

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

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) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz (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

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 43

What Do We Mean By Faith?

Marty Pickup

What is Faith? A little boy in a church Bible class responded like this when the teacher asked the question: "Faith means believing what you know can't be true!" Do you remember Edmund Gwenn's statement about faith to little Natalie Wood's character in the classic Christmas movie, Miracle on 24th Street? He said, "Faith is believing in something when common sense tells you not to." A more intellectual description of faith, but one along the same line as the above, says this: "Faith begins where reason ends."

Is this what the Bible means by faith? Do the biblical writers ask us to suspend common sense and rationality so that, for totally subjective reasons, we take a leap of faith and believe in Christianity without any evidence to support that belief? One of the problems we encounter when we try to talk with people about the gospel of Christ is the misunderstanding that many have about what the Bible means by faith. Many people assume that Christian faith, like the belief system of other religions, is not predicated upon verifiable propositions.

A common definition of the English word "Faith" furthers this misconception. The word can, of course, mean a confident belief or trust in a person or idea. But faith is also formally defined as follows: "belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence." (American Heritage Dictionary) If this is what the Bible means by faith, then for anyone to try to argue the truthfulness of Christianity by an appeal to objective evidence is absurd. Yet this is exactly the presumption that most people have about the faith of which the bible speaks — a belief that has nothing to do with human rationality and which in fact asks people to suspend their rational thought processes in order to accept a religious system that has no objective support. I affirm that this is not what the Bible means by faith.

To be sure biblical faith involves "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). We are asked to

believe in things that are beyond our own experience, things that we have not personally witnessed. As Paul puts it, “We walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). But this does not mean that there are no logical reasons for us to believe what we believe, or that the faith of which the bible speaks has no evidentiary basis. Before we enter its realm of faith, the Bible does not ask us to check our intellect at the door.

Consider, for example, what Paul says about why people should believe in a divine creator. “Because that which is known about God is evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made” (Romans 1:19-20). Paul is saying that the existence and functionality of the universe should compel us to conclude that there must have been a creator who designed it this way. Isn’t this passage indicating that faith in God is based upon evidence?

Another biblical proposition, one as fundamental as the doctrine of theism, is the claim that Jesus is the Son of God. But do the biblical writers ask us to believe that about Jesus without proof? Certainly not. They consistently affirm a solid rationale for believing in Jesus – the objective evidence of His miracles. John 5:31-36 records the statement by Jesus: “If I alone bear witness of Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. But I have a greater witness than John’s: for the works which the Father has given me to finish - the very works that I do – bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.” We even read in John 10:37 that in the absence of miraculous corroboration, we would have no grounds for accepting Jesus’ bold claims. “If I do not do the works of My Father,” Jesus said, “do not believe in me:...”

Religions generally ask people to become adherents on the basis of social tradition or subjective preference. The New Testament, on the other hand, asks people to accept the gospel of Christ only after a thoughtful consideration of the evidence. Christianity is not opposed to rationality; it confidently presents itself as a faith system that is provable to any open-minded, reasoning person.

-via “*Think On These Things*”; Texarkana, Arkansas.

The Victory of Faith

Ken Weliever

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Do you wear Nike shoes? Seen a Nike commercial with the slogan, “Just Do It”? Do you know what Nike means? It’s a Bible word! In Greek mythology, Nike was the imaginary goddess of victory, who presided over all military and athletic contests. The Greek word “nike” (nee’kay) is the word for victory in 1 John 5:4.

Those born of God will face conflicts, controversies, and confrontations. We can either be conquered or we can be the conqueror. The Greeks believed in an illusion. But because we are born of God, believe in the real God, and belong to the true God, we have the real resources to be victorious in running our race to eternity. Consider these three applications:

1. Victory over Temptation. The same writer warned about the lust of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:15). Many Christians have fallen prey to these foes. But through our growing faith in the revealed Faith of Christ, we can achieve victory. Sometimes our surrender to temptation is excused with the refrain, “I am only human.” True. But through faith, God has given us super human resources to fight and find victory. God has promised a means of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). You can win the battle with temptation. Just do it!

2. Victory over the “thorns of the flesh.” Paul spoke of his struggle with the “thorn” in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. We’re not told the nature of his thorn, but it was hurting Paul. It was something Satan used to impede his progress, to hamper his effectiveness and frustrate his faithfulness. But Paul prayed. God didn’t remove the thorn. But through God’s grace and Paul’s faith, he found the strength to subdue the troubling thorn. Through grace and faith, we too, can be victorious over the thorns of sickness, pain, personal problems and vexing circumstances. You can win the battle with the “thorns of the flesh.” Just do it!

3. Victory over discouragement. Discouragement can sap the strength out of us. It can deplete our energies, exhaust us physically, drain us mentally and weaken

us spiritually. Discouragement is a device of the Devil. It undermines the love in our homes, cripples the work of the church and enfeebles our faithfulness. Yet, we can muster the courage to overcome this fatal feeling. Through our faith in Christ, we can see a brighter tomorrow and know that one day all of our troubles and trials will pale into insignificance when we see Jesus. You can win the battle over discouragement. Just do it!

My Christian friend, will you be vanquished or victorious? The conquered or the conqueror? The choice is yours. The next time you put on your Nike shoes, remember that "nike" means victory. Know that as a Christian you can experience the victory of faith through Jesus. And believe (that with God's help) you can just do it (Philippians 4:13)!

-via *Windows of Heaven*; Moulton, Alabama

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Walking With The Wise

Irvin Himmel

"He that walketh with the wise shall be wise" (Proverbs 13:20). It takes more than being casually acquainted with a few wise men to become wise like them. It also takes more than just talking with them to become wise. To take on the wisdom of the wise one must be completely absorbed in what they say and do.

The wise project the fear of God in their lives. They make practical application of knowledge. They are skilled in the art of living. They discriminate between good and evil. They keep the precepts of the Lord. The psalmist said, "I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep the precepts of the Lord" (Psalm 119:63).

To walk with the wise is to have habitual and close friendship with them. The man who walks with wiser men than himself imbibes their thoughts, and those thoughts become part of himself. As the health of the body depends upon the kind of food which it receives, so the health of the mind depends on the character of

the thoughts it receives and its power of making them its own. Good habits are learned by constant association with good and righteous people.

-via *Toward A Greater Faith*; Jonesboro, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Anita Wheeler	Mot Dollar
Gayle Ball	Betty Pepper
Jim Whitt	Ella Melvin
Joe Hinkle	Marjorie Dunnivant
Reba Byram	Gilbert Hardy
James Abernathy	Essie Hardison
Irene Inman	Carl Hargrave
Jeanette Weir	Elizabeth Howard
Gwen Bullock	Abi Gilbert
Donald Cole	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Ava Brooke Campbell
Phillip Harwell	Gene Carpenter
Ann Bush	Pam Perry
Ben Hinkle	Al Pollard
Anita Willis	Helen Rushing
Matt Poff	Una King Currier
Charles Burns	Analynn Tegg
Eli Williams	David Richardson

In The Hospital:

Ray Kennedy; UAB Hospital – Birmingham

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Helen Trousdale, rm. 43	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Judith Groce, rm. 21	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Mattye Murray, rm. 2
Terry Camp, rm. 91	

Limestone Health Facility:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 107
Mildred Landers, rm. 103
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 20W

Shut-In:

Hazel Brooks, at home
Wynell Casteel, at home
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

LONA KILLEN (1928 — 2015): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister **Lona Killen**. Lona was a longtime member of the Market Street church. She and her husband Jimmy have meant so much to the church here and have been a good influence for the cause of Christ. Lona has been unable to attend, as much as she desired, due to her health issues. We have missed Lona being with us, but have many good and fond memories of her and her love for the Lord and the church.

The visitation for Lona will be on Monday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. followed by the funeral at 2:00 p.m. at Limestone Chapel. We express our deepest sympathy to all the family of sister Killen.

MEETING WORK: It was a pleasure to be with the **North Parkway church** in Arab this past Sunday, concluding the meeting there. We lived in Arab right after Kerry and I married and it was good to see some long time friends. **Mike Douglas** is the preacher there... It was also a pleasure to be with the **Belgreen church** in Belgreen on Thursday night as they concluded their meeting focusing on Evangelism. . The preacher there is **Josh Thompson**.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Bradleys:** Steve and Marilyn are in Houston, Texas visiting family... **The Mitchells:** Larry and Peggy are in the mountians this week... **The Ogles:** Mike and Nikki are in the mountians this weekend.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30.

PICTURES: Remember that we are currently making pictures for our directory in classroom 20 in the east wing. If you have not had your picture made, or need to have it re-made, please do so after services today.

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.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Oct. 18th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 125
Morning Worship 177
Evening Worship..... na

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 122

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Russell Melvin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Steve Usery
Serving	Tyler Cox Keenon Currier
.....	Russ Wulfekuhl Bill Claxton
Closing Prayer.....	Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer.....	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 25th:

Usher	Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, October 28th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	(1 Corinthians 12:14-31)
.....	Jason Conn
Prayer.....	Seth Todd
Invitation	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell

Sunday, November 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Terry Andrews
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Russell Melvin
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Jason Conn Tommy Burns
.....	David Terry Bart Brown
Closing Prayer.....	Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer.....	James Johnson

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 1st:

Usher	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams