

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 VI

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No. 12

A Prayer for a Successful Failure

Perry Hall

If you plan to fail and you fail, did you fail or succeed? More than just a funny conundrum, the answer may be a little too close to home, too personal and applicable. Add to that this: If you don't succeed according to how God wants you to succeed, did you fail or did God succeed? More than word games, this is serious spiritual business.

How would you judge Moses' first "missionary journey" to Pharaoh? His message is simple, "Let My people go." Notice carefully though, Moses is not giving an ultimatum. "Let My people go, so that they may hold a festival for Me in the wilderness" (Exodus 5:1). Speaking as God, Moses is not asking for emancipation, just a holy celebration. In today's parlance, "Let My people off on Sunday so they can go worship."

Before Moses goes, he and Aaron prepare the children of Israel. Hearing God cares, that God has heard their prayers (Exodus 2:23), very appropriately "they bowed down and worshiped" (Exodus 4:40). Afterwards, they blame Moses when the plan "fails." "May the LORD take note of you and judge," they said to them, "because you have made us reek in front of Pharaoh and his officials – putting a sword in their hand to kill us" (Exodus 5:21) All too typical, blaming the wrong people and giving up too soon.

Before Moses preaches, Pharaoh has Egyptians supply the straw for the slaves' brick making. Afterwards, not only is Israel not liberated, their labor is sorer. No more straw provided, they must provide their own while unrealistically keeping up their quota (Exodus 5:7-8; 18). Unable to succeed, their taskmasters beat them (Exodus 5:14;16). I wonder if Pharaoh planned for their failure which means his plan succeeded. Their appeal to the high court, to Pharaoh, falls on a hardened heart (Exodus 5:15-18). Adding insult to their injuries, they are now wrongfully accused as slackers (Exodus 5:17).

On all fronts, Moses fails and blames himself in prayer (Exodus 6:12;30) ...except the plan was for Moses to fail. God foretold: "When

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) 232-3312
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977
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

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Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

you go back to Egypt, make sure you do in front of Pharaoh all the wonders I have put within your power. But I will harden his heart so that he won't let people go" (Exodus 4:21). Moses and Aaron "repeated everything the LORD has said to Moses" (Exodus 4:29-30). Everyone should have been prepared for failure, but when the "failure" succeeded, everyone thought the success failed. God's plan for Israel is for ultimate success, but not immediate, temporary success. None of this is just about "now," just about Israel. The plan of hardening begins with asking Pharaoh not for full freedom, but for freedom to worship. So was God's plan a failure or a success?

Prayer Challenge: Are quitters and blamers; blind to God's methods of preparedness; concerned only with how things affect us; looking only at "now?" What we view as failures could have been great successes if we had not failed God. Maybe some present "failures" are just waiting to be successes.

Now pray for God's wisdom and patience to work God's plan. After all, after all these failures, God still succeeded.

-via *The Stanley Avenue Bulletin*, Andalusia, Alabama



"When You Read..."

Bill Robinson, Jr.

When I hear folks complain that the Bible is not relevant or that it is too difficult to understand, it makes me wonder: How often are they reading it? How much time do they spend studying it? What are they doing between their Bible reading and study times? God's word will never become relevant to these people if they do not regularly read, study and apply it to their own lives.

The apostle Paul, writing to the church at Ephesus, reminded them, "how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets"

(Ephesians 3:3,4). In other words, what God concealed or kept hidden through the ages in Christ (a mystery) was disclosed and uncovered (revealed) through men (apostles and prophets) as the Holy Spirit directed them. Therefore, today when we read this revelation of God contained in the Bible, we can know and understand God's plan for our lives.

Jesus declares, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). The difficulties some have in both reading and understanding the relevance of the Bible show what they are doing between their Bible study times. Jesus' language is clear, but one must hunger and thirst for righteousness before he can be filled. However, one who is trying to fill his soul with the things of this world cannot hunger and thirst for righteousness. We try to limit our children's intake of "junk food" between meals so they will be hungry enough to eat the more nutritious food. If all we ever ate was junk food there would be no end to our physical health problems except an early death. Can we not apply this to our spiritual health? For example, if we never feed on God's word or, at best, do so infrequently, can we not expect some complications to our spiritual health – e.g. negligence, non-interest, stress, guilt, weakness, etc.

Our spiritual values can only increase as we learn to read, study, and apply God's word to our lives. What we value we will commit our energy and time to achieve. Is that not what Jesus was teaching in Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"? We do no harm to the words or teaching of Jesus if we loosely translate the passage: "What a man values there you will find his interest and desires."

How do we value the word of God? For there is where we find its relevance to our lives. Let me close with the following passage. Applying the same attitude in reading the Bible as noted in this quotation, perhaps will stir our interest and desire ("hunger and thirst") for righteousness that we might be filled.

If we consider men and women generally, and apart from their professions and occupations, there is only one situation I can think of in which they almost pull themselves up by their bootstraps, making an effort to read better than they usually do. When they are in love and are reading a love letter, they read for all they are worth. They read every word three ways; they read between the lines and in the margins; they read the whole in terms

of the parts, and each part in terms of the whole; they grow sensitive to context and ambiguity, to insinuation and implication; they perceive the color of words, the odor of phrases, and the weight of sentences. They may even take the punctuation into account. Then, if never before or after, they read. (Mortimer J. Adler, *How To Read A Book*, pg. 14, 1940 edition)

Let's strive to read the Bible for all its worth! "Give attention to reading..." (1 Timothy 4:16).

-via *Power Talk*; Lexington, Kentucky

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Cautious or Faithless?

Joe R. Barnett

"He who observes the wind will now sow; and he who regards the clouds will not reap" (Ecclesiastes 11:4).

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained." Man must act. Those who demand "a sure thing" will never begin, much less finish, any worthwhile work.

"How's your cotton?" a visitor asked an old farmer.

"Didn't plant no cotton; 'fraid 'o the 'tater bugs."

"What did you plant?"

"Didn't plant nothin'; just playin' it safe." He took no risks. Didn't harvest any crop either.

There are dangers in every venture. Many of the conditions of life are beyond our control. Our text counsels us not to kill all effort by waiting for ideal conditions that will never come. Preoccupation with problems will paralyze us.

God doesn't promise blessings to those who will walk the road only when it is perfectly smooth and sheltered. Nor does he grant us triumphs if we give up at the first sight of difficulty. Don't lay down your tools and run for cover just because the clouds have gathered.

As God's people, we are not at liberty to waste our time and cripple our activities because of uncontrollable circumstances. Controllable circumstances

are in our hands. uncontrollable circumstances are in God's hands. His hands are stronger than ours. Leave the uncontrollable circumstances in his hands. He will handle them all right.

Caution is one thing; faithlessness is quite another. With God nothing is too good.

-via *North Birmingham Bulletin*; Birmingham, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Reba Byram	Kathleen Wales
Fay Ferguson	Alvis McLemore
Buddy Pepper	Robert & Mot Beasley
Crutcher Harbin	Gwen Bullock
Essie Hardison	Matt Poff
Joey Hinkle	Bob Richter
Ray Kennedy	Joan Stanford
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Carol Locke	Ava Brooke Campbell
Abby Gilbert	David Holt
Jerry Taylor	Una King Carrier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Howard
Charles Burns	Billy Abernathy

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 75	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97	Matty Murray, rm. 2
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Franz, rm. 31

Limestone Health Facility:

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

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
David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

LOUISE HARDY (1924 – 2014): It is with sadness that we mention the passing of sister Louise Hardy this past Thursday morning. Louise had suffered a heart attack about a month ago, but suffered another heart attack on Wednesday after coming home from rehab on Tuesday. Louise has not been able to be at services at Market Street for some time due to various health issues and we have missed her. We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Joyce Harbin, Reba Adams, and Gilbert Hardy* and all the family in her passing. Her funeral was Saturday afternoon at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home and she was laid to rest in the Hardy Cemetery.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Hamms:* *Joel, Sharma, Clayton and Ragan* are on vacation this week during the school's spring break... ***The Adams:*** *Marty, Marvella and Kenneth* are in Florida this week.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION: If you have had any changes in your information (phone number, address, email, etc.) please note the changes on the members card you fill out this morning.

WORKGROUPS: **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.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of March 16th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	122
	Morning Worship	173
	Evening Worship.....	112
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	107

Gospel Meeting

April 20-24, 2014
(Sunday through Thursday)

Dee Bowman, Speaking

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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Tommy Coblenz
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Norman Brown
Serving	Kenneth Adams..... Paul Hasting
.....	Todd Williams..... Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer	Ronnie Locke

Evening Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Larry Mitchell
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Keith Hinkle

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 23rd:

Usher	Marvin Putman
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, March 26th:

Song Leader	Marty Adams
Bible Reading.....	Mark 12:28-37
.....	Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Sunday, March 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Ronnie Locke
Serving	Heath Dollar Stefan Fudge
.....	Kenneth Adams..... Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Dan Reed
Preaching	Todd Williams
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Ross Melvin

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 30th:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams