

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

March 26, 2017

No. 13

Seeking for...Recognition

Gary Henry

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

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

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:1).

Nothing tests our character more than having to choose between motives. When there is a good deed to be done, for example, our character is tested: will we do it simply to glorify God or will we do it “to be seen by men”? That is a hard choice — much harder than most of us are willing to admit.

Praise itself is not evil, of course, but there’s no denying that it has the potential to hurt us. Indeed, it’s a rare person who can receive more than a moderate amount of recognition and not have his or her attitude marred by it. That doesn’t stop us from wanting it, however. As Norman Vincent Peale once said, “Most of us would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.”

As for our motives, it’s hard to be honest as to what they really are. The desire to be noticed and recognized as having done something good can be so subtle that it can be our real motive at times when we would say that it isn’t. In a given situation, it’s difficult to see when the thing that we really want is to be praised.

Perhaps it is stating it too strongly to say that we want “to be seen by men.” But what about that word “recognized”? A little appreciative attention is an intoxicating thing. Once we’ve experienced it, even as children, it’s easy for that to become the payoff that we seek (be truthful now!) in every transaction thereafter.

The needs of self, including the need to be appreciated, are not unimportant, of course. But God has set up reality such that self’s needs are satisfied most fully when we put out priorities elsewhere. Jesus said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

So let’s be very honest. Why do we do what we do for God? Do we serve Him as faithfully in private as in public? If no one ever noticed or

thanked us, would we be content simply to know that God had been glorified? And if so, would we then avoid the opposite sin: being privately smug, knowing that we are “big” enough to do what’s right even though nobody appreciates us?

“I cannot say ‘Thine is the glory’ if I am seeking my own glory first” (Anonymous).

~via *Tri-Cities Edifier*; Tuscumbia, Alabama.



Swearing

Randy Harshbarger

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord. But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:33-37).

God says that to take an oath is a serious matter. For example in Leviticus 19, sometimes called the Holiness Code, the Lord said: “And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:12). Twin themes, holiness and love, were to define God’s people as HIS people—people who acted toward their Creator and toward each other in honorable ways. Israelite society would be disrupted if its members did not tell the truth. If God is indeed LORD, then His people, in the Old Testament and now, must be people of honesty. Scribal and Pharisaical distortions of the Law allowed for swearing or the taking of an oath as long as one did not invoke the name of God; since God was not a party to the oath, it was not too serious if the oath was broken. Is that, though, how kingdom citizens act?

Jesus says: Don’t swear at all! Why? Kingdom citizens are those who always tell the truth. When they say yes, they mean yes. When they say no, they mean no. An oath or invoking the name of God as witness to one’s words is not necessary. Neither is it necessarily wrong. But if you invoke the name of the Lord, you need to

make doubly sure as to what you are saying or vowing. “Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few” (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

Let us remember that Jesus expects kingdom citizens to be beyond the norm of the day. “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20). Pharisees particularly, and others, might be known for their “righteousness” but kingdom citizens rise to a higher ethic. True values of the kingdom do not seek to circumvent any aspect of God’s law. Rather we need the true desire to obey not only the letter of the law as we imbibe the intent of God’s will.

Philo, an early Jewish writer, spoke about the “evil habits of swearing incessantly and thoughtlessly about ordinary matters where there is nothing at all in dispute” (Decalogue, 92). Evidently, using God’s name in vain, swearing (invoking the name of the Lord in light or frivolous ways), or just downright vulgarity is nothing new. OMG is on the lips of people constantly. In this kind of world—a world of filth—as kingdom citizens we have the responsibility and the opportunity to let our lights shine. As this world becomes darker, more than ever, do we need to let our lights shine. Don’t dim your light by your yeas and nays.

~via *Lenexa Edifier*; Lenexa, Kansas.

Gospel Meeting

April 23-27, 2017

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday— 7:00 p.m.

Gerry Sandusky, Speaking

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

A Win-Win Situation

Dan McKibben

The past few weeks I talked with a couple of different sisters who have faced serious health problems. One sister in West Virginia who is battling cancer, talked about her situation. She said if the alternative treatments she is taking helps her get better, she wins, and if she does not overcome the cancer, she wins, so it is a win-win situation for her. I talked with another sister who was facing open heart surgery. She said if she gets through the surgery, she stands to gain, and if she doesn't get through the surgery, she stands to gain also, a win-win situation. What a great attitude to have, that is manifested by these two good sisters in Christ.

As Christians we have the privilege to go to the throne of mercy to seek help in time of need. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). God certainly has the power in his providential care to act in our behalf. If God chooses, He can and does act in our behalf at times. Even if He chooses not to intercede in his providence, we have confidence in the promise of the gospel.

The child of God knows that if we pass from the scenes of this life we stand to gain. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21). Now for those that are not faithful Christians, death is a tremendous loss! But through the promise of the gospel we have great hope. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37). The gospel brings life and immortality to light. "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10). We have nothing to fear about death if we are serving the Lord. The Hebrew writer said, "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:15). The attitude of these 2 good sisters is uplifting and refreshing. What about you, as you think about death and dying? Will it be a loss, or a winning situation? We pray that if you are not serving the Lord, that you will start doing so today!

~via *What Saith The Scriptures*; Rockcastle, Kentucky.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Nell Barksdale	Mary Will Johnston
Bobbie Adcock	Doris Lovell
Patsy Thomas	Donna Wright
Cindy Glass	Wayne Bolton
Ashley Sims	Linda Jones
Shelly Scruggs	Sara Ogles
Wayne Gooch	Shaun Carruth
Everette "Bud" Dollar	Ann Bush

Updates:

Gayle Ball feel this past Tuesday at home and received some cuts ... **Bobbie Adcock** returned home following her rehabilitation... **Rebecca Sims'** heart procedure to repair her mitro valve has been re-scheduled to April 6th at Vanderbilt Medical Center... **Jackie Cox** has her heart valve replacement scheduled for April 18th at Huntsville Hospital... **Tracey Hodges, the daughter of Paul and Dale Adcock**, has open heart surgery for an anyerism scheduled at Vanderbilt Medical Center on April 28th... **Mary Will Johnston's** condition with her Acute Lukemia is progressing rapidly.

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Gayle Ball
Reba Byram	Irene Inman
Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Ella Melvin	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
Brittany Bates Carter	Betty Brackeen

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville
Whit Sasser; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm.

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Joyce Martin, rm. 73
Mable Crafts, rm. 39	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Morningside, Decatur

Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Lucille Craig, 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
 William Thomas, at home

SINGING AT NURSING HOME: *Tuesday, April 4th*, we will resume the singings on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 at *Athens Rehab & Senior Care*. The singing last about 45 minutes. The residents really enjoy our coming to sing. If you are available to participate in this, I know that you would be benefitted from the time spent there.

SERMON IN SONG: This Wednesday night we will have a Sermon In Song as we end the quarter. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Stiles: Chuck & Benita* are in South Dakota... *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* are in Texas this week..

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice over the decision that the *The Holts: Larry, Sheila, Griffin & Addison* want to make their home at Market Street. We want to extend a warm welcome to them. They will be in Work Group 3.

DOOR TO DOOR: On Saturday morning, April 1st, we are planning to go out door knocking to meet and invite people to visit with us at Market Street and to give them and invitation to our gospel meeting. We will meet at the building at 9:00 a.m. and leave from here.

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 tonight.

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

Sunday:	Bible Classes	137
	Morning Worship	180
	Evening Worship	130
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	97



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.
 Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting..... Keith Hinkle
 Serving Keenon Currier..... Heath Dollar
 David Terry James Johnson
 Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Marty Adams
 Prayer..... Steve Usery
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 26th:
 Ushers..... Tommy Cobentlz/Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, March 29th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading..... Philippians 3:13-21
 Mike Ogles
 Prayer..... A. J. Price
 Invitation..... Sermon In Song
 Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Sunday, April 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting..... Mike Ogles
 Serving Danny Holt Marty Adams
 Charles Vaughn ... Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Marcus Morris
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 2nd:
 Ushers..... Ashton Gatlin/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams