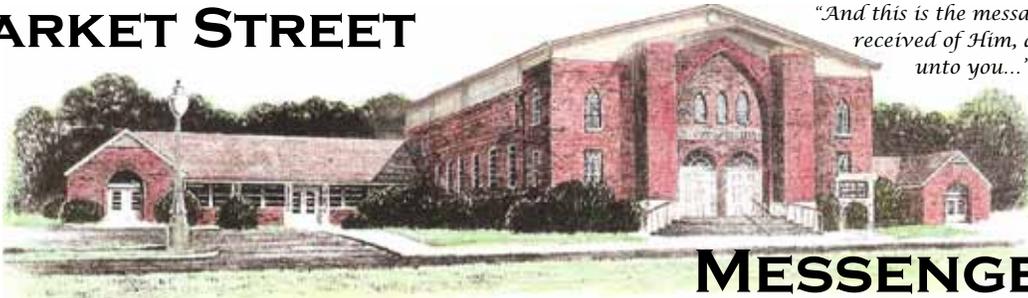


MARKET STREET

"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 28, 2014

No. 52

Press Along To The Goal

Bubba Garner

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) 233-2081

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

She fled from the rising waters of the tsunami. Visions of her family, a husband and five children, flashed through her mind. She had to live - not just for her, for them. As she climbed a tree, she was bitten by a snake. Then came the fire ants. They stung her legs, arms, face, even her eyes. Still, she climbed. This woman had one goal, survival; it was her only option. The reunion with her family would be worth it.

Sitting goals is a part of life. Achieving them, however, is not quite as common. And many times, the difference between setting marks and reaching them is the reward that waits at the end. When two teams battle and fight their way through a close championship game, what do we usually say about the one that finally finishes on top? "They were just hungrier; they wanted it more." At the beginning of the season, they didn't just set their minds on winning. Their goal was to win it all. They knew that the reward at the end would be worth it.

The apostle Paul likened Christianity to running a race when he said, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). That suggests some things about the determination and vision necessary as we make our journey to our own reward.

You have to press on. This race is not a sprint or a dash but a marathon, one that must be "run with endurance" (Hebrews 12:1). It is filled with obstacles, detours, and difficult turns, things that the devil will use to discourage you from running. Many passages warn about falling prey to our great adversary, hence falling out of the race (1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 11:14)? He wants you to fail. You have to press on.

And when the struggles are internal, from within, you have to get through those, too. There will be times when you feel like you can't take another step. There will be times when you see people you love stop running. There will be times when you lose your focus and trip and fall. "And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become

of the godless man and the sinner” (1 Peter 4:18)? That indicates that you have to work through conflicts and strife and treacherous roads along the way. Through all the pressures, you have to press on.

You have to press on toward the goal. The goal is the finish line. It’s the reason you start running in the first place. No runner begins a race that he doesn’t intend to complete. When Paul was at the end of his life, he said with confidence, “I have finished the course” (2 Timothy 4:7). That is, he had plenty of opportunities to quit but he wasn’t about to stop running or even slow down until he felt the tape break across his chest at the finish.

You’re not finished yet. You still have a race to complete. Otherwise, it doesn’t matter how a man lives or what a man does after he is saved, just so long as he was once saved. But the Bible makes it clear that we must keep pressing on toward completion. The writer of Hebrews said that we become partakers of Christ, “if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end” (Hebrews 3:14). Peter encouraged Christians to stay strong, “obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:10). It’s the outcome, the end, the result, the goal. Keep pressing toward it.

You have to press on for the prize. The athletes in the First Century competed for a prize, a wreath of victory. And no one received an award just because they entered the race or ran for a little while. They had to finish to get it. And however difficult it was to pull the next hill or work through the pain, their minds were firmly fixed on the reward that was waiting at the end of the road.

The stakes are much higher in the race that is set before us. “They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable” (1 Corinthians 9:25). We press on for the crown of life, the prize of eternal fellowship with God. That was certainly Paul’s motivation for fighting the good fight, for finishing the course, for keeping the faith. “In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me that day” (2 Timothy 4:8). Notice that he had not yet received his reward. That was the very reason he kept pressing on. Heaven will surely be worth it all. Just remember, you’re not there yet.

“To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it - but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor” (Oliver Wendell Holmes). Surviving a natural disaster and winning a

national championship both involve courage, resolve, strength, and inspiration. But they are not worthy to be compared with the reward of a race run well. Set your sights on the city and press on, not off.

-via *The Eastside Enlightener*; Athens, Alabama

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Cultivating Feelings For God

T. Doy Moyer

Feelings are strange. We don’t usually pick our feelings consciously. We just feel a certain way, and in that sense we probably think of them as our mood. When something needs to be done, we might then think, “I don’t feel like it,” and instead think, “I feel like doing that.” Then there are the deep-seated feelings that we may have developed over time - feelings that culminate in lust, outbursts, and other actions that are contrary to what we know is good and right. These are feelings that, if not brought under control, will destroy us.

The problem, I believe, is that we haven’t given enough time to cultivating how we feel. We might just chalk our feelings up to the way we are, but this is a mistake, for the way we are can be directed, focused, and changed for the good. This is not easy, though, so how do we begin to make these permanent changes in our thinking patterns?

1. **Target what you think about.** (Philippians 4:8). You can decide to think on things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, and worthy of praise. Don’t accept from yourself the idea that you can’t help thinking a certain way. Decide you will target your thoughts toward the higher ideals.

2. **Deliberately set your mind on things above.** (Colossians 3:1-2). Think about the resurrection of Jesus. Then think about what He has done for you. If you have been raised with Him, then you have every

reason to set your mind on things above. This takes discipline, but by constantly focusing on this, you can change your attitude.

3. **Read regularly and with purpose.** (Psalm 1). The blessed man learns to read God's word regularly, meditating on it, focused on it. He learns to take delight in God's will. Since faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17), regularly reading and hearing it will increase faith, change attitudes, and help us direct our feelings.

4. **Surround yourself with people who lift you up to higher thoughts.** (Hebrews 10:23-25). Your brethren are there to encourage and strengthen. If you will surround yourself with those who will do this, your own spirit will be lifted, and you can also encourage them. Discuss God's word with them. Confess your own failures. Help each other grow in His grace and knowledge. We need each other.

5. **Develop the mind of Christ.** Philippians 2. This is the culmination of all these points. Notice in the context of Philippians 2 that developing the mind of Christ is very much tied to focusing on the needs of others (vv.3-4). The more selfish we are, the more we will not feel disposed toward doing what is right. The more we can think of the needs of others, the more we will think like Christ, who died for us that we might live for Him.

Like anything else worthwhile, we must commit ourselves to the time, effort, and discipline necessary to change our thinking, habits, feelings, and actions. May God help us to so commit.

-via *Stanley Avenue Church Bulletin*; Andalusia, 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



Fourth Annual Singing

Friday, February 27, 2015 — 7:00 p.m.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Carol Dean	Fay Ferguson
Ruth Legg	Steve Usery
Arvid McGuire	Mot Dollar
Buddy Pepper	Doris Lovell
Irene Inman	Marjorie Dunnivant
Gwen Bullock	Robert & Mot Beasley
Carl Hargrave	Crutcher Harbin
Al Pollard	Ann Bush
Michael Vaughn	Anita Willis
Pat Goodin	Analynn Tegg
Gene Carpenter	Una King Carrier
Dorothy Casteel	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Eli Williams	Ava Brooke Campbell
Phillip Harwell	Charles Burns

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Matty 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
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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.

SONG SERVICE: This afternoon is the time for our regular scheduled song service. The sign-up sheets for the leaders are at each entrance, please list the song(s) you would like to lead.

OUT OF TOWN: The Ogles: Mike, Nikki and Drew have been in Orlando, Florida this week.

THE YEAR END: It is hard to believe, but this is the last Sunday of 2014. As we reflect on the past year, I hope that we can all truly say that we are closer to God now than when the year began. We have had a good year at Market Street, and I anticipate that 2015 will be a good successful year as well. We would do well to remember to put the Lord and His will as a focus in our lives. I remind you of the Lord's instructions to Joshua as began be begun leading the people of God. The Lord admonished, "The Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8).

SERMON IN SONG: On Wednesday night, December 31st we will have a "sermon in song" service. We will spend the entire service in singing, scripture reading and prayer. I hope that everyone will be able to be present for the service.

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 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 week of December 28th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	132
	Morning Worship	183
	Evening Worship.....	120
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	112

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
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 Coblentz
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

Wednesday, December 31st:

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

Sunday, January 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Norman Brown
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Tony Thomas Danny Johnson
..... Landon Adams Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Norman Brown
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 4th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams