

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

April 9, 2017

No. 15

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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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 Importance of Influence

Dee Bowman

There is no such thing as a person without influence. Even the most insignificant person has some effect on others. Even the recluse affects people, if for no other reason than because of his choice of anonymity. Even the most pitiable "wallflower" who seemingly has little power of influence may become the topic of conversation.

Furthermore, every person has his own sphere of influence. You bring an influence to whatever you participate in. The marketplace furnishes the stage for some influence, so does the school, the church — anywhere you are in a relationship with others.

A person would do well to be careful how he acts, not only when scrutiny is more obvious, but when he is in a more relaxed atmosphere as well. You have as much responsibility to care for your influence when you are in the presence of those who, in your opinion, can help your progress in life in some way or the other.

The problem of poor influence started early on, when Adam was deceived by Eve (Genesis 3). All through the inspired record there is evidence of the importance of influence. When Rehoboam, son of Solomon, was about to ascend his father's throne, he sought help and being influenced by his peers more than the wise men of his time, he made a poor choice which eventually divided the people of God (1 Kings 12). Even the apostle Peter was not immune to poor influence and withdrew himself from the Gentiles, "Fearing them which were of the circumcision" (Galatians 2:12). Then, due to his poor influence, others dissembled with him, including Barnabas.

But good influence has been felt throughout man's history, too. The personal influence of Moses enabled him to lead the people of God. Joshua was perhaps the most colorful and dedicated leader of the children of Israel, due in great measure to his popularity and influence. Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah, and others, had a fine influence on the people, often causing them to repent and turn back to God.

And what can be said about the influence of Jesus? Easily the most

influential character in all history.

What about your influence? How is it with you? Influence takes basically two forms — conscious and unconscious.

Conscious Influence

This is the kind when you know you are on display. It is sometimes to your advantage that you look as good as you can, that you be on your best behavior. This kind of influence is seen on the job, at school, and is not difficult to attend to, for no one wants to look bad.

Christians need to give attention to how people see them. Sloppiness, tardiness, unconcern in conversation, hypercriticism, a dirty mouth, are all seen by our contemporaries as hypocrisy if we profess an association with Christ. Our moods, attitudes, our inclinations and dispositions will be carefully noted by those with whom we are associated; so we should pay special attention to what we project with them.

Unconscious Influence

There are literally hundreds of small deeds which go virtually unnoticed by us, but which have both an immediate, as well as a cumulative effect on others.

A simple “thank you” can have a great influence for good. “You look nice,” may be the beginning of something really important, and without our even knowing it. “Don’t be discouraged; there are those who care,” can do far more good than you ever thought. Little things, things more often than not unnoticed, can be the cause of great good or great harm.

And many a person has come to the Lord as a result of the attention to a host of little, but very important, things done by someone who had captured their respect. I heard recently about a nurse who learned the truth because over the years she observed the attention paid by members of churches of Christ to those who were ill. It is not the big things that often capture the attention of people; it is the repetition of the dozens of little, loving actions which cause so great an influence. The actions of the Good Samaritan on the road to Jericho were not a one-time thing, but the result of years of habitually doing little things to help others.

It takes diligence to protect your influence; and humility; and prudence; and sometimes great courage. But very often great things come from some little, seemingly insignificant good done.

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

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Look Out For Wolves

Allen Dvorak

Christians live in a dangerous world. It is a world full of evil influences and every disciple of Christ must guard against possible inroads into his thinking by Satan’s onslaught. However, such challenges may not be the greatest danger which the saint faces.

The truth of God sets men free, but false doctrine will cause men to be lost (John 8:32). The apostle Peter wrote, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed” (2 Peter 2:1-2). Not only do false teachers bring “swift destruction” upon themselves, but they also will contribute to the destruction of others, i.e., those who accept their “destructive heresies.”

It is often not too difficult to recognize the false teacher. He is suspect first because of the context of his teaching. He (or she!) is associated with a religious denomination and such denominations are founded upon false doctrine.

Second, his teaching may obviously contradict the plain teaching of the New Testament. The more dangerous false teacher is the one who looks like the sheep! Using the figure of the flock to describe God’s people, Jesus characterized the false prophets (or teachers) as “ravenous wolves” who appear in “sheep’s clothing” (Matthew 7:15). The thought is that the false teacher may appear to be a faithful Christian upon cursory examination.

That’s what makes him so dangerous. Not just that he teaches doctrine which will condemn, but that he is hard to recognize. Some sheep will be “devoured” by his false doctrine because they trusted him. He doesn’t wear a sign proclaiming himself to be a predator. He secretly brings in destructive heresies, sidling up to sheep after sheep to plant his unscriptural views (2 Peter 2:1). He often doesn’t proclaim his view from the pulpit. Instead he works behind the scenes, questioning sound teaching, always ready to offer a “better view” to those who are made receptive to his deceptive words by flattery (2 Peter 2:3, 13-14, Romans 16:18; Jude 16). He doesn’t devour a sheep quickly. He distracts a sheep from the Shepherd’s voice until that Christian is so enamored with the false doctrine that he doesn’t recognize the truth anymore.

Eventually that same disciple is advocating the false doctrine, having “discovered” how wrong the doctrine he once accepted is. He has been devoured by the wolf who, by now, is concentrating on his next victim.

It is not the purpose of this article to cause brethren to view each other with suspicion and distrust. We do need, however, to be able to recognize those false teachers who are dressed in sheep’s clothing. Jesus taught that we can recognize them by their fruits (Matthew 7:15). The ultimate test for false teachers is the doctrine taught - do the Scriptures support it?

~via *News & Notes*; Madison, Alabama.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Marvin Putman	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Patsy Thomas
Cindy Glass	Wayne Bolton
Ashley Sims	Linda Jones
Shelly Scruggs	Sara Ogles
Wayne Gooch	Shaun Carruth
Everette “Bud” Dollar	Ann Bush

Updates:

Marvin Putman is at home after spending 2-3 days at the Athens-Limestone Hospital ... **Priscilla Tucker** has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will be undergoing surgery and then treatments to follow. Remember Priscilla and all the family in your prayers ... **Rebecca Sims**’ had her mitral valve clip at Vanderbilt on Thursday afternoon. The procedure went very well and she returned home Friday afternoon... **Joel Hamm** had shoulder surgery this past Wednesday at Athens-Limestone Hospital. He is doing well ... **Dan Lovell** is scheduled to have thyroid surgery on Friday at Athens Hospital... **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 aneurysm scheduled at Vanderbilt Medical Center on April 28th.

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
Jim Sasser; Athens-Limestone Hospital

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

Limestone Health Facility:

Jim Sasser

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Morningside, Decatur
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Wynnell Casteel, at home
 Lucille Craig, 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
 William Thomas, at home

SINGING AT NURSING HOME: Remember the singing at *Athens Rehab & Senior Care* on Tuesday evening at 5:30. If you are available to participate in this, I know that you would be benefitted from the time spent there.

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS: Last Sunday morning **Jim Whitt** had composed a note asking for prayers for failures of the past in dealing with his work and for the decisions about the future opportunities before him. We appreciate Jim and the good heart he demonstrated in wanting to have his priorities right and to make the best decision for Jackie and himself. May we all encourage him as he has encouraged us.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice that **Eleese Barksdale** has let it be known that she desires to be a

member of the church here at Market Street. Sister Barksdale has recently moved to town. Sister Barksdale will be in Work Group 2. Let us extend a warm welcome to her.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: The date for our Vacation Bible School has been set for **July 17-20** for this year. Mark your calendars and begin planning for this work.

DOOR TO DOOR: Remember we are planning to go out Saturday morning, *April 15th* to invite people to services.

SUPPORT IN MAINE: The elders recently sent support to **Mark White** to cover his expenses in preaching the gospel in a couple of meetings in the later part of April and early May. He will be conducting meetings in *Pittsfield and Waterville, Maine*. Keep brother White and these churches in your prayers for the work that is done.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Cartwright church** is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Lowell Sallee* of Rogersville will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Jordan Park church** in Huntsville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Jeff Smelser* will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Jones Road church** is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Jeff May* will be the speaker...The **Eastside church** in Russellville begins a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *David Cox* will be the speaker.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group Three will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of April 2nd*

Sunday: Bible Classes 138
 Morning Worship 165
 Evening Worship 126
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 100



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
 Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching..... Gary Patton
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Keith Hinkle
 Assisting..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Serving Marvin Putman Danny Johnson
 Steve Usery..... Russ Wulfekuhl
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz
 Preaching..... Gary Patton
 Lord's Supper Keith Hinkle
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 9th:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, April 12th:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Bible Reading..... Philippians 4:1-8
 Ashton Gatlin
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Invitation..... Arvid McGuire
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Sunday, April 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Jerry McGlocklin
 Assisting..... Joel Hamm
 Serving Mike Ogles..... Landon Adams
 Marcus Morris..... Marvin Putman
 Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
 Closing Prayer Harvey Nixon

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 16th:

Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams