

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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Volume IX

January 1, 2017

No. 1

If We Believed What They Believed

Gary Kerr

One of the reference works I usually keep close at hand when studying and part of the New Testament is the paraphrase translation of J.B. Phillips, *The New Testament In Modern English*. I don't agree with all of Phillips' suggested wording, but I often find his efforts helpful in clarifying some particular passage or point. The translation was originally produced in sections, with the first, *Letters To Young Churches* (Romans through Colossians), being published in London during World War II (it included a preface and recommendation written by C.S. Lewis).

In his introduction to that book, Phillips writes the following about the New Testament epistles and their authors and recipients:

“Without going into wearisome historical details, we need to remember that these letters were written, and the lives they indicate were led, against a background of paganism [...] Slavery, sexual immorality, cruelty, callousness to human suffering, and a low standard of public opinion, were universal; travelling and communications were chancy and perilous; most people were illiterate. Many Christians today talk about the ‘difficulties of our times’ as though we should have to wait for better ones before the Christian religion can take root. It is heartening to remember that this faith took root and flourished amazingly in conditions that would have killed anything less vital in a matter of weeks. These early Christians were on fire with the conviction that they had become, through Christ, literally sons of God—they were pioneers of a new humanity, founders of a new Kingdom. They still speak to us across the centuries. Perhaps if we believed what they believed, we might achieve what they achieved.”

That final sentence is profound and powerful—“Perhaps if we believed what they believed, we might achieve what they achieved!”

Within a generation of the establishment of the church, the apostle Paul could write of those who carried the gospel message that “their voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world” (Romans 10:18). Paul wrote about the gospel that it had been preached “in all the world” and that it had been “proclaimed in all creation under heaven” (Colossians 1:6, 23). This is an incredible achievement—to begin with a

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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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

few comparatively unknown and uneducated people (cf. Acts 4:13), and to have a message that did not appeal to the “wise”, the “mighty,” or the “noble” according to the flesh (1 Corinthians 1:26). But they had strong faith and a zeal born of that faith, that caused them to launch out boldly and sacrificially, to the point of being willing to give up their lives for the cause they had taken up. And God gave them amazing success. They were ‘on fire’ for the kingdom, for the gospel, and for the souls of their fellow human beings, believing with all their hearts in the sacrifice and promises of Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of men. Being a Christian and going to heaven meant everything to them, and they wanted “all creation under heaven” to share with them in these blessings.

Do not be deceived into thinking that their achievements were easily accomplished. Right from the start they were opposed and persecuted. When the first of their number was martyred, such a widespread persecution developed that all except the apostles were driven from their homes and scattered abroad (cf. Acts 8:1). But this did not slow them down or dampen their enthusiasm. Wherever they went, they were found “preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). They preached it as they had opportunity, not depending on others (i.e., preachers, elders, etc.) to do the work for them. Each Christian considered him/herself both privileged and responsible to win souls for Christ. Their cause was new—they were pioneers.

I fear that today we do not appreciate our ‘spiritual blessings’ as they did. It is not our life as it was theirs. We are not spending and being spent for it as they were. To some degree, at least, perhaps we do not believe what they believed.

“Perhaps if we believed what they believed, we might achieve what they achieved.” If we did, I am convinced that God would give us success, too.

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

Bible Study



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

Longsuffering

L.A. Stauffer

Someone noted that “longsuffering” is the ability to “suffer long” with people and circumstances; to put up for long periods of time with disagreeable relationships and situations. It is relatively synonymous with our use of the word “patience.”

It is the word that describes God’s patience with a world of sinners. God, he has told us, hates sin and he is prepared by his very righteous nature to punish it. But though he hates sin, God loves sinners and in His longsuffering is putting off the day of judgment to provide transgressors time to turn from their iniquity. The apostle Peter tells us: “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

As disciples seek to imitate the love of God, Paul teaches them that love “suffers long, and is kind.” In the apostle’s descriptive portrayal of God’s greatest commandment, he also notes that love “is not provoked,” or as another version says, “is not irritable or resentful” (1 Corinthians 13:5, ESV). All brethren appreciate the longsuffering and patience of God, but, as the brethren at Corinth, are often short of it when relating to one another (see 1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

We sometimes struggle with it when relating to newborn babes in Christ. We too often expect them in the early weeks and months of their lives in Christ to have all the character of a mature saint. But in longsuffering we must patiently work with them to nurse them, to spoon-feed them, and to speak daily words of encouragement over a considerable span of time. As long as we see in them signs of belief, indications of effort, openness to reproof, and elements of spiritual life —there is always hope that with longsuffering and nurturing these babes will mature unto the measure of the stature of Christ. That is the goal of every local church in its work of edification (see Ephesians 4:11-13). I recall when I was first selected and appointed to the eldership, I was easily discouraged by the response of some to my visits and words of encouragement. And it was important to keep reminding myself that these things take time and that there were other avenues I needed to explore in trying to reach these brethren. I remembered the words of Peter and Paul and counseled myself to be “patient” and to be “gentle” in seeking to

reach the hearts of weak brethren and implant within them the seeds of faith and hope and love that bear the fruit of faithfulness and devotion to God.

What is so easy to forget is that many folks have spent years messing up their thinking, perverting God's design for their lives, and digging themselves into a deep pit of self-centered and worldly behavior. Let us not think that a few home studies, baptism into Christ, and a couple of exhortations are going to set everything right in a newborn's life in Christ. It is easy when sinners obey the gospel to forget about the demands and difficulties of repentance.

Repentance demands an entirely different way of thinking, calls for a completely new lifestyle, and requires a commitment and devotion to One, I must permit to control me totally. Bringing forth fruit worthy of repentance is no small task and if God sees the need to be "longsuffering" with sinners, who am I to take this quality of life lightly.

And so it is with all of us brethren. We must keep trying to teach our erring brethren. We need to call on them, send them cards of encouragement, and pray for God's help in reaching them. Elders cannot accomplish the work of restoration alone. We have recently received the help of many members and have seen signs of encouragement in some of our weak members. Long-suffering is good, but is not just sitting and waiting for brethren to repent. It calls for patient effort to bring them to repentance.

~via *The Lenexa Edifier*, Lenexa, Kansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Virginia Meyer	Wayne Vaughn
JoAnn Gilbert	Mitzi Carruth
Mary Will Johnston	Cornelia Pepper
Patsy Thomas	Doris Lovell
Cindy Glass	Peggy Pepper
Shelly Scruggs	Linda Jones
Al Bush	Shaun Carruth
Everette "Bud" Dollar	Ann Bush
Wayne Bolton	Wayne Gooch
Ashley Sims	Pamela Simon (Grenada)

Updates:

Virginia Meyer is feeling better ... *Angie Hinkle* went to Birmingham on Thursday for an infusion... *JoNell Campbell* has been sick this past week ... *Matt Poff, Carol Dean's son-in-law*, is scheduled to the doctor this week about the plan for the cancer that is now in the liver.

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

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

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	William Thomas, rm. 82
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 40
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. 73	Sharon Parker, rm. 10
Wynell Romine, rm. 109	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Morningside, Decatur
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Marjorie DUNNAVANT, 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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Kevyn Currier and all the family* in the passing of Kevyn's aunt, *Stephanie Conley*. She passed away last Saturday and her funeral was on Wednesday in Hartselle. She was laid to rest in Hartselle City Cemetery.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: Today begins a new quarter in our Bible classes. The adult class in the *West Wing Auditorium* will be taught by *Joel*

Hamm and will be studying the book of *Romans*... The *Ladies class* in the east wing auditorium will continue the *Survey of the Bible* with *Ida Nell Griffin* teaching... The *Auditorium Class* will be studying *The Book of Acts* on Sunday morning and the *Book of James* on Wednesday night. There will be classes for all ages. They will be continuing their studies of the Bible periods. The High School class will conclude their study of First Corinthians. If you are not a part of these classes, this would be a great time to start.

OUT OF TOWN: *Steve and Marilyn Bradley* are in Texas to visit with family.

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 NEW YEAR: Today marks the first day of 2017. No one knows what the year will hold, but may each one of us determine to be faithful to God and use each day we have to bring honor to God and help others to do the same. Below you will find the poem that brother Rollings would recite each year at this time. I appreciate the thoughts and truths expressed within this poem. May we all do better with the time ahead of us.

*I came to my teacher with quivering lips,
My task undone;
"Teacher hast thou another sheet for me?
I have spoiled this one,"
She took the old sheet, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad face smiled,
"Do better this time, my child."*

*I came to the Father with a quivering heart,
The old year done;
"Father, hast thou another year for me?
I have spoiled this one."
He took the old year, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad heart smiled,
"Do better this time, my child."*

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Dec. 25th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	129
	Morning Worship	176
	Evening Worship	133
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	103

Remember Our Service This Evening at 4:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Hunter Cox
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	David Terry
	Marvin Putman
	Jason Conn
	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Harvey Nixon

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 1st:

Ushers.....	A.J. Price/ Kenneth Adams
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, January 4th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading.....	Ephesians 4:7-16
	Marty Adams
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Invitation	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Sunday, January 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Dwaine Allfrey
Serving	A. J. Price
	Tony Thomas
	Kenneth Adams... Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Keenon Carrier

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Steve Uesry

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 8th:

Ushers.....	Keith Hinkle/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System.....	Marty Adams