

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
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Volume VIII

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No. 26

How To Avoid Spiritual Failure

Paul Earnhart

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

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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

In his final hours in Rome, a very lonely apostle Paul suffered some additional heartbreak. "Demas," he wrote, "hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Timothy 4:10). We are left to speculate as to the particulars-what dread fears or powerful allurements led this faithful friend and co-worker to abandon the kingdom of God and to forsake his burdened brother. It was not as though he had fled the field at the first approach of trouble. During Paul's first imprisonment in Rome Demas had evidently been a steadfast companion (Philemon 24; Colossians 4:14). Now, unexpectedly, this heart—mauling betrayal and desertion. Only those who have had a trusted companion in Christ to suddenly turn from God and run for the world can understand, It can numb the spirit.

What is it that can cause one who has invested so much in the kingdom to abandon everything? Some fade early because they have little understanding of the calling of God and even less commitment. The first approach of temptation and hardship devastates them (Luke 8:13). Others seem to have a deep commitment to righteousness but not an absolute one. Their price for betrayal is high but they have one nonetheless, and when it gets high enough they run. The wealthy young ruler who came to Jesus was like that. He was willing to give up a lot, but not everything (Matthew 19:16-23). Paul said that Demas "loved this present world." The "world" is many things. John describes it as a way of thinking where lust, materialism and pride abound (1 John 2:15-16). What was it that got to the faithful Demas? Was it fear of death or imprisonment? Or was it something more subtle like a nostalgic longing for the old easy ways free of constant unabating warfare? We are not told which one of these undid Demas but one of them found its mark. Breaking points can come to us too if we are not very careful. A deep hurt we cannot find it in ourselves to forgive. Failures with our children. Lost health or prosperity. Anything we had never imagined happening to us. And often it's just plain prideful stubbornness. At any rate, don't ever say you'd never do what others have done. Peter learned a valuable lesson about that (Matthew 26:31-35), It is

far better than we know our own weaknesses and watch and pray that we enter not into temptation (Matthew 26:41). Satan loves an arrogant and self—confident man.

Another lesson to be learned from the failure of others is that those who at last go back, at first look back. Departures of apparent suddenness are really the end of a process. Our Lord warned that those who put their hand to the kingdom plow and look back longingly at the world are not fit for the kingdom of God (Luke 9:62). The disciples who go back are those who first begin to cultivate again the values of the world and like the Israelites in the wilderness grow nostalgic amidst their trials Egypt. They forget, of course, the galling bondage that accompanies the life of sin. These are the ones who gradually cease to meditate upon God's word (Psalm 1:1-2), then become prayerless (James 4:1-2) as God and Christ seem far away. First men cease to study, then to pray, and, finally, to care. Sometimes this all begins as a few little compromises dismissed as harmless. Too much time with worldly companions (1 Corinthians 15:33), too much interest in a job (1 Tim. 6:9,10), too much concern with being accepted and making our mark in the world (1 Peter 5:5). Finally, it makes us heedless of the injury we do to our Savior, ourselves and others.

Satan is the master of the "short step" method. Slow change is more effective in producing spiritual collapse than sudden departure. The danger of alerting the victim to what is happening is eliminated. We can be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:12-13). Warning flags need to start flying the moment we feel the slightest ebb in commitment. Beware the spiritual slow leak. The unflinching answer to this kind of spiritual failure is the daily discipline of an uncompromising dedication which admits of no exceptions and makes quick and humble redress for every transgression. Burn all your bridges and press on to the heavenly mark (Philippians 3:7-14). And if, in spite of everything, you happen to stumble badly, don't let despair destroy you. Remember that everyone who has faltered has not ultimately fallen. We can all thank God for that. John Mark's disgraceful desertion in Pamphylia (Acts 13:13) was not the end of him because he didn't allow it to be. Paul sent for him during his last hours (2 Timothy 4:11) and the Holy Spirit chose him to record the gospel story. We don't have to be like Demas. In the mercy of God we have the privilege of being like John Mark or Peter, and, yes, even Paul.

-via *The Lenexa Edifier*; Lenexa, Kansas.

The Majesty of God

Jason Cicero

"The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD has clothed and girded Himself with strength; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved." (Psalm 93:1)

The GOD we worship and adore is majestic. There are many synonyms for majesty: Beauty, comeliness, excellency, glory, glorious, goodly, grandeur, honor, magnificence, ornament, splendor. Majesty has to do with having an imposing form and appearance and carries with it overtones of superior power and position. When used of GOD it evokes a sense of amazement in the mind of the one beholding Him. Simply stated, GOD's majesty is his "greatness" (Vine). GOD would have us see His majesty, respond to His majesty, and magnify him in our lives.

See His Majesty

Moses requested to see GOD's greatness: "Please, show me Your glory" (Exodus 33:17-34:7). What Moses saw at Mount Sinai we are to see by faith! See GOD's greatness through the eyes of faith! Gaze at His glory, majesty, and dominion. Grow in the grace of seeing Him: "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened..." (Ephesians 1:18). Each of us needs our own Mount Sinai experience. Wisdom unsearchable. Purity unspotted. Years unending. Strength undaunted. Love immeasurable. Glimpses of the majesty of GOD!

Respond to His Majesty

"So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped" (Exodus 34:8). The proper response to GOD's greatness is worship! To worship is to prostrate oneself (literally or figuratively) in reverence to the great I AM. The externals (reading, prayer, singing, the Lord's supper, giving, and preaching) are important, but our hearts must be engaged in order for GOD to be glorified! In worship, GOD longs for you to turn to Him "with all your heart. So rend your heart, and not your garments..." (Joel 2:12-13).

Magnify Him in My Life

To magnify is to make great, to enlarge (Vine). GOD is great; but is He great in your life? Have you made these words your own: "...in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also

Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death” (Philippians 1:20)? Magnifying GOD in every aspect of your life glorifies GOD!

The GOD we worship and adore is worthy of our praise because His is majestic! See His majesty. Respond to His majesty. Magnify Him in your life. He is worthy. “...to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” (Jude 25) d to Jesus first, and then enjoy the many friendships that will come.

-via *The Exhorter*; Elliotttsville, Alabama.



Why Didn't Jesus...

Jim Jonas

Jesus own fleshly brothers were skeptical of His claims: “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world” (John 7:3-4).

Do you ever wonder what they did? Why didn't Jesus emit a divine glow? Why didn't He make Himself 100 feet tall, like the statue in Rio, so His divinity would be obvious? Why didn't He enter the Sanhedrin chambers and strike them blind?

Well, God had done similar things before – a towering pillar of cloud and fire directing Israel; Moses entering the palace of Pharaoh to announce miraculous plagues; opening the ground and swallowing Korah and his rebel allies. Did overwhelming displays of power win people's hearts? No.

Also, such actions would have only been witnessed by that generation. Eons of time lay ahead where God wanted people to come to faith on a more solid basis than ancient events alone. God doesn't do things haphazardly; He provides the very thing needed for the outcome He desires. There is enough evidence to convince a seeker of God that Jesus was divine. To

the heart that is resistant to God, no grand spectacle will overcome unbelief. Only God's character will do that. God has to be discovered, and He gives us clues in nature and Scripture.

-via *The Centerville Journal*; Centerville, Virginia

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Cornelia Pepper	Nancy Hardison
Dan Lovell	Jane Meredith
Patsy Thomas	Irene Inman
Reba Byram	Doris Lovell
Gilbert Hardy	Wayne Gooch
Cindy Walker	Linda Jones
Ann Bush	Shaun Carruth

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Ella Melvin	Gayle Ball
Mot Dollar	Jeanette Weir
Janice Cagle	Eli Williams
Gene Carpenter	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Gladys Sandlin	Al Pollard
Ray Kennedy	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Daniel Ogles
Anita Willis	Jenny Pickens

In The Hospital:

JoAnn Gilbert; Health South Rehab., rm. 211

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	William Thomas, rm. 70
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Helen Trousdale, rm. 30
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 38
Terry Camp, rm. 82	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 98	

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Merrill Gardens, Madison

Hazel Brooks, at home

Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville

Wynell Casteel, at home

Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookdale Farms

Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle

Essie Hardison, at home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

OUT OF TOWN: *Glenda Stinnett* is on a trip out west... *Russ Wulfekuhl* is on a hiking trip in California until July 8th.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Sardis Springs church* will be having a gospel meeting through Tuesday night. *Mickey Otwell* will be the speaker... The *Chapman Arces church* will be having a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday night. *Rody Gumpad* will be the speaker... *Midway church* north of Killen will be having a gospel meeting this week this week be having their gospel meeting this week through Friday. *Whit Sasser* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Northside church* in Lexington will be having their gospel meeting this week through Friday. *Jeff May* will be the speaker this meeting... The *Underwood Heights church* in Florence will be having their gospel meeting this week through Friday. *Leo B. Pylar and Larsen Pylar* will be the speakers in this meeting

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

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.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of June 19th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 142

Morning Worship 203

Evening Worship..... 132

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 130

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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Harvey Nixon
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Mike Ogles..... Matthew Vaughn
..... Kenneth Adams..... A. J. Price
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Steve Usery
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Jason Conn

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 26th:

Ushers Marvin Putman/Seth Todd
Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, June 29th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... 2 Corinthians 11:1-18
..... Joel Hamm
Prayer Marcus Morris
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Keenon Carrier

Sunday, July 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Steve Usery
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Russell Melvin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Norman Brown
Serving James Johnson Nathaniel Adams
..... Keenon Carrier Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Tony Thomas

Evening Worship

Announcements Steve Usery
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Keith Hinkle
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 3rd:

Ushers Larry Mitchell/Marcus Morris
Work Sound System Marty Adams