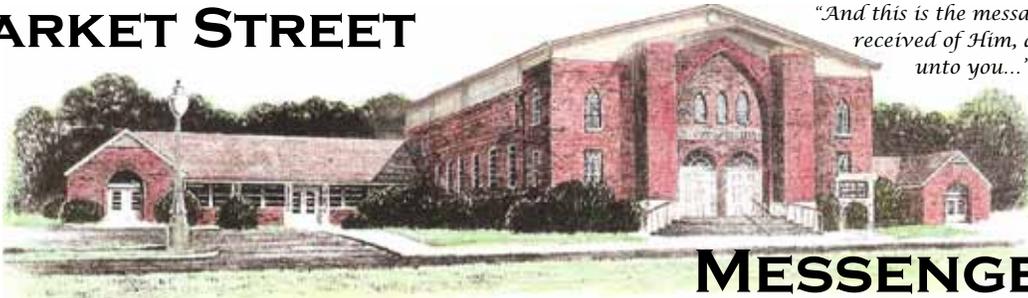


MARKET STREET

"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

December 21, 2014

No. 51

A Gift Worth Giving

Joel Hamm

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 233-2081

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

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

Isn't it funny how you can learn the most valuable lessons sometimes when you least expect it?

Recently I was finishing Christmas shopping at the mall and preparing to leave. I had to walk past a restaurant to get to my truck. As I did so, I noticed a man sitting on a bench outside the restaurant. You could tell this man did not have much. He was obviously homeless. This particular day was very cold and wet and I imagine he was looking for a warm dry place to rest for a moment. And I, like most other people, walked right past him swiftly lest he spoke or made eye contact or even ask for a handout. As I walked to my truck, I could not stop wondering how many people (including myself) passed this man by and never offered to help or even speak to him. I also wondered how many people (including myself) thought if you did give him some money, the first thing he would do is go purchase alcohol. And that's when it hit me. As I got to the parking lot, standing right in front of my truck was the fattest pigeon I have ever seen and I could not help but to think of Matthew 6:26. I put my bags inside and immediately went back to that bench.

I walked up to the gentleman and ask how he was doing. His response was what I expected. "Not to good - it's rough out there." As I stood there and talked to him I noticed immediately that this man had vision problems and he proceeded to tell me that he was blind in one eye and going blind in the other. He told me that the doctors told him his eyes had been neglected so long, there was no chance of saving either one. He wasn't complaining, just talking. And the longer I talked to him I noticed he said everything with a smile. This man had a very gentle nature about him and I wondered how on earth he ended up like this.

The two things I found most interesting as I had this conversation were the people that passed by. They looked at him and then stared at me almost thinking out loud "Why are you talking to him?" and I was thinking the whole time "Am I the only one trying to help him?" Also

the gentleman sitting on the other end of the bench. He never would look our way but I noticed what he was reading - The Bible (Luke 18:11).

After a few minutes of listening to this man, I ask if I could buy him a meal. I was surprised when he told me he had already eaten but he told me he would enjoy a cup of coffee later. He told me he didn't drink alcohol and I had no reason to believe otherwise. I gave him some money and went on my way (Matthew 7:12).

Numerous thoughts filled my mind as I was driving home but one in particular. Our minds will deceive us. Our eyes will deceive us. We think we know something to be true until we take action to find the real truth. The one thing this gentleman wanted (and needed) more than anything was attention. He wanted companionship. He wanted somebody to listen to him. One of the basic human needs that most of us take for granted everyday (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

We tend to think the most important things in life have a cost associated with them but they really don't. A smile. A compliment. A hug. **All free.** Manners, morals, respect, character, patience, trust - money can't buy any of these things. So as we all go shopping this holiday season, remember the things that mean the most and ask yourself "Have I made a positive difference in someone's life today?" (Galatians 6:10).

∞

Using The Wrong Tool

Russ Bowman

About two weeks ago, I had to replace an exterior door on our house. It had to be replaced because my dog destroyed the old one and Dad was going to be back in a few days. So, I went to the lumberyard and bought a new door. Now, I'm not much of a carpenter and I lack experience in the areas of construction and repair. However, with a little figuring here and there, I was able to see what needed to be done to hang this new door.

Of course, my biggest problem became quite clear when I picked up the new door and found that it was in no way ready to be hung in place. No, instead it lacked all of the proper holes for the doorknob and the indentations for the hinges and weatherstripping. No problem, I naively thought. Three hours later, I thought again.

Reflecting upon the whole incident now, I can see that I'll never again try to construct or repair something without the proper tools. It's difficult to try to make a two inch hole with a one inch wood bit, or to try to cut one quarter of an inch off the edge of a door with a jigsaw and still keep the edge straight. If I gained nothing else from the whole affair, I now can see the importance of working with the right tools.

We live in a world which has so stressed the idea of freedom and liberty that many folks have forgotten that they are still under bondage to sin and obligated to God. Some of the "religious leaders" and the less worldly of our day have seen this problem and have gone about trying to repair it. However, instead of using the proper tools with which to correct the problem, they have tried to make the tools which they find most convenient fit the problem, even if those are the wrong tools.

Have you ever tried to drive a nail with a screwdriver? If you have, then you can see the ineffectiveness of using the wrong tool. Instead of using the Bible to try to solve the problems which we have created for ourselves because of our wickedness, we have developed our own solutions, our own rules, our own guidelines, which we believe will lead us out of our sinful predicament.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that the scriptures are all we need. Why can't we be satisfied with that? What could be more simple? Yet, man's selfish pride won't allow him to think that there may be a way other than the one he has devised! Why must we complicate the building when the only effective tool is within our grasp?

However, there is another way in which this same idea can be applied to our Christianity. How do you teach people? Do you make a plan? Do you follow some well-thought-out strategy, some line of reasoning, some "plan of attack," or do you just wait to see what happens? We should try to use the right tools when it comes to teaching people.

Sometimes, it requires that we be very, very care-

ful to not insult their religious beliefs, while some are more open to a direct discussion of religious differences. Sometimes we need to take a hard stand upon some issue and be strong in its defense, and in other cases we need to use more tact and avoid seeming too dogmatic and biased. One of the first things a Speech student learns is to analyze his audience and adjust his strategies accordingly. And so it should be with any teacher. You do not approach a hostile audience in the same way that you would approach a sympathetic audience.

Among those that we endeavor to teach, some will be open-minded and somewhat sympathetic, while some will be hostile and closedminded. You can't just go out and throw an open Bible in the face of a person and tell him that he's going to hell if he doesn't obey what you're teaching him! There is so much solicitation in the world today that most folks will automatically reject that kind of approach. Wouldn't you? Do you ever hang up on telephone salesmen who are over-bearing and rude? Even if you don't hang up on them, do you listen openmindedly? What, then, is the difference between that salesman and the over-bearing Christian? To most people, there is none.

The Lord recognized the different tools one can use to teach others. At times, He simply forgave instead of condemning (as with the adulteress in John 8), while at other times He was forceful and rebuked those whom He taught (as with the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 22 & 23). He realized the value of the word as a sword (Hebrews 4:12) and as a guiding light (Psalm 119:105). He used the right tools.

We have the proper tools at our disposal in the Word of God. We can use them to be more effective in our faith and teaching. It makes the job a lot easier.

-via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*; Montgomery, Alabama

Bible Study



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE STICK:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Carol Dean | Fay Ferguson |
| Doris Lovell | Buddy Pepper |
| Irene Inman | Mot Dollar |
| Carl Hargrave | Gwen Bullock |
| Marjorie Dunnivant | Robert & Mot Beasley |
| Crutcher Harbin | Ann Bush |
| Al Pollard | Michael Vaughn |
| Jimmy Stanford | Matt Poff |
| Pat Goodin | Analynn Tegg |
| Gene Carpenter | Una King Currier |
| Dorothy Casteel | Elizabeth Kate Miller |
| Eli Williams | Ava Brooke Campbell |
| Phillip Harwell | Charles Burns |
| Anita Willis | |

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nelva Reed, rm. 111 | Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102 |
| Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 | Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 |
| Mattye Murray, rm. 2 | Gayle Mills, rm. 15 |
| Robert Johnson, rm. 18 | Mildred Frantz, rm. 31 |
| Judith Groce, rm. 42 | Mable Crafts, rm. 100 |
| Ruth Brackeen, rm. 61 | |

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

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.

BARBADOS: I will be compiling the information the the next week or two about the cost and the schedule in the next week or two. If you are interested in doing this let me know. The Vacation Bible School in Bridgetown, Barbados on July 6-18. I will be going down for the frist week of the VBS, July 6-10. If you would like to go that would be great. I am looking for people that would have an interest in going to help teach the VBS. The second week of the VBS with be done by brethren from Indianapolis, Indiana. It will be a great trip and a rewarding experience.

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.

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 week of December 14th

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Sunday: | Bible Classes..... | 148 |
| | Morning Worship | 182 |
| | Evening Worship..... | 140 |
| Wednesday: | Bible Classes..... | 112 |



Fourth Annual Singing

Friday, February 27, 2015 — 7:00 p.m.

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 21st:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Announcements | Marty Adams |
| Song Leader | Joel Hamm |
| Prayer | Terry Andrews |
| Preaching | Jordan Lovell |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding | Ronnie Locke |
| Assisting | Larry Mitchell |
| Serving | Bill Claxton |
| | Cody Kennedy |
| | Bart Brown |
| | Jason Conn |
| Closing Prayer | James Johnson |

Evening Worship

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Announcements | Marty Adams |
| Song Leader | Hunter Cox |
| Prayer | Todd Williams |
| Preaching | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | Ronnie Locke |
| Closing Prayer | Dan Reed |

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 21st:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Usher | Keith Hinkle |
| Work Sound System | Landon Adams |

Wednesday, December 24th:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Song Leader | Marty Adams |
| Bible Reading..... | Romans 10:1-13 |
| | Nathaniel Adams |
| Prayer | Steve Usery |
| Invitation | Jordan Lovell |
| Closing Prayer | Mike Ogles |

Sunday, December 28th:

Morning Worship

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Announcements | Tommy Coblenz |
| Song Leader | Tyler Cox |
| Prayer | Tony Thomas |
| Preaching | David Cox |
| Lord's Supper | |
| Presiding | Kenneth Smith |
| Assisting | Steve Usery |
| Serving | Russ Wulfekuhl |
| | Kenneth Adams |
| | Marvin Putman |
| | Hunter Cox |
| Closing Prayer | Nathaniel Adams |

Evening Worship

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Announcements | Tommy Coblenz |
| Song Leader | Todd Williams |
| Prayer | Jerry McGlocklin |
| Preaching | Song Service |
| Lord's Supper | Kenneth Smith |
| Closing Prayer | Joel Hamm |

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 28th:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Usher | Danny Johnson |
| Work Sound System | Marty Adams |