

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

June 15, 2014

No. 24

Come Be With Us For

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 Coblantz (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

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



June 16-19, 2014 — 10:00 a.m.

Speakers for the Adult Class:

Monday — Colby Junkin
Tuesday — Alton Bailey
Wednesday — Jason Shackelford
Thursday — Ben Walker

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Two Misconceptions About God's Mercy

Gardner Hall

While preaching a sermon on God's grace, my grandfather told this story about driving in Pell City, Alabama.

I stopped at several intersections; but as I approached another intersection, a parked car obscured my view of a stop sign. I ran the stop sign. I explained my failure to the policeman who pulled me over. He told me to go on and didn't write a ticket. Did the law save me? No, grace. But the policeman's grace did not grant me license to run future stop signs, nor to call those who conscientiously stop at stop signs "legalists."

My grandfather's simple story illustrates two dangerous errors regarding God's grace and mercy.

Error #1. Belittling the seriousness of disobedience. Does emphasizing God's grace and mercy give us the authority to imply that obedience is not required? Does it allow us to participate in what we know to be presumptuous and unauthorized? Do we have the right to tell others that they are saved even when they haven't obeyed God's conditions of pardon?

I've taught my two daughters and number of others how to drive. I tell them they must obey traffic laws! I might tell them of occasions of when policemen have been merciful to me as they were to my grandfather, but that should not diminish their effort to obey traffic laws. Our God is great in mercy and that fact about His character should fill us with gratitude. But that shouldn't diminish our desire to carefully follow His word, speak as the oracles of God and avoid going beyond what He has authorized. We strive to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, even as we thank Him for his mercy. That doesn't make us "legalists," but rather loving and respectful children.

Error #2. Overlooking the fact that God sometimes extends His clemency to those who have grievously erred. We must constantly teach the importance of obedience (John 14:15; 15:14; Romans 1:5; 2 John 1:6) and that punishment is linked with disobedience (Romans 6:23; Mt. 25:46; Galatians 6:7). But we must also preach the texts that show that God often extends His mercy and doesn't give us the punishment that we

deserve! He did not demand that Cain or David die (Genesis 4:15; 2 Samuel 12:13) even though that was what His law prescribed for committing murder (Genesis 9:5-6). He did not punish Jews from the Northern tribes who presumptuously ate of the Passover without going through the required cleansing requirements (2 Chronicles 30:18-19).

- "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him" (Psalm 103:11 NKJV).
- "If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" (Psalm 130:3)
- "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not" (Lamentations.3:22)

Some disciples overlook this essential Bible teaching about God's mercy and are always harsh with any who disagree with them, as if there were no such thing as clemency.

We are not that way with our children. We constantly warn them of the dangers of disobedience and that obedience is necessary for all living in our home. However, we are also merciful with them, giving them time to mature. We don't kick them out of the house every time they stumble. Such drastic action is reserved as a last resort for older children who persist in rebellion. Though we are that way with our children, we sometimes have difficulty accepting that our heavenly Father has revealed Himself to be that way in the scriptures. "For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment" (James 2:13).

I'm thankful for my grandfather's simple story, but especially for the truth it illustrates--Deep gratitude for God's mercy and emphasis on its prominence in scripture, though essential for sound teaching, do not give license to belittle the importance of obedience!

-via *Biblical Insights*; May 2014; Vol. 14 No. 5.



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

In Mustard Seed Mode

Chuck Durham

Do you ever find yourself thinking, “If only I could have seen Jesus heal the lepers; if only I could have seen the parting of the Red Sea; if only I could have been at the tomb when Lazarus came forth! - What a fully convinced, on-fire-for-the-Lord Christian I would be!” Do we realize in Scripture how seldom God went about His work by means of awe-inspiring miracles? There are only three great epochs of miracles in the entire biblical record: (1) the ongoing saga of deliverance from Egypt to conquering of Canaan; (2) the days of Elijah and Elisha; (3) Jesus and His apostles. The service of the vast majority of God’s people has been rendered without being eye-witnesses of His miracles, signs, and wonders. Even in the ministries of Elijah-Elisha and the Apostles, most Israelites and Gentiles were not privileged to see the miracles performed by them. To use a statement from the book of 1 Kings—“the LORD was not in the wind, nor the earthquake, nor the fire.”

The text (1 Kings 19:11) says the wind tore into Mount Sinai shattering some of it into pieces. I suspect the same type of power was manifested in the earthquake and the fire. But all three times it says the LORD was not in their awe-inspiring deeds. Rather He was announced by a quiet, low whisper of a voice. I know the Hebrew word can be rendered “sound,” but it is the “word of the LORD” that takes center stage.

God works through His word. The power to change the hearts of sinful man is inherent in its seed planted in the mind (cf. James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23-25). It is the kingdom of God in its mustard-seed mode. God comes in the awe-full-inspiring means of His word for most of His servants. We should be moved by it, as we would be by the effects of wind, earthquake, and fire; but, alas, He knows of what poor stuff we are made. We are more impressed with miracles than with His words. I take it that God restrained Himself in the Elijah incident—for Elijah’s sake. If wind can blast mountain to pieces, what would it do to flesh? He whispers faintly (Elijah heard it [v.13]) and Elijah wrapped his face to go meet the LORD. We would do well to mentally prepare ourselves with the background of this text each time we open the Bible and read. If we think miracles are more important than words, we would do well to

remember how many Israelites witnessed the mighty deliverance from Egypt and how few of them entered the promised land!

“Speak LORD, thy servant heareth. Command and I will obey” (1 Samuel 3:9).

-via *Twin City Bulletin*; College Station, Texas

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Lona Killen | Joe Hinkle |
| Gilbert Hardy | Crutcher & Joyce Harbin |
| Robert & Mot Beasley | Gwen Bullock |
| Gene Carpenter | Dianna Felker Ritter |
| Charlotte Kellum | Matt Poff |
| Dorothy Casteel | Ava Brooke Campbell |
| Elizabeth Howard | David Holt |
| Joey Hinkle | Charles Burns |
| Phillip Harwell | Una King Currier |
| Eli Williams | Elizabeth Kate Miller |
| Carol Locke | Jerry Taylor |
| Abby Gilbert | Alex Reed |

In The Hospital:

Jeanette Weir; Huntsville 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 Frantz, rm. 31 |
| Judith Groce, rm. 63 | Cecil Cox, rm. 77 |

Limestone Health Facility:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Albert Norton, rm. 36 | Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E |
| Ruth Lawson, rm. 94 | |

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

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

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Gilbert Hardy** and *all the family*, in the passing of Gilbert's wife, **Shirley**. She passed away on Saturday night. Her funeral was on Wednesday afternoon and she was laid to rest in the Hardy Cemetary.

OUT OF TOWN: The Hinkles: *Keith and Angie* have been on vacation this week in Gulf Shores. They plan to be back this afternoon... **The Coblentz':** *Tommy and Marcella* will be on vacation a few days this week.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The **Eastside church** will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Friday night. The speaker in the meeting will be Bob Hutto of Birmingham... The **Jackson Height church** in Columbia, Tennessee will be engaged in a Vacation Bible School this week each evening through Friday... The **Northside church** in Lexington is having a gospel meeting this week with *Ben Walker* preaching.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Remember our Vacation Bible School will begin on Monday morning at 10:00. I hope that everyone has made their plans to be present each morning through Thursday. There will be a different speaker in the adult class each morning. We will be studying the theme, **"Running The Race."** I appreciate all of the hard work that has been done by the teachers in preparing for this years VBS. I know that all the children who come will benefit greatly. Remember to tell others about it and continue to invite others.

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.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of June 8th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 139
Morning Worship 183
Evening Worship..... 132

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 136

Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 4:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Norman Brown
Serving David Terry Hunter Cox
..... Tommy Burns Paul Hasting
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 15th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, June 18th:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading..... Mark 15:1-15
..... Keenon Currier
Prayer Keith Hinkle
Invitation Jason Shackelford
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Sunday, June 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marcus Morris
Assisting Bonnie Sutton
Serving Nathaniel Adams Mot Dollar
..... Marvin Putman Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Ross Melvin
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 15th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Marty Adams