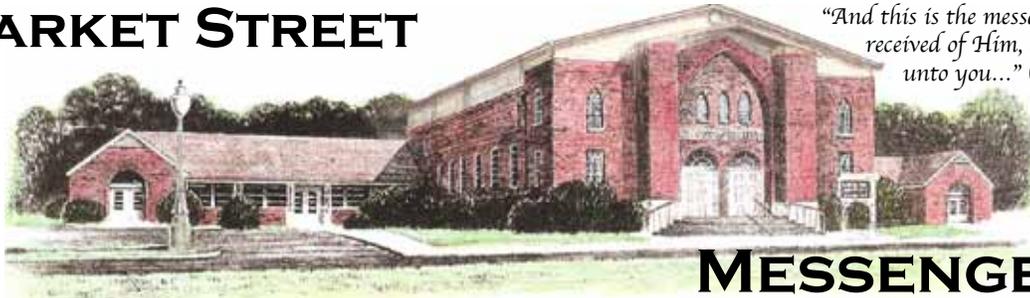


MARKET STREET



“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 V

April 21, 2013

No. 16

Labored In Vain

Mike Thomas

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

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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

One of Paul’s concerns for Christians was whether or not they would remain faithful unto death. The doctrine of “Eternal Security” or “Once Saved Always Saved” was foreign to the inspired author. A Christian is very much capable of missing out on eternal life with God by losing their faith in Him, which is why we must “take heed” lest we fall (1 Corinthians 10:12; Hebrews 3:12-19).

The way in which Paul appealed to his brethren to not lose their faith was to let them know how much of a “waste” it would have been for them to be a Christian and not make heaven. He told the Thessalonians, “I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, **and our labor might be in vain**” (1 Thessalonians 3:5). If they quit their walk with God because of its persecution, Paul’s labor in converting them would have been an absolute waste. All the sacrifices he made in bringing them the gospel and all the time he spent in patiently teaching them would have been in vain “if” they gave up as Christians. For in doing so, the Thessalonians would have ended their faith in the same condition they were in before Christianity: separated from God in their sins. It would be equivalent to a farmer spending months in the field working a crop only to have a storm come through near the time of harvest and wipe it out. All that labor “down the drain” because he was unable to reap the benefit of his hard work.

Christian friend, if you lose your faith before you die, you will have experienced the greatest loss of all humanity. It is one thing to never have known the way of God and face judgment. It is an even greater calamity to have known the truth, surrender to it, then abandon it at the last. Not only will you face a stricter judgment (Luke 12:48), you will have wasted a lifetime of sacrifice and good judgment. Every kind deed, every forgiving word, every sacrifice for peace, every denial of immorality, every service attended, every moment you defended God’s word will have all been in vain IF you lose your faith as a Christian. Like Lot’s wife, who went through the trouble of fleeing Sodom only to meet the same judgment as

the heathens because she looked back, so are Christians who do not love and trust the Lord till the end. The crown of life is not given to those who enter the race, but to those who finish it (James 1:12). Anything less than that, is a wasted life.

-via *Standing Firm*, Beaver Dam, Kentucky.



“Enthusiasm”

Dudley Ross Spears

How enthusiastic are you no, not someone else-YOU, about the growth of the church?

Enthusiasm means, “intense or eager interest; zeal; fervor.” It sometimes appears as if this is one of the greatest failing of the people of God. Too many, including preachers, have the attitude of doing as little as possible or just enough to “get by.”

However, fervency and zeal are the elements of growth and warmth in any combined effort. They are especially essential in the Lord’s work. The church is to be made up of those who ought to be “zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14). Words like fervent, zeal and excited should describe our lives in the service to our Lord.

Fervent in Love

Peter wrote, “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto the unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” (1 Peter 1:22) “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8) Fervent love “covers” the flaws and imperfections in the lives of others. Fervent love does not unmercifully expose a flaw in another. Fault finders are not fervent lovers.

Albert Barnes on this verse: “True love to another makes us kind to his imperfections, charitable toward his faults, and often blind even to the existence of faults.” Nothing can cover sins in the sense of forgiveness but compliance with God’s law, but we may cover one

another’s faults by dealing with one another in such a way as to lead one to comply with God’s law.”

Fervent in Spirit.

The apostle Paul wrote, “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11). “Spirit” in this verse is the human spirit in each of us. We are to be deeply excited about our responsibilities, It is our duty to do what has been commanded by the Lord (Luke 17:10). The commands of the Lord are not “greivous” (1 John 5:3).

The church can and will grow in proportion to the love and spirit with which we go about fulfilling our individual duties as Christians. Thus we can ask ourselves if we are as fervent and zealous about our personal work on non-Christians as we should be.

What about our fervency and zeal in visiting the sick and needy? How fervent in spirit are we in giving of our means to do the Lord’s work? How fervent and zealous is our attendance and many, many more questions.

An English writer, Joseph Addison, once wrote “There is no greater sign of a general decay of virtue in a nation, than a want of zeal in its inhabitants for the good of their country.” Modifying that statement without altering the thought, “There is no greater sign of a general decay of virtue in the church than a want of zeal in its members for the good of the church.”

-via *The Northside Reasoner*; Lexington, Alabama.

Vacation Bible School

June 10-13, 2013 — 10:00 a.m.

Sunday June 9th

Sunday 9:30 a.m; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Ed Harrell, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Expendable

Robert F. Turner

During World War II, when British troops were facing Dunkirk; when our boys were pushed from Bataan; someone applied the term “expendable” to forces left to cover the withdrawal. They were considered certainly lost-- given to the enemy—their death or capture, the price paid for what was hoped to be some greater gain. There were examples of men accepting, even choosing this role, because they too believed in the greater end. One must believe in and greatly love his country to freely make such a sacrifice.

How many soldiers of the Cross are willing to consider themselves (their pride, their comforts, not to mention their life) expendable in order that the greater purpose of His kingdom might be achieved?

Do we dare consider that “giving ourselves” to Christ means just this? The Apostle Paul could ask others to pray that Christ be magnified, whether by his life or his death. (Philippians 1:19-f.) He considered himself expendable. He had long ago “died with Christ” (Romans 6:6-11), so that his own life, his earthly desires and appetites, were “hid with Christ in God,” (Colossians 3:2-3). The greater end, service to his Master and the eternal reward, so dominated his thinking that no demands were too great. He was not his own (1Corinthians 6:19; 7:22-23), but was, and urged others to be “a living sacrifice.” (Romans 12:1-f.)

Had you rather suffer wrong than see Christ’s cause suffer? Will you swallow your pride rather than see the greater work damaged? That's what it takes when one is expendable. But this is no easy role to accept. We find ourselves reasoning that others get by without making the sacrifice-- why me? “If any provide not for his own--” is always good for rejecting the financial pinch; and we “live to fight tomorrow” in the more important battles-- which somehow never come.

To us “expendable” says “worthless” but to Christ it was the way to find one’s life, (Matthew 10:39). He “died for the people, that the whole nation perish not.” (John 11:50-51; 12:32).

Full service to Christ begins the day we see ourselves as “expendable.”

-via *Light*, Birmingham, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Elijah Crabtree	Judy Vaughn
Betty Pepper	Mot Dollar
Peyton Rogers	Bobbie Adcock
Irene Mitchell	Gwen Bullock
Wynell Casteel	Retha Nance
Jerry Taylor	Charles Burns
Matt Poff	Una King Currier
Morgan Barksdale	David Hartsell
Ronald Harrison	Phillip Harwell
Abby Gilbert	Barbara Piper
Ava Brooke Cambell	Shelia Dunnivant Douglas

In The Hospital:

Paul Thomas, Huntsville Hospital; room 473

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Matty Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 100	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dyral Allfrey, rm. 80	

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B
Albert Norton, rm. 36	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Jack Cannon, rm. 112	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

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
Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies’ Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are studying the books of “Proverbs”. All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: *Jennifer Threet* has expressed her desired to be a part of the Market Street church. We are delighted that she has made this decision and we want to extend a warm welcome to Jennifer. May the bless bless our labors together.

OUT OF TOWN: *Ida Nell Griffin* is away visiting with family in Kentucky and Ohio.

DIRECTORIES: The new directories are at the entrances. If you did not get your copy last week, please pick one up today. Hopefully, these directories will help us in keeping in contact with one another by phone, mail or e-mail. If your information is not correct or as it changes, please make us aware of what needs to be changed.

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.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: Our gospel meeting with brother *Mark White* preaching was a great meeting. For all that were able to be at the services were uplifted and strengthen in their faith. The lessons were recorded and if you would like a copy of any or all of the lessons, please indicate your request on the member's card you fill out this morning. Continue to pray that the seed that was sown in the hearts of those who heard will produce fruit to the honor and glory of God. Also, let's remember to follow-up with those that visited and let them know how glad we were to have them with us.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Capshaw church* in Capshaw is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Steve Trammell* will be the speaker...The *Sardis Springs church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Dennis Abernathy* will be the speaker... The *Somerville church* in Somerville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Brandon Trout* will be the speaker... The *Bethel church* in Bethel, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Daniel Tucker* will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for Week of April 14th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 145
Morning Worship 180
Evening Worship..... 132

Wednesday:
Bible Classes..... 115

Remember Our Study Periods

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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Dan Lovell..... David Terry
..... Paul Hasting..... Delmer Carter
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 21st:

Usher Jonathan Keenon
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, April 24th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 65:13-25
..... Dan Reed
Prayer Marcus Morris
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, April 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Keith Hinkle
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Marvin Putman .. Tommy Coblentz
..... Nathaniel Adams... Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 28th:

Usher Mot Dollar
Work Sound System Landon Adams