

# 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

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No. 51

## *Bad Influences Good*

**Carlton G. McPeak**

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 4:00 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*

Paul told the Corinthians, "Bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Why is bad always influencing good and very seldom is good influencing bad? Why does society gravitate towards "bad" and not towards "good"? We see it happen every day, but why?

As we meditate on this for a few minutes, there may be several reasons bad influences good instead of good influencing bad. In order for people to be bad, they do not need to exercise any self-control. They can do whatever they want and live however they feel. They are not trying to live according to a standard of good. If they were trying to live according to standard of good then they would be good and not bad.

Bad always has the appearance that it is having more fun than good. It is always more popular with the masses of people. It seems to have no restrictions or barriers to enjoying life. It is what everyone wants to do.

But let's think about why good seldom influences bad. It takes a lot of work to exercise self-control. In order for us to exercise self-control we have to be thinking about what we are doing and not just living "as it comes." To exercise self-control to the point that we are good means that we must put some type of restriction upon ourselves and limit what we do in life. It is hard to exercise self-control and most people do not want to work that hard.

In order for good to influence bad means that bad must change their life by living to a standard of good. It also means that they must break away from the crowds and be willing to stand alone or with a select few. It may also be that they must accept that they will be less popular. It takes a lot of effort for good to persuade bad to convert to being good.

History has well documented that societies always go from good to bad. The morals of one generation are a step down from the previous generation. The younger do not want to live by the standards of the older generation. The elder generation has not taught the young the value of

following their good.

There may be another reason why bad always influences good and that is that bad is focused on the here-and-now, while the good is focused on a future reward. In this same connection, bad may believe that it can change later and have the forgiveness of God thus becoming good. However, are we sure there will be a tomorrow in which we can make changes? What assurance do we have that if we have a tomorrow that we will live differently than we have lived today?

It takes a lot of work for good to influence bad. There must be a lot of discussions. There must be a lot of talking and reasoning in order to persuade bad to be good. There must be a lot of persistence on the part of good to convince bad that they need to change.

However, if good is able to influence bad then life and society will be good. If bad influences good then there is a lot of turmoil and stress in society. Life becomes more difficult to live. Peace in our life is very seldom found.

Most of the time, bad influences good. However, good needs to prevail over bad. When we are all living good, life is at its greatest. Let good influence bad and not bad influence good.

-via *The Transformer*, Lake City, Florida.



## ***“You Better Watch Out”***

**Dee Bowman**

It didn't take any time at all to know where that came from, did it? If you grew up in this country and know anything about the season of the year we call “Christmas,” you know that lyric by heart. Gene Autry wrote it. Right? Well, sort of.

I was thinking about that the other night and I thought what kind of significance there is to that enjoiner, not just at Christmas time, but all year long. In fact, all life long. “You better watch out!” Good advice.

Let me take you to the Bible to look at some of the imperatives assigned there and the reasons for them.

First one that comes to mind is in 1 Peter 5:8. “Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” The word vigilant here is a Greek word which means “be watchful,” or “be on guard.” What it says is “you better watch out.” The advice is as needed today as it was before Peter’s pen dried from having written it. The devil is still as active as ever, still has his clever ways, is still as wily as in the first record we have of him in the garden with mother Eve. He never sleeps and he only retires from the battle long enough to develop some new strategy and attack with a renewed ferocity. So, at the very beginning, it’s necessary that we recognize him as the enemy and be watching for him. You better watch out.

I’ll tell you how clever he is. He can even disguise himself as “an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14). Can you believe that? He can make himself seem to be someone who is a messenger of good stuff. Think about that. That’s how clever he is. Now, that means that we have to be especially watchful, because he can deceive us and lead us somewhere we ought not go, all the while making us feel like it’s good to go there.

Need I remind you, too, that vigilance is a planned activity? You have to be aware of his various disguises and be able to recognize his different kinds of appeals and be ready to do something about it. The best way I know to do that is to have a strong connection to the word of God. “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer...” (1 Peter 3:15). When you apply His word to anything or anybody, it reveals the real person or the real thing. It contains both descriptions of the enemy and plans for overcoming his various ploys.

And vigilance requires consistent alertness; there’s no time to relax, no time when you can look away or neglect to note his whereabouts. Few people surrender to the enemy; mostly, they are captured because of neglect. They just aren’t looking, so they don’t see him coming.

Elders are special watchmen. Having warned the Elders of impending disaster from men “who shall arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them,” Paul said to the Ephesian elders, “Therefore watch...” (Acts 20:31). Elders are said to be those

who “watch for our souls” (Hebrews 13:17). Their two primary responsibilities are to: 1) tend the flock, and 2) watch for their souls. They should receive our sincere appreciation for such diligence and care for our eternal welfare.

Paul told the Corinthians, “watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men” (1 Corinthians 16:13). It seems to me that there is a sequence in this warning. By that, I mean that the first results in the second, the second in the third. If we begin by watching (and that begins, as we said, with a close connection to the word of God,) then, by faith, we can stand fast when the time comes. Then, because of both those things, we will be disinclined to give up easily; in fact, we just won’t quit. That’s how men quit. They don’t.

“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober” (1 Thessalonians 5:6). There is no time when we can let down our guard. We dare not sleep, lest we be found vulnerable and fall—and not only fall ourselves, but allow the enemy to penetrate our ranks so that others fall as well. Paul concludes, “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8). It’s not enough to just sort of look around, there has to be a deliberate seriousness about the matter at hand. All that is part of being a watchman.

In Matthew 25:13, after having painted a disturbing picture of the coming judgment, and warned us of its inevitability and individuality, Jesus concludes by saying, “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” The vigilance, brethren, must be continual. There can be no letting down, no lapsing into indifference, no apathy, no inattention. We dare not forget the seriousness of watching cautiously; our eternal destiny that is at stake.

And so, we better,  
 Watch where we’re going.  
 Watch who we’re with.  
 Watch what we say and how we say it.  
 Watch our priorities.  
 Watch our attitudes.

I suppose I could sum all this up by saying, “You better watch out!” Me, too.

-via *The Southside Sunday*, Pasadena, Texas.

**Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 4:00.**



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

## News & Notes

### **THE SICK:**

Majorie Dunnavant	Bonnie Sutton
Jennifer Threet	Rebecca Sims
Fay Ferguson	Gwen Bullock
Gilbert Hardy	Joyce & Crutcher Harbin
Patsy Johnson	Ava Brooke Campbell
Jerry Taylor	Una King Carrier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Charles Burns	Mark Hargrove
Abby Gilbert	Lisa Swafford
Brittney Murrell	Colton Carruth
Eli Williams	

### *In The Hospital:*

*Billy Abernathy*; Crestwood Hosp.

### *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:*

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Matty Murray, rm. 60
Mable Crafts, rm. 63	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Jack Cannon, rm. 111A
Albert Norton, rm. 36	Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

### *Limestone Lodge:*

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

### *Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:*

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

### *Floyd E. “Tut” Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:*

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

**Shut-In:**

- Reba Adams, at home
- Wynell Casteel, at home
- Lola Colwell, at home
- Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
- Betty Hasting, at home
- David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
- Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

**PLACED MEMBERSHIP:** We are delighted that *Jewel Dean Kennemer* has let it be known that she wishes to join the church here at Market Street. She has been visiting with us the last several weeks and we are thrilled to have her among us. Let us extend a warm Market Street welcome to Jewel. She will be in *Work Group 1*.

**SONG SERVICE:** Remember the song service will be this afternoon at 4:00. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present for the service

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Gayle Ball, and all the family*, in passing of Gayle's great-granddaughter, *Julia Gayle Sides*, on Friday afternoon. There will be a private graveside service for family only Monday morning in the Dement Cemetery. May the Lord bless and comfort this family.

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Remember *Mitzi Carruth's* son-in-law, *Joel Smith*, who is in Afghanistan serving the U. S. military. Keep him in your prayers.

**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.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of Dec. 15th

<b>Sunday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	132
	Morning Worship .....	182
	Evening Worship.....	128
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	102

# Bible Study



## 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*

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### Sunday, December 22nd:

#### Morning Worship

- Announcements ..... Keith Hinkle
- Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox
- Prayer ..... Tommy Coblenz
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding ..... Kenneth Smith
- Assisting ..... Larry Mitchell
- Serving ..... Heath Dollar ..... Nathaniel Adams
- ..... Tommy Burns ..... Kennon Carrier
- Closing Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin

#### Evening Worship

- Announcements ..... Keith Hinkle
- Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm
- Prayer ..... Norman Brown
- Preaching ..... Song Service
- Lord's Supper ..... Kenneth Smith
- Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 22nd:

- Usher ..... Marcus Morris
- Work Sound System ..... Terry Andrews

### Wednesday, December 25th:

- Song Leader ..... Marty Adams
- Bible Reading..... Mark 9:30-41
- ..... Russ Wulfekuhl
- Prayer ..... Hunter Cox
- Invitation ..... Jordan Lovell
- Closing Prayer ..... Mot Dollar

### Sunday, December 29th

#### Morning Worship

- Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey
- Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge
- Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding ..... Joel Hamm
- Assisting ..... Terry Andrews
- Serving ..... Jonathan Keenon ..... Dan Lovell
- ..... Paul Hasting ..... Kenneth Adams
- Closing Prayer ..... Ross Melvin

#### Evening Worship

- Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey
- Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox
- Prayer ..... Todd Williams
- Preaching ..... Joel Hamm
- Lord's Supper ..... Terry Andrews
- Closing Prayer ..... Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 29th:

- Usher ..... Russ Wulfekuhl
- Work Sound System ..... Marty Adams