

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 VII

February 15, 2015

No. 7

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
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

You Never Mentioned Him To Me

David Posey

I'm going on record to say that you are not responsible for the eternal destiny of everyone whom you have come into contact with. I know that preachers don't usually talk this way. They are often judged on the basis of numbers and given credit when there are a lot of "conversions" (or dipping in water) so it is in their best interest if you feel guilty enough to baptized some people.

Evangelism is important but most of us don't actually enjoy it (and feel guilty about not enjoying it). There are two reasons for that. First, as we've said, it's motivated by guilt ("how many classes did YOU have in the past year, eh...?"). Second, we don't understand what "evangelism" is.

Let's talk about the guilt thing. The song referenced in the title, "You Never Mentioned Him to Me" is not completely without merit. There is nothing wrong with the reminder that we should share our love for Christ with those we meet, whenever we have opportunity. After the first guilt-ridden verse, and the song's got some value.

The problem with the song is that it is not supported by Scripture (if you are thinking Ezekiel 3, hang on, I'll get to that). R.J. Stevens, the editor of our song book, chose 1 Timothy 4:16, which just illustrates that there is no passage that tells us that we'll be in deep anything if we don't mention Christ – there is no book, chapter or verse that says that.

But what about Ezekiel 3? Ezekiel 3:18-19 is the go-to text to motivate people to preach the gospel or else. It says,

"When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul."

Here's a comment I endorse, by R. Larry Moyer:

“This passage has nothing to say about evangelism.” God appointed Ezekiel a watchman (Ezekiel 3:17). His job was to warn of impending danger. The nation was doomed, and only through heeding their watchman could they survive. Chapters 4-24 of Ezekiel contain his cry of alarm, which gave those outside the walls opportunity to seek protection. It also gave the people time to secure the gates and man the defenses.

The death spoken of in Ezekiel 3:18-19 is physical, not spiritual. The context is the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem that Ezekiel predicted. A person refusing to heed God’s warning from Ezekiel could expect physical death. Ezekiel was to warn the righteous, not just the wicked. If Ezekiel refused to speak God’s message to people who came to his house, he’d be guilty of murder. This is the meaning of “...but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.” By giving a warning, Ezekiel delivered himself from the responsibility of the coming judgment. Those who ignored his warning could only blame themselves. One can see the danger when this idea is applied to evangelism; all of a sudden, we become responsible for someone’s eternal destiny.

So there’s not a text. Back to the guilt issue: Guilt is hardly an effective means of motivating people, at least for the long-term, which is what you need to do evangelism effectively.

But there’s an even bigger problem with this song in that it pictures something that *cannot happen*. The first line says, “when in better land, before the bar we stand, how deeply grieved our souls may be...” Hold it: first, that’s not an accurate picture of judgment. Judgment is not going to be about everyone standing around in a “better land” waiting to hear their fate (see 2 Peter 3:9-10; Matthew 25:31ff; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12).

And, since it implies that there are some who never heard of Christ (presumably because you didn’t mention Him), then that means (a) you are lost, too (hence, it’s not a “better” land) or (b) you are in heaven even though you didn’t mention Christ, yet your soul is “deeply grieved” as they are crying out from hell, in despair. What? So the force of the song in our title is to make us feel guilty if we never mention Christ to those

we come in contact with “day-by-day.” Frankly, I don’t know any Christian worthy of the name who has not made their faith clearly known to their friends, family and associates. So, the scope of this song is limited. Besides, a so-called Christian who is hiding his faith would hardly get the message anyway.

The second reason we don’t enjoy evangelism is because we don’t know what it is. We think it’s an act that requires persuasive ability, perhaps even sales ability. We believe – because it’s often presented this way – that if we don’t convince them to come to Jesus that it’s our fault (guilt!).

A preacher might point to the apostle Paul who “reasoned in the synagogue” or even to Peter who stood up on the Day of Pentecost and persuaded men. But those were the men specially appointed by Jesus and inspired by the Holy Spirit. They were also speaking to people who had either never heard of Christ (Paul to the gentiles) or who never connected the dots of the Old Testament prophecies and Christ (Peter to the Jews). We’d be hard-pressed to find someone in the US who has never heard of Jesus (I wish we could!)

We are not apostles and we are not charged with persuading men to obey, but simply to commit the word to the hearts of men, to preach and teach the gospel. We do that in word, in deed and by example.

As Moyer puts it, “bringing people to Christ is a God-sized job. It’s our job to bring Christ to the lost; only God can bring the lost to Christ. John 6:44 remind us, ‘No one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.’ Evangelism now becomes exciting. I do it recognizing that God is not holding me responsible for the results.”

Or, as we have often said, we are seed sowers; not soil inspectors or plant growers. We’re farmers, not God. All we can do is plant and water, but God gives growth. Oh, and we have book, chapter and verse on that: 1 Corinthians 3:6.

-via *The Folsom View*; Folsom, California

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

It's Better To Tell The Truth

Mike Thomas

It saddens me to see the downfall of Major League Baseball legends like Mark McGwire and Roger Clemens. To see these men testify in Congress about their use of steroids and Human Growth Hormones is painfully humiliating. I want nothing more than to believe them (because of what they did as baseball players), but the evidence against them won't permit that. Clemens' attempt to wiggle out of the statements made against him by his former trainer is almost Clinton-esque. He has convinced himself that if he points his fingers and gets mad enough people will believe him. What a shame.

So much of the disgrace these men have faced in response to steroid use could have been avoided had they been honest and upfront about their mistakes. Instead of McGwire saying, "I didn't come here to talk about the past" when asked in Congress about steroid use, he should have told the truth and admitted that he used these products in an era when some of them weren't banned. But for whatever reason, he convinced himself that "focusing on the future" was a strong enough argument to relay on before Congress. I hear he is now hiding out in a gated community in California – his name forever tarnished for lying and not being upfront. Chances are Clemens is on his way to the same kind of isolation if he doesn't spend some time in prison for perjury. Only time will tell.

Let these men serve as examples to us that it is always better to be honest and upfront in response to our sins. We make mistakes and do stupid things. We sin. And sometimes those sins have disgraceful consequences. Instead of lying to avoid the shame of confessing our wrong, we should humble our self and be honest regarding our mistakes. Painful? Yes. Humiliating? Absolutely. Essential to being forgiven? Without question! "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). I believe this is not only true with God, it is also true with people in general. We are more inclined to respect the person who admits his mistakes and turns from them, than the person who does evil and won't acknowledge it. Steroid use is one thing. But when men deny using it when they have, they elevate their problems from just being a drug user

to that of being a liar, which is harder to forgive than the other. -via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Lona Killen
Sarah Collier	Edwina Greer
Ruby Dean Ezell	Tommy Coblnetz
Gilbert Hardy	Arvid & Doris McGurie
Dan & Scottie Reed	Tony & Patsy Thomas
William Thomas	Joe & Mary Hinkle
Carl Hargrave	Carol Dean
Doris Lovell	Irene Inman
Buddy Pepper	Marjorie Dunnivant
Essie Hardison	Robert Beasley
Gwen Bullock	Crutcher Harbin
Matt Poff	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	Ann Bush
Michael Vaughn	Ava Brooke Campbell
Dan Williams	Anita Willis
Pat Goodin	Analynn Tegg
Gene Carpenter	Una King Currier
Dorothy Casteel	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Eli Williams	Phillip Harwell
Irene Mitchell	Gabriel Brown
Helen Rushing	

In The Hospital:

Mot Beasley; Crestwood Hospital, rm. 307
Paul Adcock; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 560

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 39
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 42	

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E
Moveline Thomas, rm. 109-A

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86
Jerry Gilbert, rm. 84

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:
Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

Wynell Casteel, at home
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Please mark your calendars for this year at Market Street. First, our Annual Singing is less than two weeks away, **February 27, 2015**... Our spring Gospel Meeting which will be **April 26-30, 2015**. Bill Hall will be the speaker in this meeting...Also, our Vacation Bible School will be **June 15-18, 2015**...Our fall Gospel Meeting will be **September 13-17, 2015**.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Lenna Ruth Bates and all the family**, in the passing of her sister, **Barbara Adams** this past Sunday. Her funeral was on Monday at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery.

OUT OF TOWN: The Melvins: Ross and Louise are in Birmingham... **The Bradleys:** Steve and Marilyn are in Texas... **Hunter Cox** is in Auburn this weekend.

ANNUAL SINGING: Our Annual Singing is quickly coming. I know that it will be truly an edifying and uplifting evening. I hope that everyone will be here. In connection with that remember to come early and we will need people assist with parking, ushering, etc. Remember to tell others to come and join us.

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 week of February 8th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 121
Morning Worship 162
Evening Worship..... 124

Fourth Annual Singing

February 27, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Steve Klein



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Hunter Cox
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Mike Ogles
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Bart Brown Danny Johnson
..... Landon Adams Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Mike Ogles
Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 15th:

Usher Marvin Putman
Work Sound System Terry Andrewss

Wednesday, February 18th:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
Bible Reading Romans 14:1-13
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer Kenneth Adams
Invitation Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Sunday, February 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Nathaniel Adams Steve Usery
..... Stefan Fudge James Johnson
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 22nd:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Landon Adams