

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

Volume IX

January 8, 2017

No. 2

Love Lets Us Be Free

Gary Henry

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22).

Love liberates us from the main thing we need to be liberated from: absorption with ourselves. Sin turns us entirely inward; it twists our thinking into a selfish shape. And if we’ve been sinning long enough that it’s become a habit, our thinking and our values, motives, desires, and goals have probably come under the control of one basic consideration: what we want. Even when we do good deeds for others, we may do them because, basically, such acts of kindness help us to feel about ourselves the way we want to feel. Sin captures us in a very selfish cage.

One of the grand effects of the gospel of Christ is that it frees us from this preoccupation with ourselves. Paul said that the goal or object of Christian teaching is love: “The purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith” (1 Timothy 1:5). This kind of love is the very antithesis of selfishness. It lifts us out of the bog of self-centered thinking and sets us free to enjoy a new and better focus. It gets us out of ourselves and into a connection with all those things external to ourselves that we were meant to be related to.

Love is clearly vital to our connection to other human beings, especially our fellow Christians. Without the self-sacrificial love produced by the gospel, we wouldn’t be able to love others, at least with the highest kind of love (John 13:34, 35). But what a difference the gospel makes! “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” (1 Peter 1:22).

But more importantly, love is vital to our connection to God. Sin is the root of the problem, certainly, and until that barrier is removed by the gospel, we can’t have any fellowship with God. But even with our past sins forgiven, there can be no fellowship if we remain self-centered. So if we’re Christians, we need to let our hearts be transformed — opened up — by love. “Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, ‘Let God be magnified!’” (Psalm 70:4).

~via *Northside Proclaimer*, Hillsboro, Ohio.

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 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

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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

Being Part of a Team

Jim Jonas

“I can remember when I was a kid just starting out and wanting to be part of something bigger than myself. For every high school kid or college player, there’s greatness in being the kind of teammate who truly wants to be part of the team ... There are special moments that come from a shared commitment, to play a role while doing it together. That’s what you remember – not your stats or your prestige, but the relationships and the achievement you [shared] through a group ... There’s great joy in that.” - Tony Romo, quarterback, Dallas Cowboys

Tony Romo is here reflecting on his declining status as the quarterback for the Cowboys. Having been injured earlier in the year, his rookie backup, Dak Prescott, is now the starter with an 9-1 record. But the point I wish to notice has nothing to do with football, or even sports per se. It has to do with a sense of belonging, of being part of something “bigger than myself” as Romo says.

You see, contrary to contemporary thought, it’s not all about me. The meaning of our existence must be broader and deeper than personal achievement, indulgence or notoriety. We are fundamentally social creatures, and we reach our height of value and fulfillment by mutual endeavors. Soldiers who together stare down death and save each other’s lives are bonded for life. “No soldier left behind!” they cry as they risk their own lives under withering fire to rescue a comrade.

Perhaps you have had a similar experience. Maybe it was a special work project; a school play or choir tour; a political campaign or a community project. At the end of a job well done, you know the exhilaration of working together, sacrificing, overcoming obstacles, putting your whole heart and soul into a common objective. You helped others excel, mature, accomplish more than they could have alone. Indeed, the sum was greater than the parts.

But all of this, and more, is what it means to be part of the Lord’s body, the church. When we enter union with the Lord as His servant and disciple, we immediately become part of a greater assembly, association and family of fellow believers.

“You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of

darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

This is true in a universal sense; that is, we automatically have global fellowship with all others who embrace Christ for salvation. We share core beliefs, common values and connected objectives. But it is also true that this universal bond becomes tangible and real at the local level where we seek for the like-minded in our neighborhoods with whom we can link arms and work together: “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common ... Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need” (Acts 4:32, 34-35).

In coming decades these same Jerusalem brethren faced success and hardship together: tremendous popularity and growth; severe persecution; internal controversy; famine and eventually the total devastation of their city by the Romans. Through it all they could revel in the satisfaction that they were part of a bigger plan, a divine outworking that resulted in the eternal salvation of souls.

Have we lost sight of the bigger picture? The world exalts the meaningless, covets the fleeting, praises the trivial. I’m sure it would be pretty neat to be the quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, but it pales in comparison to being on God’s team, doing our part to fight the cosmic forces of evil, rescuing the wounded and downtrodden, courageously defending truth, representing the Lord Himself in this broken, lost and dying world.

Not everyone can be a member of the Dallas Cowboys; only the select few will ever breathe that rarified air. But God’s kingdom is open to all, and its rewards far surpass throwing touchdown passes, winning Super Bowls and making obscene amounts of money. By the way, does anyone remember how many yards and/or TDs Tony Romo had at quarterback last year?

~via *The Centreville Journal*; Centreville, Virginia.

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

Pay Attention To What You Sow

Stacy Crim

This is a beautiful time of year to observe the harvest. The farmer had prepared his ground in early spring. The seed was planted, the tender plants cared for during the growing months, and now the days of harvest. The farmer has reaped what he has sown.

Reaping what one has sown is an eternal principle of God. Both in the physical realm (Genesis 1:12) and in the spiritual. 2 Corinthians 5:10) If our life has been that of righteousness, we reap eternal life. If it has been that of unrighteousness, we will reap eternal damnation of the soul. This principle is just and fair.

In the days of Hosea the prophet, Israel was about to reap exactly as they had sown. "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind;..." (8:7). Planted within their lives was bits and pieces of wind as they departed from God. What they were going to reap at the end of their departures from God was a great whirlwind. The principle of reaping what we have sown behooves us to pay careful attention to the seeds that we are sowing.

We see this happening in life as sin is downplayed. Sexual immorality which leads to unwed pregnancy to abortion, partying to drunkenness to vehicular homicide, stealing shoes to stealing cars to bank robbery to murder. Reaping what we believe to be minor infractions (sin is sin) of the law of God, which leads to the whirlwinds of sin, heart wrenching sorrow, regret, and consequences. The end is an eternal separation from God in a place of utter ruin...hell.

Yes, we need to pay careful attention to what we are sowing.

~via *The Tri-Cities Edifier*, Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM - 92.5 FM

8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m.

Market Street church of Christ

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Virginia Meyer	Mitzi Carruth
Mary Will Johnston	Cornelia Pepper
Patsy Thomas	Doris Lovell
Cindy Glass	Ashley Sims
Shelly Scruggs	Linda Jones
Al Bush	Shaun Carruth
Everette "Bud" Dollar	Ann Bush
Wayne Bolton	Wayne Gooch

Updates:

Peggy Pepper was able to be back with us a servcies last week ... *Cindy Glass* went for a another treatment in Nashville this week ... *Matt Poff*, *Carol Dean's son-in-law*, was scheduled to the doctor this past week about the plan for the cancer but was unnable to because of the weather... *Pamela Simon*, a member of the church in *St. George's, Grenada*, is now back home after suffering a stroke a few months ago while visiting in the states. She has been able to be back at services.

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 Carrier
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	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 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

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Judy Brown** and *all the family* in the passing of Judy's brother-in-law, **Bill Claxton**, on Friday night. The arrangements are not complete at this time.

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

MARKYOUR CALENDARS: Market Street's dates that you will want to mark on your calendars:

- February 24 6th Annual Singing
- April 23-27 Gospel Meeting with Gerry Sandusky
- June 12-15 Vacation Bible School
- Sept. 17-21 Gospel Meeting with Dee Bowman

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning, **Sherry Davis** came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness and strength. We appreciate Sherry and her desire to serve God to the fullest extent. May the Lord bless her and may we all encourage her as she has and will encourage us.

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 Jan. 1st

Sunday:	Bible Classes	133
	Morning Worship	170
	Evening Worship	128
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	97

Sixth Annual Singing

February 24, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Jeff Warnke



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Currier

Evening Worship

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

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 8th:

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

Wednesday, January 11th:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading.....	Ephesians 4:17-32
.....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Joy Warner

Sunday, January 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Russell Melvin
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Kenneth Smith
Assisting.....	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Nathaniel Adams... Keenon Currier
.....	Mike Ogles..... James Johnson
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	A. J. Price
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 15th:

Ushers.....	Marvin Putman/Jason Conn
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews