

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

July 20, 2014

No. 29

The Threat I Pose

Ken Chumbley

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 Coblenz (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

Religiously, I am what is known as a fundamentalist. This term carries a variety of meanings, but in my case it means I hold to certain beliefs generally considered to be the indispensable core in Christianity. I believe, for example, that the Bible is the word of God; I believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ; and I believe in the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures. Further, I view with suspicion any teaching characterized as progressive, modern, or liberal. In my experience, what has been called progressive usually turns out to be transgressive, in that the progressive doctrine commonly progresses beyond the limit of Scripture. "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God" (2 John 9). Without question I am a religious conservative, in that I believe in staunchly preserving, as best I can, what I understand New Testament Christianity to be. For the record, the only label I apply myself is Christian (Acts 11:26); I only aspire to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

But having said this, I must acknowledge the historical verity that regarding threats to the faith – to paraphrase Pogo – I have met the enemy and he is me. What I mean is this: in the annals of Christianity, the greatest apostasies came not from the religious left, but from the right. The damage caused by heresies such as Gnosticism, Marcionism, Manichaeism, Monarchianism, Arianism, Sacerdotalism, and so on was minimal compared to that which resulted from those who "defended the faith" against the heretics. As John W. Kennedy summarized it in *The Torch of the Testimony* (Christian Books, 1965), it was the counter-measures adopted by the orthodox, "much more than the heresies themselves, {which} were responsible for the changes which were eventually to lead to the assemblies so far away from the simplicity of church life as it was in New Testament times" (60). Even a cursory understanding of Ecclesiastical history will sustain this proposition.

And what were the orthodox reactions to heresy that were themselves heretical? Here is a short list.

- Clericalism – which created a spiritual hierarchy of clergy who ar-

rogated to themselves the right to define the faith, interpret the Bible, and identify as heretical all who questioned their conclusion.

- Creedalism – which sought to impose orthodoxy by requiring assent to precise statements of certain truths that exclude contemporary heresies. This trend, however, eventually emphasized confessing the creed to the neglect of weighty matters such as love (e.g., 1 John 3:16-18) and obedience (e.g., 1 John 2:3-6).
- Legalism – which placed trust in one’s righteousness rather than in God (Ezekiel 33:13; Luke 18:9). Legalism is an insidious heresy wherein faith in one’s obedience is substituted for the obedience of the faith (Romans 1:5; 16:26).
- Dogmatism – (or, if you will, traditionalism) which elevated man’s word over God’s word (Mark 7:1-13; Colossians 2:20-23).

I repeat: in ecclesiastical history, these “isms” of the right proved far more lethal to the primitive pattern of Christianity than anything from the left. It was the conservatives (the scribes and Pharisees), not the liberals (the Sadducees), who were most frequently condemned by the Lord during His personal ministry.

The besetting sins of the right are not countered by jumping to the left. True orthodoxy is maintained by charting a course within the parameters of the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24) holding belief, love, and obedience in their proper balance. Failing in this, they who consider themselves Christ’s proponents may, in fact, have positioned themselves as His opponents (Matthew 16:22-23).

It is a lesson we conservatives would do well to remember.

~via *Capshaw Beacon*; Capshaw, Alabama

Bible Study



Roles in the Home

Focus on the Men’s Roles

August 8, 2014 — 6:00 p.m. – The Usery Home

Keeping The Lord Near

Steve Klein

Is your voice equipped with OnStar? This much-advertised feature allows owners of GM automobiles who subscribe to the service to push a button and receive instant help in an emergency. Of course, the Christian has much better emergency help available. For those who are in fellowship with God, it is a tremendous comfort to know that the help of Almighty God is only a whispered prayer away.

This wonderful blessing is not enjoyed by everyone. Everyone does not have heavenly OnStar. This is so, despite the fact that most people in the world apparently have the perception that they can call on the Lord anytime they are in trouble, and He’ll be there to help lickety-split. The consistent teaching of Scripture Note the following:

“One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination” (Proverbs 28:9).

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

“For what is the hope of the hypocrite... Will God hear his cry when troubled comes upon him?” (Job 27:8-9).

No one really wants to be in the position of having the Lord far away when needing help. Here are three keys to keeping the Lord near:

Sincerity. Psalms 145:18 states that, “The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.” The first part of this verse may seem to be saying that the Lord is near to any and all who call upon Him. But we’ve already noted that this is not the case. Look at the last part of the verse. He is near to those who “call upon Him in truth.” For God to be near, this condition must be met. We must call upon Him “in truth.” Though not reliable translations, some of the modern paraphrases do a good job of catching the basic meaning of this particular verse:

The Lord is “near to everyone whose prayers are sincere” (Contemporary English Version)

The Lord is near to “all who pray and mean it.” (The Message)

The Lord is near to all “who call to him with sincerity” (Good News Bible)

Righteousness. Just as sin and unrighteousness drive God away from us, obedience and righteousness keep Him near. Psalms 34:17 declares that “the righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.” 1 Peter 3:12 says that “the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Humility and Sorrow for Sin. Pride and rebellion drive God away, but humility and godly sorrow bring Him close. “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5). “The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit” (Psalms 34:18).

At some point, all of us experience emergencies, hard times and trouble. Keep God Near.

-via *Eastside Enlightner*; Athens, Alabama



Look On The Bright Side

J. F. Dancer

There is a tendency on the part of most of us to see only the bad in this life. Part of this can be blamed on our news media who seem to think that for a thing to be "news" it must be bad! Part can be blamed on our own negative thinking. We need to look at the good in life. No, we cannot ignore the sin and expect it to go away but we can keep our eyes on the Lord and doing His will.

Why should we learn to think about good more than evil? So we won't become so despondent that we will give up all hope of finding any good. Paul encouraged the saints at Philippi to learn to think properly (Philippians 4:8,9). He wanted them to find happiness in serving God and to rejoice in all the good that they received from God's hand. He is not saying, "life is a bed of roses." But he is saying that saints can find happiness in this life if they trust God and that they make some changes by teaching the gospel of Christ to the lost. It is the power of God to save (Romans 1:16-17)

and thus the power of God to change the world. Paul was a prisoner at the time he wrote this letter, but he is not despondent, he is not bitter, he does not feel that serving God is a waste of effort and time. He is happy to be a Christian (in spite of the suffering) and wants all to be as he is with the exception of some problems (Acts 26:29). Yes, he had learned to look on the bright side of life! He had learned to look to Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith (Hebrews 12:2).

-via *The Beulah Bulletin*; Vinemont, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Mary Glenna Currier	Crutcher Harbin
Buddy Pepper	Robert & Mot Beasley
Fay Ferguson	Lona Killen
Jeanette Weir	Gilbert Hardy
Gwen Bullock	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Ruth Lawson	Dianna Felker Ritter
Gene Carpenter	Dorothy Casteel
Ava Brooke Campbell	Alex Reed
Elizabeth Howard	David Holt
Joey Hinkle	Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Eli Williams	

In The Hospital:

Carl Hargrave; HealthSouth-Huntsville; rm. 223 .
Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.
Michael Vaughn; Kindred Hosp. - Rehab; Webster, Texas

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 75 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Mattye Murray, rm. 2
Mable Crafts, rm. 100 Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

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

CONFESSION: We rejoice that *Christina Banks* came forward confessing sin and asking for prayer for forgiveness and strength. We appreciate Christina and her desire to please God. May we all encourage her as she will encourage us in our work together is serving the Lord.

GLADYS JOHNSON (1927 – 2014): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister *Gladys Johnson*. Sister Johnson was a longtime member of the Market Street church. She loved the church here and love the Lord. Sister Johnson’s desire was to please God and that desire never wavered even in her later years as her health began to fail. We express our deepest sympathy to *Danny, Jimmy, Wanda and all the family* in the passing of sister Johnson. May the Lord bless them. Sister Johnson’s funeral was Thursday afternoon at the Spry Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Limestone Memorial Gardens.

NURSING HOMESINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the *Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care*. Come and sing you will enjoy it and you will encourage the residents there.

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

RESOURCE LIBRARY: As announced last week, on the church’s website we now have a resource room from Truth Books there. We will be uploading materials that we have here on the Resource Library as well. This is a great Bible study tool. If you want a login, please give me your email address on a member’s card so I can get this set up.

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 July 13th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 138
Morning Worship 191
Evening Worship..... 118

Wednesday:
Bible Classes..... 125

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Norman Brown
Assisting Keith Hinkle
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl David Terry
..... Keenon Currier ... Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Dan Reed
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper Norman Brown
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 20th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Terry Andrews

Wednesday, July 23rd:

Song Leader Keith Hinkle
Bible Reading..... Mark 15:42-47
..... Dan Reed
Prayer Steve Usery
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Sunday, July 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching David Cox
Lord’s Supper
Presiding Bonnie Sutton
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Heath Dollar Paul Hasting
..... Marvin Putman Mot Dollar
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching Song Service
Lord’s Supper Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 27th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams