

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. 40

Remove Before Flight

Norm Webb, Jr.

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) 233-1017

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
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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

Kevin Haw tells of a time during a business trip to Boeing's Everett, Washington, factory where he noticed several 747 and 777 airliners being assembled. Before the engines were installed, huge weights were hung from the wings to keep the planes balanced. The solid-steel weights were bright yellow and marked "14,000 lbs." What was particularly interesting was some stenciling he discovered on the side of each weight. Imprinted on each one was the warning, "Remove before flight."

The writer of Hebrews tells us to "lay aside every weight which so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

I think the lesson is simple. You cannot soar with sin. Until one determines to abandon the weights of self-will and self-satisfaction, and is cleansed by the blood of Jesus, he will remain grounded. While the Lord promises to renew the strength of those who wait upon Him so that they will soar on eagle's wings, run and not grow weary, walk and not faint, they will never attain those spiritual heights until the weights of sin have been cut free (Isaiah 40:31).

However, we are not so quick to acknowledge that fact. We like to hang on to sin and try to fly with the extra weight. Now of course, we know we can't soar with the big weights like adultery or murder, but we figure that we can still take flight with a little extra poundage of lying, gossip, malice, envy, hatred, greed, selfish ambition, etc. We fail to realize that eventually the weight adds up.

Then we struggle to understand why God isn't using us like we thought He would. We wonder why we are not leading people to Christ, and why worship seems so stale. So we begin to make excuses for our low altitude (or attitude). "People are not as responsive to the gospel as they used to be. Things are busier now. Worship leaders are not inspiring." But the excuses will not change the flight pattern.

Yes, we long to glide among the clouds of the highest height, but not

without the weights. Or do we really long to - glide that is. Are we afraid of what the Lord will do with us? Afraid of where His will might take us, whom we might meet, what we might have to endure. Suddenly, the weights seem comfortable. We are glad they are there, lest we soar too high.

This happened to a young man, who came to Jesus with his wealth and authority strapped to his wings, and asked what he might do to fly into the heights of eternity. The Pilot's answer stunned him, "Drop the remaining weight." The young man walked away grieved, because he owned a lot of weight. Do you remember what Jesus told the apostles as they all watched this poor fellow walk away, wondering that if the rich can't get into heaven, then who can? God can even make camels fly, He said (Matthew 19:16-24).

The winds of grace are powerful, but we become insecure about how high they can take us. The weights keep us low to the ground, so that if we have to bail out we don't have far to fall. If the pressure of the world becomes too great for us, we want to be able to make a quick emergency landing. So we hang on to a little bit, just in case being a Christian becomes too hard, or demands too much. The eagle flies with trust in the wind that God provides, and so must we. We must abandon our reservations and trust His grace even when decisions are hard, convictions are tested, or earthly security is jeopardized.

Whatever afflictions we must endure by keeping God's commands are light, says Paul, compared to the eternal weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17). The yoke of Christ - easy. The burden - light (Matthew 11:30). The real burden, the real weight that keeps us so far from heaven is sin. About those 14,000 lb. weights you are carrying around - Trust God and remove before flight.

-via *Family Items*; Athens, Alabama.

Bible Study



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Daytona Dads

Wilson Adams

I finally got it. Whatever has been "going around" this cold and flu season finally found its way to my doorstep. Great. I've got it - and you can have it! Then again, if you are kind enough to read Focus Magazine each month, then I'll consider you a friend. And friends don't wish the flu on friends.

So...I spent a Sunday afternoon as a couch potato and curled up to watch the Daytona 500. I'm not generally a big fan of NASCAR (although I used to enjoy seeing Petty and Allison and all those good old boys of yesteryear) but I do think it is a sport that maximizes the testosterone experience.

My wife says it must be men who are driving because... (1) They go around in circles, (2) they tailgate and (3) when they do pull in to ask for directions, they don't stay long enough to get it right. I think I even saw a couple instances of road rage. My medicine was beginning to take effect and I was drifting in and out, so I'm not sure if it was really Daytona or the traffic channel with live shots from the Interstate near my house. Then again, I'm not sure it makes much difference.

I thought of something while watching the likes of Dale Jr., Rusty and Jeff come roaring into Pit Row. These guys and their team pride themselves on getting in and out of the pit in as little as eighteen seconds. Four new tires, fresh fuel and whatever else needs attention - in eighteen seconds. Who says you can't get good service anymore?

The Real Problem, however, is not humorous at all. There are some dads among us who father like that. They roar home from work like they are coming into Pit Row at the Daytona 500. They get out, kiss the wife, hug the kids (who are already in bed), grab some supper, watch the news and hit the sack to get a few hours of sleep before jumping out of bed before dawn (and before the kids are up) to be out the door and back into the race. Daytona Dads. Know any?

Steve Farrar, in his excellent book, *Anchor Man*, points to a study that shows that the average American father spends 37 seconds a day with his young children. Thirty-seven seconds? Are you kidding? It takes longer than that to brush your teeth! Before you are too quick to discount that statistic, ask yourself this insightful

question: How much time do you spend per day with your kids? I'm not talking about with your kids while you do something else and merely tolerate their interruptions - how much time do you give them on a daily basis? I have a hunch it's not as much as you think.

It's like the story of the little boy who asked his father how much he made in one hour and was given a figure. A few days later the little fellow presented his dad with the exact amount saved from his allowance. "I want to buy one hour for me," he said. That stings.

Families whose fathers view their home as a thirty-seven second pit stop are headed for disaster. Wives will sense neglect and kids will be vulnerable - to wrong influences, friends and behavior. Sure, being a dad is both demanding and daily, but someone will influence your boy and girl. It had better be you.

Oh, yes, one more thing...one day you're taking them by the hand and walking them to the school door and the next day you're taking them by the arm and walking them down an aisle. It goes by that fast.

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). To a child, love is spelled T-I-M-E. And that's more than a thirty-seven second pit stop. Daytona Dads...most of us could do a lot better.

-via *The North Jasper Seeker*; Jasper, Alabama.



Surrendering SELF

Michael W. McLemore

Are you willing to put aside self to follow Jesus? All are called by the Gospel to surrender our lives to Him (1 Corinthians 6:20). To be sure this is no small feat. Our plans, every desire, each entitlement that once seemed "our right" must be put aside if we are to make way for our King's will. But, there is a small part of every one of us that in pride asks, "Can God ask this of me?"

First, the Bible teaches us that Jesus is sovereign. He alone is the King and Ruler of all things (Matthew 28:18). We are under His authority, whether we choose to submit it or not. The Lord has every right to demand that we give Him our all. Second, through His death

and resurrection, Jesus saved us from our sin and its consequences. We owe a debt to Him that we could never repay (Acts 20:28). Finally, He sustains us - "In Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Every breath, every heartbeat is a gift from Him.

Be assured that God is entitled to ask that we yield our life to Him. But, have you considered the truth that surrender is in our best interest? The Father promises that following Him leads to hope and an established future - "Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you..." (Psalm 31:19). Thus, He is the Almighty One with all authority to demand our life, but He promises to care for us and to do what will benefit us most.

His way is best, and it offers hope, joy, and peace. We will not always like everything He chooses at the moment, but His promises can be trusted. Will you confide in God enough to hand your life over to Him?

-via *The Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Mot Dollar	Fay Ferguson
Carl Hargrave	Shelia Barrett
Carol Dean	Betty Pepper
Adam Davidson	Buddy Pepper
Marjorie Dunnavant	Crutcher Harbin
Gwen Bullock	Robert & Mot Beasley
Michael Vaughn	Ruth Lawson
Una King Carrier	Gene Carpenter
Dorothy Casteel	Ava Brooke Campbell
Alex Reed	Phillip Harwell
Charles Burns	Shawn Felker
Eli Williams	Analynn Tegg
Elizabeth Kate Miller	Kim Pressnell
Dianna Ritter	Marcelino Ordonez-Zetino
Ann Bush	Anita Willis

In The Hospital:

Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.

Pat Goodin; UAB Hospital; Birmingham

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Irene Inman, rm. 61 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

Nelva Reed, rm. 75 Dorothy Draper, rm. 97

Mattye Murray, rm. 2 Gayle Mills, rm. 15
 Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
 Judith Groce, rm. 63 Deannie Britton; rm. 66
 Mable Crafts, rm. 100

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:

Wynell Casteel, at home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are studying the book of "Proverbs". All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

LOLA COLWELL (1938– 2014): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister Lola Colwell. Sister Colwell has been sick and unable to be at services in quite sometime. She was a fine lady who lived a good life and desired to please the Lord in the life she lived. We want to extend our deepest sympathy to all the family in her passing. Her funeral was Saturday.

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

OUT OF TOWN: The Vaughns: Phillip and Margaret are in Houston, Texas this week... **The Whites:** Jason, Joy, Addison and Mason have been in Florida on vacation this week... **The Ogles:** Mike and Nikki are in Auburn visiting with Drew today.

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 Sept. 28th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 136
 Morning Worship 189
 Evening Worship..... 129

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 119

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Larry Mitchell
 Assisting Joel Hamm
 Serving Paul Hasting..... Keenon Currier
 Russ Wulfekuhl Jason Conn
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Ronnie Locke
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
 Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 5th:

Usher Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, October 8th:

Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Bible Reading..... Romans 5:1-11
 Keith Hinkle
 Prayer Marty Adams
 Invitation Jordan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, October 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Tommy Coblenz
 Assisting Norman Brown
 Serving Kenneth Adams..... Heath Dollar
 Marvin Putman Cody Kennedy
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblenz
 Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 12th:

Usher Delmer Carter
 Work Sound System Terry Andrews