

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**
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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No. 39

Renouncing The Hidden Things of Shame

Don Truex

How do you say "Thank You" to God? How do you maintain perspective and the heart to go on when assaulted by the unfounded accusations of your enemies? How do you stay motivated to serve today and tomorrow when the failures of yesterday continue to haunt your memory? How do you do right in a world that makes it so easy to do wrong? Those questions plagued the apostle Paul till the day he died. Listen to his answer: *"Therefore since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness not handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God" (2 Corinthians 4:1-2).*

"We have renounced the hidden things of shame." That was true generally and specifically in relation to Paul's dealing with brethren and the Word. The question, of course, is whether we can, with clear conscience, make the same assertion.

We are not a society known for renouncing much of anything. We have come to believe the lie that everything moral and ethical is relative. That there are no absolutes anymore. As a result, we live in a society not unlike Jeremiahs, wherein blushing is a rarity. After all, we are too "enlightened" for such an antiquated concept. And so in our supposed "Christian nation," pornography is thought to be a harmless adult diversion, alcohol is considered just one of a thousand libations one may drink without harm, divorce carries with it virtually no stigma, illicit sexual activity is considered a natural part of the maturation process, and homosexuality is now out of the closet and marching in the streets. We are a society without shame. The grossest of immoralities are paraded about without any effort to hide them.

Have Christians been affected? Absolutely! You and I both know that illustration after illustration of just aberrant behavior among the people of God could be cited. Why? Perhaps because, unlike Paul, we haven't "renounced," i.e., disowned, "scorned with aversion" (Barnes), these things but have tended to flirt with them. We often try to see just how close to

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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David A. Cox, Editor

the fire we can get without being burned. And when we are burned, rationalization rather than repentance is often the order of the day. Quite simply, there comes a time when we must say “no” to the flesh, crucify the flesh, and replace the works of the flesh with the fruit of the spirit, (cf., Galatians 5:17ff).

But Paul also makes two specific applications. First, he declares that he has not walked in “craftiness.” And rightfully so. After all, brethren are not here for us to exploit, manipulate or misrepresent. Tricky tactics, cunning deception, underhanded methods have no place in the life of a genuine disciple. That is true of our dealings, preacher with preacher, preacher with brethren, brethren with brethren, and brethren with fellow man. That is true whether we happen to like them as well as we do others or whether they have been fair in dealing with us. Our relationship with our brethren should be one that encourages, strengthens, and refreshes; not one that endangers our soul.

Second, he had not adulterated the word of God. And neither should we. The cutting edge of truth must never be blunted by an appeal to past tradition or present societal norms. But, admittedly, there is risk involved in preaching the “whole counsel of God,” (Acts 20:27). Paul realized this and having said some harsh things to the Galatians, asked, “Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?” (Acts 4:16). And yet, God demands that if we truly “renounce the hidden things of shame,” we’ll teach unadulterated truth on any and every issue without respect of persons.

Does this mean that it is our prerogative to be either crafty or arrogant in teaching that truth? Of course not. Our obligation is to “speak the truth in love,” (Ephesians 4:15). Both sides of that equation are of equal importance. There is nothing noble, nothing Christlike, in holding truth with a bad attitude or standing for truth through underhanded, carnal methods. We have an obligation to be sure that we model the truth we teach “commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” After all, the greatest damage to the cause of Christ is not done by an ungodly media or perverse entertainment industry, but by men and women who come together and worship, pray, commune, teach, and preach but have never “renounced the hidden things of shame.”

~via *Sowing the Seed*; Plainfield, Indiana..

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

The Desire To Escape

Jim Jonas

And I said, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove! For then I would fly away and be at rest. Indeed, I would wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest” (Psalm 55:6-7).

No less a man than King David had moments when he wished to withdraw from the stress and strains of life—to “fly away and be at rest.” David had more power to control his life than most ever will. He was a reigning monarch for forty years. He had ultimate authority over all government operations, social projects, the economy, national defense, etc. He was wealthy and could indulge in every luxury his culture could provide. He had a large family and loyal friends. Above all, he was a man who loved God and truly sought to do His will. What could possibly make him yearn so deeply for solitude that seemed beyond his reach?

David’s lamentation reveals a troubling truth: Utopia is not to be found on this earth. It couldn’t be found in the palace of David. He could not compel it by royal fiat or the edge of a sword. In fact, his very position invited a high degree mental distress because of its complex dynamics. Enemies repeatedly encroached; rivals aspired to supplant; even subordinates (like Joab) couldn’t be controlled. Further, David’s family is a textbook example of the folly of polygamy and lack of parental discipline. David’s only peace seemed to be in his communion with God:

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that I will seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock (Psalm 27:4-5).

Those intoxicated with worldly ambition and pleasure think that life is theirs for the taking. They thrive on the challenge of conquering; they sate themselves with sensuality. but carnal hunger is never satisfied, and many turn to more selfish acquisitions and perverted forms of enjoyment while running roughshod over those who get in their way.

But the very things that thrill the carnal man vex the spiritual man. The excesses, the treachery, the

profound foolishness of the wicked drive the godly to despair. He sees how much better the world could be but knows from history that significant improvement without God is unlikely. This makes him long for a future in a place devoid of evil.

This world will forever bear the residue of sin. It is permanently broken and hard and lonely. Disease mars and cripples. Death, the most unwelcome of all intruders, occasionally barges in and departs with someone we love. Eden is only a misty memory in our collective consciousness. We long to be where weeds don't grow, paint doesn't peel and our back doesn't hurt in the morning. David's hope for wings of a dove never materializes, but after due meditation the great prophet and king concludes that true refuge can only be found in God's house:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6).

~via *Cyfair Family News & Notes*; Cypress, Texas..



Cross Bearing Christianity

Antoine Holloway

In Luke 9:23, the Bible reads, "And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"

When Jesus addressed His disciples, He warned them that each one must take up his cross daily and follow Him. Christ's message was clear: in order to follow Him, these disciples must deny themselves and instead, trust Him completely. Discipleship means personal, passionate devotion to a person. This person is and forever will be, our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing has changed.

When we have been saved by Christ, we can, if we choose, become passive Christians. We can sit back, secure in our own salvation, and let others believers spread the healing message of Jesus, but to do so is wrong. Instead, we are commanded to become disciples of the One who has saved us. We must understand that true

discipleship means to bear the cross, to acknowledge the death sentence that has been passed on self and to deny any right that self has to rule over us.

Do we seek to fulfill God's purpose for our life? If so, then follow Christ. As followers of Christ, we must become personally and vitally involved in His death and resurrection. This requires repentance, prayer, watchfulness, self-denial, detachment from the world, humility, obedience, and cross carrying. Let us pick up our cross today and every day that we live. Then, we will quickly discover that Christ's love has the power to change anybody and everything, including us.

~via *Truth's Pillar & Ground*; Riverdale, Maryland.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Cornelia Pepper
Steve Usery
Joe Leopard
Doris Lovell
Irene Inman
Wayne Bolton
Ann Bush
Shaun Carruth
Linda Jones

Drew Ogles
Patsy Thomas
Reba Byram
Cindy Glass
Gilbert Hardy
Wayne Gooch
Al Bush
Charlie Christopher
Janet Jones

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir
Janet Jones
Eli Williams
Linda Ordonez
Al Pollard
Elizabeth Howard
Phillip Harwell
Shayna Tollison
Anita Willis
Diane Kilpatrick

Gayle Ball
Janice Cagle
Cindy Walker
Gene Carpenter
Charles Burns
Ava Brooke Campbell
Matt Poff
Una King Currier
Daniel Ogles
Jenny Pickens

In The Hospital:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab. - Huntsville

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. 39 Christine Hudson, rm. 77
 Joyce Martin, rm. 92

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookdale Farms, Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
 Essie Hardison, at home
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

OUT OF TOWN: *Marcus & Bonnie Morris* have been at the Gulf this week... *A. J. & Andrea Price* are in Auburn this weekend...

HAZEL BROOKS (1938–2016): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister *Hazel Brooks*. She passed away on Monday evening. We have missed Hazel at our services for the last couple of years as her health had declined to the point that she was unable to be out. We extend our deepest sympathy to *Nathan Smith* and all the family in her passing. Her funeral was Wednesday morning at the Spry Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE CLASS:

The Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Class will resume meeting on this coming Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. If you are a lady and are available to meet and study the word of God, I am sure that you would enjoy being a part of this class.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Holland's Gin church* in Ardmore is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker for the meeting will be *Paul Sheehan*... The *Bethel church* in Bethel, Tennessee church is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker for the meeting will be *Derek Chancellor*.

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 Sept. 18th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 127
 Morning Worship 165
 Evening Worship 130
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 105

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Dan Reed
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Assisting..... Terry Andrews
 Serving Seth Todd David Terry
 Steve Usery..... Marion Mitchell
 Closing Prayer Harvey Nixon

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Jason Conn
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 25th:

Ushers..... Larry Mirchell/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, September 28th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading..... Galatians 4:12-20
 Jason Conn
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
 Invitation..... Jerry McGlocklin
 Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Sunday, October 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Steve Usery
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting..... Larry Mitchell
 Serving Marcus Morris..... Heath Dollar
 Matthew Vaguhn..... Keenon Currier
 Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Jason Conn

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 2nd:

Ushers..... Keith Hinkle/Seth Todd
 Work Sound System..... Marty Adams