

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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Athens, Alabama 35612
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The Key to Kingdom Growth

David Thomley

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) 232-2081

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

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
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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

The Lord scarcely taught about the kingdom without either explicitly or implicitly referring to growth. The apostles were to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Spirit, and then the Word was to be proclaimed in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, even to the "utmost part" of the world. Parables reflected the growth factor in the kingdom (e.g., the Parable of the Sower). Prior to ascending to the Father, the Lord commissioned His apostles to go into all the world and preach the gospel. The Lord gave every indication of His intention that the kingdom of God should grow.

But how? What would be the key to the strength and expansion of the church? How would a small band of Jews in Jerusalem ever accomplish the enormous objective of converting immoral pagans and ritualistic Jews to a religion founded on a resurrected Christ? These disciples were, for the most part, common folks. They were not known for their wealth or their oratorical skill. How could they do it? What would they do?

The New Testament emphasizes that the strength of the church is in its Christ-centered message. We are prone to place far too much emphasis on the men involved, or the method used, or the tools and equipment. Man's ego is stoked when emphasis is focused in the wrong place. Simply stated, Jesus sent His disciples out into the world to tell the story of the cross to anyone who would listen.

The preaching of the gospel in the first century accomplished exactly what God intended for it to accomplish. Concerning the Word, God said through the prophet Isaiah, "My word shall not return unto me void. It shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in that purpose whereunto I have sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). Later, the apostle Paul would write, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 16:16). To the Corinthians he noted, "It was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe," (1 Corinthians 1:21).

The early church experienced strength and growth because of the gospel. That same gospel will produce the same results today when the

seed is sown into good and honest hearts. Honestly, when was the last time you seriously attempted to talk about Jesus Christ with someone who was not already a Christian? We would do well to concentrate on planting the seed. God will give the increase.

~via *Sowing The Seed*, Plainfield, Indiana.



Seeking The Truth

L. A. Stauffer

Nothing is as important to man as truth. We speak not of political, mathematical, or historical truth, but of the truth that was searched out of the mind of God and revealed unto apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 3:3-5). This truth is God's word, the good news of salvation, that promises to free man of sin and deliver him from God's eternal wrath (John 17:17; John 8:32; Ephesians 1:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). This truth is found in the "scriptures"—or in what today is called the "Bible" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Other pursuits may be more exciting, but none of them is as spiritually noble and eternally rewarding. Becoming the wealthiest man in the world, best golfer, most popular entertainer, or best liked person, may be glamorous, but none of them fulfills the deepest need of man and prepares him for the joy of eternal life that awaits mankind beyond the grave. Only truth, believed and practiced, sanctifies man and equips him for life with God (see John 17:17; Eph 5:26-27). It is a challenging pursuit that calls for diligence, love of truth, and honesty.

Diligence. The search for truth is not for the indolent and lazy. It demands diligence. The ancient Bereans learned this when the apostle Paul came to their city and alleged from the Old Testament scriptures that Jesus of Nazareth is the anointed Savior. They did not have Bibles with chapters and verses, yet they daily examined scroll after scroll to study the prophecies cited by Paul to determine if Jesus was the Messiah these writings anticipated. Luke called them "noble" because they ea-

gerly and studiously searched for the truth (Acts 17:11).

The challenge today is just as daunting for sincere Bible students who must search the scriptures day by day to flesh out the context of God's teaching, define relevant words, trace many uses of special terms, and research the background of ideas and concepts. All of this must be done amidst a jumble of theologies and false doctrines that bombard students of the word.

Love of Truth. Whether students in search of truth have the diligence to complete the task depends on their love of truth. When men and women approach the scriptures with "personal tastes" and "preconceived notions," truth is not their objective. These kinds of students find what they are looking for. God warns any person who has no "love of the truth" that God Himself will send them a delusion, a working of error, that they may believe a lie and be damned (2 Thess 2:8-12).

Amazingly, visitors to our services and students in home Bible studies have openly said, "that's not what we are looking for." They have a viewpoint before they open the Bible and it is not to learn the truth. This is true of women who seek to be evangelists, of homosexuals who seek approval, and of those looking for sports programs or musical entertainment, etc. They lack a love of the truth.

Honesty. When Jesus illustrated the nature of His kingdom as a man sowing seed in a field, He portrayed the seed as the "word of God" and the field as the "honest and good heart" (Luke 8:11-15). Jesus' kingdom is not of this world; it is His rule in the hearts of men by the word of truth (see John 18:36; Luke 17:20-21). To receive this truth and submit to this rule, men and women must be honest. They must have open and receptive hearts.

The rejection of God's kingdom by the Jews resulted from "closed" eyes that could not see the truth, "dull" ears that would not hear the truth, and "hardened" hearts that refused to receive the truth (see Matt 13:13-15).

Diligent study, love of truth, and honest hearts are prerequisites for any student who seeks the truth. To fail in these is to fail in the search for eternal life.

~via *Kirkwood Church Bulletin*; St. Louis, Missouri.

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

Just One Hour

Don Truex

Take your mind back 2,000 years to a hazy, foggy garden. The scene unfolds in the darkness of night... the night when all of creation focused on this solitary setting outside of Jerusalem. The scripture simply says, "When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which He entered, and His disciples," (John 18:1). It was in this garden, on this night, that momentous decisions had to be made. Particularly was this true for Jesus. Before Him was the awesome shadow and horrid specter of the cross. Would He go to the tree or would He accept the help of the angels who stood poised to rush to His aid and rescue Him from death?

And though we don't often consider it, the apostles faced a decision that night as well. And just what was the nature of their decision? Was it like the decision facing a man who is about to lose the business of his dreams, sweat, and labor? Was it like the decision facing a husband who is struggling to decide whether to leave his wife and children though he knows he should not? Was it like the decision of the woman who has decided that life is not worth living and has her hand on a bottle of pills with which she can extinguish her life? Was their decision of this magnitude? No, they were faced with the monumental decision as to whether or not they would take a nap!

Jesus had said, "Watch with Me," (Matthew 26:38). And yet, while He agonized over what was to transpire in the forthcoming hours, they slept. And although Luke offers a word in their defense, nothing that they were "sleeping for sorrow," (Luke 22:45), the fact remains that Jesus said, "What could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40).

What's the point to all of this? Simply that we are faced with identical choices yet today. "Watch with Me," Jesus says. With Him there is forgiveness, fellowship and a future. No one else can offer you these precious possessions. But on the other hand, there are the "one hour" diversions and indulgences which draw us away from the Lord. Every act of dishonesty, every act of immorality, every lie, every word of gossip, every gratification of every illicit lust, is but for an "hour." Sin, all sin, and its accompanying "pleasure" is but for a "season," (Hebrews 11:25).

"Watch with Me." Is that really too much to ask? After all, He has healed us, taught us, forgiven us, blessed us, and died for us. Is there any "one hour" distraction or indulgence that offers more?

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Paul Adcock	Anita Wheeler
Mary Will Johnston	Cornelia Pepper
Patsy Thomas	Doris Lovell
Cindy Glass	Al Bush
Janet Jones	Everette "Bud" Dollar
Wayne Bolton	Wayne Gooch
Betty Christopher	Linda Jones
Ann Bush	Pamela Simon (Grenada)
Shaun Carruth	

Updates:

Paul Adcock came home Tuesday morning from Crestwood. He will return for his 2nd surgery for his back in the next couple of weeks... **Cindy Glass** has been making progress with the treatments that she has been taking recently... **Drew Ogles** had an MRI on Wednesday and is being scheduled for allergy testing... **Janet Jones, Helen Blankenship's daughter**, had a procedure done on her valves in her heart on Tuesday at St. Thomas in Nashville. She came home Tuesday evening .

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Ella Melvin
Reba Byram	Irene Inman
Gayle Ball	Janice Cagle
Gilbert Hardy	Jeanette Weir
Diane Kilpatrick	Daniel Ogles
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Jenny Pickens	Gene Carpenter
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Eli Williams
Anita Willis	

In The Hospital:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville
Ashley Sims; Cobb County Hospital - Atlanta, Georgia

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61 William Thomas, rm. 65-A
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Mattye 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 Tom Lovell, 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: *The Coblenz's: Tommy and Marcella* have been in the mountains on vacation this past week...

Jim Whitt has continued to be out of town this week work in Louisiana.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *New Georgia church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speakers in this meeting will be: *David Watson, Bill Hall and Lonnel Plyler.*

AFTERNOON SERVICE TIME: Remember the afternoon service time will be changing to 4:00 this afternoon. The afternoon services will continue at 4:00 through February.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of *Charlie Christopher.* He passed away on Tuesday and his funeral was Friday afternoon. He was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

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

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. 30th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 143
Morning Worship 168
Evening Worship 116
Wednesday:
Bible Classes 108

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Russell Melvin
Assisting..... Jerry McGlcklin
Serving David Terry Marvin Putman
..... Marion Mitchell..... James Johnson
Closing Prayer Arvid McGuire

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 6th:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Marcus Morris
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, November 9th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... Ephesians 1:1-12
..... Terry Andrews
Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
Invitation..... Steve Usery
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Sunday, November 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
Preaching..... Everette Conn
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Terry Andrews
Assisting..... Harvey Nixon
Serving Matthew Vaughn..... Heath Dollar
..... Nathaniel Adams..... Seth Todd
Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Dan Reed
Preaching..... Everette Conn
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 13th:

Ushers..... Jason Conn/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System..... Marty Adams