.” That's bad, folks. Not only that, but he went so bad that he was feeding pigs and was ready to eat the millet they ate. He was about as low as you could get, wallowing about in a pig's sty. But, you know what? He came to himself. That's right, he came to! Furthermore, he remembered where he came from. He knew what to do about his situation. He decided to go home.

It's just so that bad kids don't always stay bad. Some do, that's for sure; but many don't. Instilling high values and good morals is not a waste of time. It's encouraging that sometimes when they're at their lowest ebb, your training and discipline come to the fore. It's then that they remember their up-bringing and decide that maybe it wasn't so bad after all. It's then that they come to their moral senses and realize that your nagging and scolding had a reason. It's when they need to come home that it all begins to make sense. This kid came to himself and he went home.

The ones that stay home aren't always so good either. The elder brother apparently had the same rules and restrictions, but he didn't leave home. But that doesn't mean he was a good boy. In fact, his attitude at his brother's return shows that while he was at home, his heart wasn't in the right place. He didn't disobey the rules, but that didn't mean all was well with his soul. How is it that he could not rejoice with the father at the return of his brother? Why did he react as he did? Why was he not pleased to see his brother's return home?

The attitude of the older brother proves one thing: you can be evil in the midst of good surroundings. Just being close to good doesn't argue that you're good. Just looking good on the outside doesn't really argue anything; it's what's on the inside that counts in the ultimate reality.

Don't give up. “But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him...” How do you account for that? Simple. His father was continually watching for him. He no doubt had prayed for his return. And prayed. And prayed. He knew what direction he had gone when he left, and he knew that the boy knew the way home, so he just kept on looking. And looking. And looking. And one day he saw him coming.

There is never any give up in love. Love just keeps hoping and hoping, just keeps looking and looking. No matter how long it's been, no matter what has been done, no matter how deep the hurt or how long the anguish, the Father just keeps on looking; and so must we. Notice, I did not say “the father,” but “the Father.” We may leave him, but He said, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). It's always in order to go home, no matter how far away you've been.

Parenting is hard business. I hope this has helped a little.

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

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God's Grace and Wrath

Gilbert Alexander

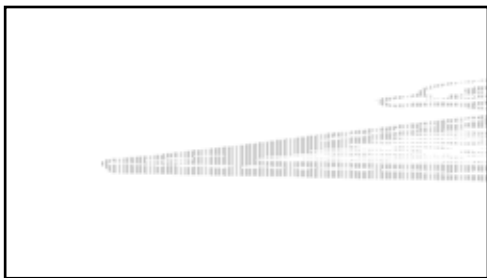
God's grace and God's wrath are not incompatible. His grace is extended to all who will receive it on His terms, and His wrath is against those who reject His gracious offer of salvation and do not obey His instructions for receiving it (Hebrews 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Many people delight to applaud the grace of God, but fewer people are inclined to hear His commandments and to accept the conditions for salvation that he has set. Still fewer people are willing to abide lessons on the wrath of God as His word reveals it. Yet both the love of God and the wrath of God are essential realities.

We humans become sinners by the choices we make (James 1:13-15). Sometimes bad choices are made because of ignorance, but our ignorance is not due to insufficient revelation from God (Acts 3:17; Romans

10:1-3). Sometimes bad choices are made because we yield to the temptations that come through fleshly desires. We sin whenever we transgress the law of Christ (1 John 3:4). The penalty for sin is death, separation from God (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2). God so loved us that he offered us a way to escape that penalty by being reconciled to Him through the death of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, if we will obey Him (John 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21; Hebrews 5:8-9). Faith in God and His Son, repentance of one's sins, confession of faith in Christ and baptism for remission of one's sins. If we want the gift, we must comply with His conditions (John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:10; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Conditions set by the Giver do not nullify grace. Grace does not eliminate judgment to come (2 Corinthians 5:10), which is based on obedience (1 Corinthians 10:1-12; Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 6:4-6), but it does give those who fall away a means of recovery, if they will receive it (James 5:19-20; Acts 8:22-23; Revelation 2:5).

Please hear a few words of admonition concerning the wrath of God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness..." (Romans 1:18). The Lord Jesus will be "revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). the choice is ours - the grace of God or the wrath of God. Which will you receive?

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



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jordan Lovell
Gwen Bullock
Wayne Vaughn
Wayne Gooch
Shely Isbell
Carrie Miller
Betty Faye Holt
Mike Wulfekuhl
Phillip Harwell
Matt Poff
Marie Bates

Irene Mitchell
Gilbert Hardy
Wynell Casteel
Mary Ruth Gardner
Abby Gilbert
Una King Currier
Charles Burns
Ava Brooke Campbell
Jeffery Miller
David Hartsell
Eli Williams

In The Hospital:

Frances Bowers; HealthSouth; Huntsville; rm. 324

Athens Convalescent Care:

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

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. 37

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 29-E

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 two 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: *Tommy Coblentz* has been out of town in New Jersey this weekend...*Nancy Abernathy* has been in Arkansas this past week.

VIRGINIA MILLER 1927 – 2012: This past Sunday morning, sister Virginia Miller passed away suddenly. She had made great improvement in her strength and was hoping to return to her home the first of the week. Virginia had experienced a number of health issues in the last several months. Virginia was a longtime member of the Market Street church. She will be missed by all in the church here and we want to express our sympathy to all her family in her sudden passing. Her funeral was Wednesday morning at Spry Funeral home and her burial was in the Roselawn Cemetery.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Hazel Toone and all the family*, in the passing of Hazel's sister, *Christine Sowell*, this past Monday. Her visitation and funeral were Thursday afternoon at McConnell Funeral Home. She was buried in the Roselawn Cemetery... We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Joyce McGlocklin* in the passing of her sister, *Christina Grissom*, earlier Saturday morning.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The Children's Bible Drill is each Sunday afternoon at 4:40 and lasts about 15 minutes. It meets 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 this evening for the Bible drill.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of October 21st*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 119
 Morning Worship 160
 Evening Worship..... 106

Wednesday:
 Bible Classes..... 105



**The Market Street
 church of Christ Website at:
 MarketStreet-church.com**

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marcus Morris
 Assisting Jerry McGlocklin
 Serving Landon Adams Harold Davis
 Paul Hasting Bonnie Sutton
 Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Evening Worship

Announcements Wayne Vaughn
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Jordan Lovell
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
 Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 28th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, October 31st:

Song Leader Marty Adams
 Bible Reading Isaiah 52:1-6
 Mot Dollar
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, November 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Larry Mitchell
 Assisting Jordan Lovell
 Serving Heath Dollar Danny Johnson
 Marvin Putman Dan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 4th:

Usher Paul Hasting
 Work Sound System Landon Adams