

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

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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

Volume VIII

April 10, 2016

No. 15

Please Join Us For Our

Gospel Meeting

April 17 - 21

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday - 9:45 am; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist - Buc Chumbley

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA**

“Lead Us Not Into Temptation”

Buc Chumbley

Within the “model prayer,” in which Christ taught His disciple to pray as John taught his disciples (Luke 11.1), Jesus prays the following, “lead us not into temptation.” (Matthew 6.13).

This sentence raises a question. Does God lead his children into temptation? If so, what kind of temptation are we talking about? And, why would God deliberately lead us into something He warns us to stay away from? The answer lies in how you define the word “temptation.”

Most commentators believe that Jesus is making a request for spiritual protection. That Christ is saying something like this, “Lord, keep us from trouble. Don’t let anything really bad happens to us.” This may be true, but it still does not answer the central question. Does God lead us into temptation?

The Greek word for “temptation” has two basic meanings. It can mean something positive or it can mean something negative. In its positive meaning it can be, translated by the words “trial” or “testing.” In those cases it refers to a difficult circumstance in your life brought about by God in order to improve the quality of your faith and trust in Him.

In its negative, it refers to being seduce or lured to evil and sin.

So this one Greek word can have two very different meanings. It can mean a difficult trial or it can mean a solicitation to do evil. To make matters a little more complicated, this Greek word was sometimes used with both meanings in the same passage of Scripture. For example, in James 1:2, James says “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials”

The Greek word for “trials” is the same word used in Matthew 6. James explains why we should count it all joy to fall into various “trials” (James 1.3-4). He says that God uses trials and difficulties to produce spiritual maturity in your life. So this is the positive usage of “trials.” Now, drop on down to verse 13. “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.” In this verse the word translated “tempt” or “tempted” is the verb form of the same word used in James 1:2 and Matthew 6.13, but used in the negative

sense.

Here we have one Greek word with two different meanings used without any contradiction at all by the same writer in the same passage. I believe James knew his readers would be able to understand the difference.

The fact is, God will not lure you into evil. He will never tempt you to do that which is wrong. However, God will test you at times. He will put difficult choices in front of you so that by following and trusting in Him you become stronger. Your faith becomes confirmed and you become an example to other people of victory over the world, the flesh and the devil.

So the answer to the question, “Does God lead us into temptation?” It’s Yes, No and maybe. It’s how you answer the temptation that God is interested in.

-via *The Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.

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Tolerance

Luke Chandler

One of the popular concepts gouging its way through society today is the notion of “tolerance.” While our nation was founded upon such principles as religious and political tolerance; it has moved rapidly to label many formerly taboo subjects as “tolerable.”

We needn’t look far to find examples of this. If we read a news-paper or watch television, we are constantly deluged with evil ideas. We are told that fornication (a word we don’t hear much anymore) is okay. We’re also told that abortion is a proper and necessary thing in family planning and population control. Many now declare that homosexuality is a natural thing, and should be labeled as merely an alternate lifestyle. If anyone stands up and opposes these things, he/she is labeled as intolerant, closed-minded and a hate-monger. Add to this the ever-growing diet of profanity, nudity, violence and immorality in our entertainment and we see ourselves nearly over-whelmed by worldly concepts. Even our government has allied itself with these forces in recent years. High-ranking officials have told us we must learn to tolerate and accept these.

What is the danger for us? We will suddenly decide that we really have been close-minded and immediately accept these behaviors and practices? Most likely no. The vast majority of Christians will not turn away from godliness overnight. There is a very real and present danger for us though. Our principles can begin to erode from the constant, steady pressure of society. We run a high risk of becoming desensitized to evil things, to the point that we are not bothered by them as much as we should be.

Are we already desensitized to worldly things? Have the sharp edges of our conscience been blunted by the flood of godliness we are exposed to? Do we find ourselves increasingly tolerant of worldly things in our movies, TV or music? Does profanity set us on edge, or does it flow through our ears with no resistance on our part? Do we try to avoid scenes of fornication and nudity, or do we calmly sit and allow them to fill our mind? Have our views on divorce, abortion or other "social issues" been diluted with elements of modern thought? Most importantly, if we see ourselves as slowly drifting one way, or the other, which way would we be going?

God has given us some principles on how to fight the erosion of our conscience, as well as how to sharpen it worn edges.

First, we can guard our minds against the flood of worldly thoughts, ideas and images that swirl around us. In Proverbs 4:23, Solomon writes, "Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." We can protect ourselves against much of the evil flood by simply refusing to watch and listen to things which would fill our minds with worldly ideas. If we do not give sin a chance to enter our hearts, it will not be able to dull our consciences. There are many movies and TV programs that Christians simply shouldn't see. Proverbs 14:16 warns us about letting our guard down, "A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident." It is foolish to feel confident in our own strength and allow evil its place in us, but we are wise if we realize its power and stay away from it.

Second, we can learn to have the same mind as Christ did. This basic principle, given in Philippians 2:5, tells us to think in the same way as our Lord did. We have no better role model than He, so we must study His attitude toward worldliness and imitate it. We can see the principles He lived by in passages such as Matthew

15:18-20. Jesus says that our deeds originate from the heart. Evil things are done because the ideas were in the heart to begin with. We must choose which master we shall serve (Matthew 6:24) and keep out the other. Which movies would He avoid watching? Would the Lord allow society to influence His convictions in what He would tolerate? We must have the same mind as He.

Finally, we must fill our minds with things that will sharpen our consciences. Philippians 4:8 describes the kinds of things we should fill our minds with (things that are true, noble, just, pure, praise, worthy, etc.). If I fill my mind with godly things, I will develop a conscience that can discriminate properly toward what is tolerable and intolerable. Unfortunately, conscience-honing thoughts and images and increasingly rare. Nevertheless, they exist and can be found if we make any real effort. The richest source is obviously God's Word. But if we do not actively fill our minds with it, we shall fail against the erosive storms.

By following these principles, we can fight the moral rot that exists in our society. We can remain sensitive toward that which is evil, and avoid the noxious cloud of the "new tolerance" that threatens our souls.

-via *Stanley Avenue Bulletin*; Andalusia, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Peggy Smith	Pat Nixon
Jane Meredith	Kenia Adams
Doris Claxton	Doris Lovell
Bobbie Adcock	Irene Inman
Patsy Thomas	Reba Byram
Gilbert Hardy	Shaun Carruth
Linda Jones	Wayne Gooch
Ann Bush	Anna McClung
Cynthia Smith	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Jeanette Weir	Ella Melvin
Mot Dollar	Gayle Ball
Janice Cagle	Eli Williams
Gene Carpenter	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Annalynn Tegg	Al Pollard
Ray Kennedy	Ava Brooke Campbell

Elizabeth Howard Ben Hinkle
 Phillip Harwell Una King Currier
 Shayna Tollison Daniel Ogles
 Staley Jackson Anita Willis

In The Hospital:

Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital – Nashville, Tenn.

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Mot Beasley, rm. 94 William Thomas, rm. 70
 Nelva Reed, rm. 111 Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
 Mattye Murray, rm. 2 Judith Groce, rm. 10
 Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 18
 Terry Camp, rm. 82 Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
 Gayle Mills, rm. 15 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
 Mable Crafts, rm. 98 Helen Trousdale, rm. 43

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 100 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert Beasley, at home
 Hazel Brooks, at home
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Marjorie Dunning, in Huntsville in assisted living
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
 Essie Hardison, at home
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *East Florence church* in Florence is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Frank Richey* will be the speaker in this meeting.

NEW BIBLE CLASS: Beginning May 1st, there will be a new class for the *Twenty Somethings*. *Russell Melvin* will be teaching the class. They will be studying Ecclesiastes. If you are 20 something, I hope you will join this class.

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.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of April 3rd*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 149
 Morning Worship 194
 Evening Worship..... 140
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 113

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Tommy Coblentz
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Tony Thomas
 Serving Bart Brown Marion Mitchell
 Russ Wulfekuhl Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Arvid McGuire

Evening Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Keith Hinkle
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 10th:

Ushers Seth Todd/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, April 13th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading..... (2 Corinthians 6:11-18)
 Danny Johnson
 Prayer Marty Adams
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Sunday, April 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Russell Melvin
 Preaching Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Larry Mitchell
 Assisting Mike Ogles
 Serving Keenon Currier Charles Vaughn
 Jason Conn Cody Kennedy
 Closing Prayer Norman Brown

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
 Preaching Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
 Closing Prayer A. J. Price

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 17th:

Ushers Steve Usery/Marcus Morris
 Work Sound System Terry Andrews