

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
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Volume IV

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No. 48

Running The Race Set Before Us

David A. Cox

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds”

(Hebrews 12:1-3).

The Hebrew writer had just concluded listing the great men of faith in chapter 11. He begins the 12th chapter by referring to the life before us as a race. He gives several important points for us to remember as we run the race (our life) that is before us.

The Great Cloud of Witnesses

The great cloud of witnesses of our race are those that the writer referred to in the 11th chapter. He reminds us of how these great men of faith had run their race. Each had run carefully and according to the will of God. This should behoove us to be careful how we run and to run the race by the rules that have been given to us in God’s word.

Lay Aside the Weights and Sin

Anyone that begins to compete in a contest will put off any weights that will hinder them in their participation of that event. In the same way, as children of God, we must lay aside any encumbrance that will impede our running the race and seeking first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). Our hindrance in service to Him may be our job, hobbies, or people that we associate with. Regardless of what our weights are, we must lay them aside in order to run the race and endure to the end. We must have faith in God and allow His revealed word to direct us through this race which we are running. When we lack faith and transgress God’s law, then we sin (1 John 3:4). If we will rid ourselves of the weights of sin, our faith will help us to not turn away from the faith we should

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

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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

possess as God's children.

Run With Patience. The writer first reminds us to run with patience. Patience here is the idea that in this race we must have endurance and perseverance. We must be faithful, and true, to our service regardless of what obstacles we may have in this life. It is going to take effort to live in this life and not be turned to the side. Without patience in the race, the glorious prize will be forgotten and we will not remain faithful when the hard times come.

Run Looking To Jesus. We are also told that it is necessary to look to Jesus. If we are going to gain the prize we must keep our minds set on Jesus. This is the same idea that Paul had in mind as he said, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14). Paul makes it clear that as he is running the race, he forgets the things of the past and looks forward to the things that are before him. As Christians in the race, let us determine that we are not going to look at all the problems and hindrances there may be in our race, but to "Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

Run With Endurance. As we look to Jesus, the Hebrew writer reminds us of the endurance of Christ two different times. In verse two, he tells us that Christ endured the cross. Jesus willingly gave up his life upon the cross that we might receive the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:39). Paul said concerning the death of Christ that "he became obedient unto death, even the death on the cross" (Philippians 2:8). Jesus suffered and died a cruel death upon the cross. By doing this, Jesus endured the cross in obedience to the Father's will. In verse three, the writer mentions Christ's endurance among those that falsely persecuted him. In our lives, there may be times that we will suffer some persecution, but we must remain faithful to God if we are to obtain the prize. Jesus was faithful to the end, even though it meant His own death. We are promised that if we are faithful to death we will receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). It may be that we are never faced with giving up our lives for the faith. But our disposition should be that if it were necessary, we would be willing to die. Commitment is stressed when the writer tells us to "look to" and "consider Jesus" in the life that He lived.

Why? The Hebrew writer then gives us the reason

why we should remember Jesus while running the race. It is so that those running the race do not become "wearied and faint in your minds." Fainting along the way is a problem for many. Life is not easy and there are many trials and tribulations that we must face. But if we continue to look to Jesus, keeping our eyes focused upon Him, we can say with Paul, who looked unto Jesus, "For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good faith, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at the that day: and not unto me only, but to all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

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Can You Be Forgiven?

Ethan R. Longhenry

There are many times when people recognize the truth of the message of the Gospel, yet believe that they cannot be forgiven of sin. Perhaps you feel that you have sinned so terribly that you could never be forgiven of it. Is this so?

It is understandable why many people feel this way. Sin is a terrible matter, and many times you feel great guilt when you have wronged someone. That guilt can be healthy if it is a "godly grief", one that leads to repentance from sin (2 Corinthians 7:10). If, however, the guilt leads to you sin further or try to hide, it will lead to death!

It is good for all of us to remember that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), and there is no evidence from the Scriptures that God considers some sins to be "worse" than any other sins. We can have confidence from this, then, that all of us are on the same playing field, and no one is any worse off than anyone else: we have all sinned, and we

all need redemption.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Paul teaches that even though some had committed great sin, whether through sexual immorality, lust for money, etc., they were still saved! The blood of the Lamb could cleanse them of their sins!

Paul himself is a great example from the Scriptures of one forgiven of great sin. He tells Timothy of himself in 1 Timothy 1:12-16: "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life."

Paul sheds some light on the reason why God would use such a violent enemy of the church as one of its messengers: so that you and I would be able to see an example of one who had sinned greatly and yet found salvation in Christ Jesus. Paul considered himself the foremost of sinners; certainly you cannot consider yourself worse than Paul, who persecuted those who tried to follow God!

We are blessed to have an awesome God as our God, and we can have full confidence that He is able to forgive us of any wrongs we have committed. I do not believe that you want to believe that God is not capable of forgiving you of your sins, and I hope that you accept the witness of the Scriptures in that God is willing to forgive you of your sins. Is the issue, then, not that you are concerned that God will not forgive you of your sin, but in fact that you cannot forgive yourself for your sins? If this is the case, hear the witness of John in 1 John 3:19-20: "Hereby shall we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before him: because if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

If God can forgive you of your sins, and He certainly can, you can also forgive yourself of your sins. God will not hold them against you, and if you continue to hold them against yourself, they can lead to your condemnation (1 John 3:21). In Christ Jesus you will be able to end your past and begin your future.

Please, dear reader, hearken to the words of the inspired apostles and obey Christ today!

~via *Good News for Norwalk*; Norwalk, Ohio.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM - 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Ruth Legg	Julie Williams
Betty Pepper	Gwen Bullock
Gilbert Hardy	Mary Ruth Gardner
Wynell Casteel	Shelby Isbell
Wayne Gooch	Bruce Mordecai
Carrie Miller	Evelyn Harrison
Abby Gilbert	Betty Faye Holt
Phillip Harwell	Ava Brooke Campbell
Charles Burns	Jeffery Miller
Matt Poff	David Hartsell
Eli Williams	

In The Hospital:

Una King Currier; East Glen Birmingham

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 16 Beulah Pope, rm. 100
Mattye Murray, rm. 60

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B 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 will resume meeting this 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.

NEW CLASS TO BEGIN: On Sunday, December 2nd, a new class will begin meeting in room 22. The class will be for High School-College Age/Young Adults. The class will be studying the *Book of Romans*. *Jordan Lovell* will be teaching this class. I hope that all of our young people/young adults will make their plans to attend this class.

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

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Please come participate in this good work.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *French Barksdale* in the passing of his sister, *Phyllis Fogg*. Her funeral was Wednesday morning at McConnell Fineral Home. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery...Also, we want to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of *Orean Anderson*. Sister Anderson along with her husband Karl attended Market Street for many years until Karl's passing. Her funeral was Tuesday afternoon at Limestone Chapel. Her burial was in the Roselawn Cemetery.

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 November 18th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 127
 Morning Worship 167
 Evening Worship..... 110

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 94

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.
 Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Ronnie Locke
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 Serving Mot Dollar Jonathan Keenon
 Harold Davis Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Tommy Coblentz
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Jordan Lovell

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 25th:

Usher Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, November 28th:

Song Leader Marty Adams
 Bible Reading Isaiah 54:11-17
 Danny Johnson
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Sunday, December 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
 Assisting Marion Mitchell
 Serving Heath Dollar Paul Hasting
 Delmer Carter Dan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Dan Reed
 Preaching Greg Roark
 Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 2nd:

Usher Marcus Morris
 Work Sound System Marty Adams