

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

March 30, 2014

No. 13

In Word and In Deed

Drew Jones

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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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 the most dangerous mistakes made by people striving for holiness is that of making too great a distinction between word and deed. Many folks live under the assumption that what one does is far more important than what one says - we have phrases such as, "actions speak louder than words," to describe this feeling. While it is certainly true that our proclamations must be supported by deeds (showing our faith by our works, as in James 2:15-18, and so forth), the view that speech is not itself an action can also land us in some trouble. "Little white lies" are supposedly small and harmless because they're only words. A "slip of the tongue" supposedly excuses hurtful, filthy, or blasphemous utterances because these blunders of speech surely can't be that bad anyway. Of course, no one would be foolish enough to suggest that there is such a thing as a "teensy bit of fornication"; a thief will have a hard time arguing his way out of punishment by saying that he accidentally stole goods via a "slip of the hand".

So why do we make such a clear division between words and actions? How have we come to permit our tongues to commit lawlessness that we would never allow of our hands? I don't claim to have good answers to those questions, unfortunately. However, the point that we must observe is that such a distinction is not found in God's word - in fact, the Scriptures go to great lengths to highlight the perils of sinful discourse, as well as to commend and encourage pure, kind, and thoughtful conversations.

While the book of Proverbs has several key ideas laced throughout its various descriptions and examples of true wisdom, one of these themes is the difference in wicked and righteous speech. Consider: "Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool. In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise. The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom" (Proverbs 10:18-21). "He who speaks truth declares righteousness, but a false witness, deceit. There is one who speaks like the piercings

of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health. The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but counselors of peace have joy” (Proverbs 12:17-20). “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those deal truthfully are His delight” (Proverbs 12:22). “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness” (Proverbs 15:1-2). “An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisper separates the best of friends” (Proverbs 16:27-28). “A fool’s lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul. The words of a whisper are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body” (Proverbs 18:6-8).

In only a small sampling of the book's collected wisdom, we are instructed concerning the dangers of gossip, speaking out of anger or hatred, lying, deceit, sowing discord, foolish or idle talk, too much talk (falling in love with the sound of one's own voice, we might say), words meant to provoke others... the list goes on. Conversely, we are told of the benefits of speaking deliberately, thoughtfully, truthfully, kindly, with knowledge, with restraint, and with concern for others. The inspired writer does not consider any of these principles to be trivial in nature; there is no careless attitude found when discussing “just words”. Rather, the evidence throughout Scripture points toward “actions of speech” as those of supreme importance. “Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things” (James 3:5).

Consider your daily conversations: What are your usual topics of discussion? What kinds of words are in your vocabulary? What is your attitude and manner of speech when talking to others? Do you make it a regular practice to “tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth”? Do your words start fights or end them? How long do you think before you speak? Truly, “a good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). Of what is your heart full?

—via *Family Report College View*, Florence, Alabama

Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 4:00.

If

Bubba Garner

Words have value. Especially when they are from God. When Jesus was tempted by the devil to turn stones into bread, He said, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3). When we read the Bible, we shouldn't take one word for granted.

Yet there is one that can easily be skimmed over or dismissed altogether. Though it is not a big word, it is found nearly 1,500 times in the Bible. It does not appear to carry as much weight as other words in the same sentence, but it can bring down many a false doctrine. It is the word “if.” And while we may use this word to talk about things that are “iffy” or to dwell on the “what-ifs” of life, God's use of it brings certainty and assurance to what is said.

What is involved in the word if?

“**IF**” **identifies free will.** Man was created with the power to choose. The first time the word occurs in the Scriptures is in connection with Cain's anger toward Abel. The Lord said to him, “If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it” (Genesis 4:7). Cain had to make a decision. He had to choose which way he wanted to go. The word “if” takes care of the argument that says, “I was born this way. I can't help myself.” You have free will. You must decide.

Jesus further stated that choice was a necessary requirement of being His disciple. “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). No one can force you to do this. No one can decide for you. You have to choose IF you **wish** to follow Him. But choose wisely. While you are free to make your own decisions, God will also make His (Revelation 22:18-19). Choices bring consequences. No ifs about it.

“**IF**” **implies a conditional promise.** Some of God's promises are unconditional. When Noah and his family came out of the ark, the Lord promised to never again destroy the earth with water. There were no conditions placed on this promise. This was a covenant with Noah and “with your descendants after you...” (Genesis 9:9). But when God made a promise to the nation of Israel,

He announced the conditions up front. "If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples" (Exodus 19:5). Before the Law was given, God wanted them to know the terms of the covenant. His desire was for them to be His special people, but that was conditioned upon their faithfulness to His Law.

Some seem to think that it doesn't matter how you live your life. They say things like, "I'm just going to rely on the grace of God at the judgment." Or, "I'm going to rest in His mercy and forgiveness." Does that assurance come from the Scriptures? How do we know we have forgiveness? "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Forgiveness is conditional. Salvation is conditional. Certainly God has made these blessings available to all. His love is unconditional, but His mercy is extended to those who are obedient to the conditions He revealed in His word. If you love Him, keep His commandments.

"IF" indicates continued faithfulness. This one word will not tolerate "once saved, always saved." Two times in Hebrews 3, the writer uses the phrase "if we hold fast...firm until the end" (3:6,14). It's not just a matter of getting started; you have to continue until you reach the end. If not, why did Paul and Barnabas decide to revisit the churches they established on their first tour (Acts 15:36)? Why did Barnabas go to Antioch to "encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord" (Acts 11:23)? These were saved people. Why not focus on the unsaved? Since there's an "if", that indicates that we must continue our course.

Redemption comes with responsibilities. "If indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard" (Colosians 1:23). Does the marathon runner who yields to fatigue still get the prize when he does not finish the race? Neither do those who begin a good work in Christ Jesus only to drop out before crossing the finish line. When Paul was near death, he was confident in the crown of life waiting for him. He had fought. He had finished. He had kept. If only every disciple would follow his example and be faithful until death.

Every word of God is big. "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

-via *Biblical Insights*; March 2014, Vol. 14 No.3

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Reba Byram	Kathleen Wales
Fay Ferguson	Mary Hinkle
Buddy Pepper	Robert & Mot Beasley
Crutcher Harbin	Gwen Bullock
Essie Hardison	Matt Poff
Gene Carpenter	Billy Abernathy
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 Currier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Howard
Charles Burns	

In The Hospital:

Samuel Peek; Children's Hospital; Birmingham
Sam Pepper; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.

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
Judith Groce, rm. 63	

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

CONFESSION: This past Sunday morning we rejoiced as **Bobbie Adcock** came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness of sin and not having been as faithful as she could have been in her life. We appreciate that attitude of heart that Bobbie possesses and her desire to please

God. May we all encourage her as she encourages us in our service to the Lord.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Oakland church* is beginning a gospel meeting this week and it will continue through Wednesday night. The speaker in this meeting will be *Russ Bowman of Beaumont, Texas...* The *Ardmore church* will begin a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with different speakers. The speakers are as follows: *Sunday morning – Mark Nave; Sunday afternoon – Alton Bailey; Monday evening – Wilson Adams; Tuesday evening – Lowell Sallee; Wednesday evening – Jason Shackelford.*

OUT OF TOWN: *The Wulfekuhls: Russ, Lisa and Ali* are on vacation this week during the school's spring break... *The Adams: Marty, Marvella and Kenneth* are in Florida this week... *The Williams: Julie, Matthew and Philip* have been in Sulligent visiting this week... *The Hamms: Joel, Sharma, Clayton and Ragan* have been on vacation this week.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate *Bart Brown & Brittany Reynolds* who were united in marriage yesterday in Mooresville at the *Old Brick Church*. We wish for them a long and happy life together.

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

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of March 23rd*

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	122
	Morning Worship	187
	Evening Worship.....	120
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	90

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 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
.....	Kenneth Adams.....
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams
	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
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

Wednesday, April 2nd:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....	Mark 13:1-13
.....	Danny Johnson
Prayer	Dan Reed
Invitation	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Ronnie Locke

Sunday, April 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Larry Mitchell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Bonnie Sutton
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Bill Claxton
.....	Nanathiel Adams....
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams
	Marty Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer	Mot Dollar

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 6th:

Usher	Paul Hasting
Work Sound System	Terry Andrews