

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 III

October 2, 2011

No. 40

Play It Where It Lies

Gary Ogden

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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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

Before Tiger Woods, there was Bobby Jones. A generation ago, he was the best golfer ever to play the game. Some contend there will never be anyone to match his feats in golf. At the prime of his life and his game, Jones was stricken with a crippling disease that eventually took his life. When he could no longer play the game he had mastered, he was asked how he fell about it. His reply, "I have to play it where it lies."

You have to know something about golf to fully appreciate his answer. When you hit a golf ball, where it lands is the spot from which you must hit your next shot. For instance, if you are on the tee and you wind up and with a mighty swing send it sailing ten yards down the fairway, that is the spot from which you must hit your second shot. To circumvent this rule, many golfers (a.k.a. "hackers") use a "mulligan" whereby you get to take another shot without counting it the first. It's kind of a gentleman's agreement to cheat.

If your ball happens to land in the rough (the high grass, weeds, and trees that line the fairway), you must hit it from the rough. You're not supposed to pick it up and place it neatly in the fairway; you have to "hit it where it lies."

Bobby Jones reminds us that life sometimes hands us some "rough" times. It would be nice if you could "hit it in the fairway" every time, but that doesn't happen, even in golf. The best golfers learn to hit it well under "rough" conditions. As we live, we learn that there will be fair weather days and foul. There will be good times and bad, heart joy and heart break. Just about the time you think you're at your peak and nothing can go wrong, the ground can fall out from under you.

How Jones handled his disappointing and disabling disease speaks volumes about his character. I do not know what kind of spiritual background he had, but he sure learned something about how to graciously handle adversity.

Facing Adversity

Did not Job, that marvelous character from the Bible, teach us the same lesson? Talk about adversity, Job excels us all! Yet, he did not do, as his wife advised him to, “curse God and die” (Job 2:9). Though he struggled with the questions that plague us when adversity strikes (he didn’t understand why it was all happening), he ultimately rebounded to even greater faith and prosperity. He chose to praise God and live.

Back to the golf analogy...One of the greatest differences between the professional and amateur is what they can do when they find themselves in adverse conditions. The pro can take a poor shot that has landed in the most terrible place imaginable and then hit a shot, defying description, and land it on the green. The amateur whacks around, takes his 7 on a par 3, or may even pick up his ball and go home. He might get so aggravated as to cuss, wrap a club around a tree, or throw it into the water. He has not learned to deal with adversity.

Too often we throw up our hands in despair when the best practice is to raise them in prayer. Paul and Silas teach us that from a Philippian jail. They had been beaten severely and thrown under the jail. Rather than filled with despair, the air was filled with prayers and hymns (Acts 16:25). The other prisoners heard them as so must we. The next time you’re in the middle of some of the worst “rough” imaginable, let the air be filled with prayers and hymns to God.

Just as the amateur golfer will rarely be able to work out of “impossible” lies, we will find ourselves in “impossible” situations in life. In such cases, God is the Professional and we’re going to have to leave it in His capable hands. When we are tempted to give up in despair, we must let Him “make the shot.” Thing is, in His providence, He may decide to let us “tough it out” longer than we desire. That’s when faith has to kick in.

You Don’t Know The Why

God let Abraham take several days to journey to the mountain upon which he was to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22). God didn’t let him off the hook until the last moment. There’s no use trying to figure out God’s timing on anything, especially how long adversity will last or how many things will pile up at one time. Just about the time you think you’ve got about all you can

handle, another difficulty comes roaring in. Whoever says, “Troubles come in threes,” is wrong. Sometimes they come in sevens and tens.

The golfer who makes his living from the game must learn to live with adversity. He must handle it under pressure packed situations. If he doesn't, he loses not only his composure, but also a lot of money. Those of us who “make our living” being a Christian must learn to handle the adversity, too. Since our Lord is not going to put a protective bubble around us and keep us from all difficulty, we must learn to put our trust in Him. Frequently, we may find ourselves having gone as far as we can go, having done all that we can do, having said all that we can say, and cried all that we can cry. Then we have to “take it to the Lord and leave it there” as the old song urges. Peter put it this way: “Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:). Just prior to that he said, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time” (vs. 6).

When your hand shakes with fear, uncertainty, and weakness, put it in the hand of the Almighty God, who in His good time and His good way will lift you up. It’s the only way to live, really live. Whatever our reality is, rough or smooth, let us learn to “play it where it lies.”

-via *The Gospel Nourisher*; Trussville, Alabama

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Do You See Only GIANTS?

Shane Williams

There were 12 spies who were sent out by Moses to spy out the land of Canaan for 40 days. When they returned, all but two, Joshua and Caleb, gave this negative report: “We are not able to go up against the people for they are too strong for us” (Numbers 13:31) and “We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so were we in their sight” (Numbers 13:33).

The “leaders” from their respective tribes (Numbers 13:2-3) lacked faith and only saw difficulties and defeat. Yes, the giants were great, but wasn’t their God

greater? How could they so easily forget the way God parted the waters of the Red Sea or led them through the wilderness?

The 10 spies who were filled with doubt died by a plague before the Lord. “Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land, those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the Lord” (Numbers 14:36-37). In fact, the entire nation of Israel from 20 years old and up wandered in the wilderness for forty years until they died because of their unfaithfulness. All except the 2 spies, Joshua and Caleb, who stood by the Lord (14:30). We know that Joshua led the people into the land of Canaan but what about Caleb? God blessed him and brought him into the Promised Land because he had “a different spirit and follows Me wholeheartedly” (Numbers 14:24).

We need more Caleb’s — willing to follow the leading of the Lord because they are filled with a different attitude than others. Are you a Caleb of faith, or are you among the skeptics who always see the giants of difficulty? Faith sees opportunity (2 Corinthians 5:7) but fear sees obstacles.

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word” (Psalm 119:9).

~via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas.

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The Rich Fool

Zack Lee

“The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years: relax, eat drink, and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things

you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:13-21).

In this parable, Jesus warns us against covetousness. He tells us that our lives do not consist of the things that we have. Many get so wrapped up in making a name for themselves or making a huge fortune that they lose sight of what it really means to be rich.

This rich man lost sight of what was really important. He was so focused on himself and his possessions. The amazing part of this story is that even though he had everything he wanted, he did not have everything he needed. God required his soul that night.

What about you? Is your life wrapped up in the “abundance of your possessions?” What if God required your soul tonight? Would you be ready? Would you be called a “fool?”

~via *The Manslick Road Speaker*; Louisville, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Hazel Toone	Bobbie Adcock
Rachel Grubbs	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Martha Rice
Wayne Gooch	Jack Jones
Matt Poff	Brent Lowman
Betty Faye Holt	Gladys Sandlin
Rhett Bailey	Una King Currier
Phillip Harwell	Paige Phillips
Joe Collier	Sarah Collier
Barbara Ogles	Randy Graviett

In The Hospital:

Tim Dean; Huntsville Hospital - rm.
Larry Owens; Decatur General - Decatur, rm. ICU

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Mary Smith, rm. 85	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	

Limestone Manor:

Albert Norton, rm. 98

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

- Andrew Deen; Japan
- Whitney Deen; Japan

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: *Jordan and Heather Lovell* have expressed their desire to be a part of the work here at Market Street. We are glad to have them here and numbered among us. Let us all extend a warm welcome to *Jordan and Heather* along with their children *Aidan and Rylee*.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday evening. *Jerry Curry* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *West Rogersville church* in Rogersville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Norm Webb, Jr.* will be the speaker in this meeting.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Bonnie Sutton* and *all the family* in the passing of Bonnie's sister-in-law, *Maggie Sutton*, this past week. Her funeral was on Thursday afternoon.

NURSERIES AVAILABLE: There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other is in the east wing.

WORK GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for work group one to meet. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group this evening.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of September 25th*

- Sunday:**
- Bible Classes..... 125
 - Morning Worship 171
 - Evening Worship..... 115

- Wednesday:**
- Bible Classes..... 105

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 2nd:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Marcus Morris
- Song Leader Stuart Wilson
- Prayer Terry Andrews
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Joel Hamm
- Assisting Jerry McGlocklin
- Serving David Terry Marion Pepper
- Will Chumbley..... Dwaine Allfrey
- Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

- Announcements Marcus Morris
- Song Leader Tommy Burns
- Prayer Jonathan Keenon
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
- Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 2nd:

- Usher David Terry
- Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, October 5th:

- Song Leader Stefan Fudge
- Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 30:27-33)
- Danny Johnson
- Prayer Bonnie Sutton
- Invitation Warren Glass
- Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Sunday, October 9th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Marty Adams
- Song Leader Tommy Burns
- Prayer Marion Mitchell
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Kenneth Smith
- Assisting Jonathan Keenon
- Serving Marvin Putman Mark Rogers
- Keenon Currier Russ Wulfekuhl
- Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

- Announcements Marty Adams
- Song Leader Hunter Cox
- Prayer Larry Mitchell
- Preaching Warren Glass
- Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
- Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 9th:

- Usher Keenon Currier
- Work Sound System Marty Adams