

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 30, 2017

No. 18

Faith, Hope, Love

Jay Bowman

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 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

Visit Us On The Web

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

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 NKJV

Paul begins this epistle with a warm commendation of the Thessalonian Christians. They were always on his mind. They were always in his prayers. Paul had had some very anxious times in Thessalonica (see Acts 17:1-9). This might cause a man of less noble character to put them out of his mind, to close the book on the city and its people. That is often the result when one has unpleasant experiences in a place. But, Paul remembered them continuously and with much pleasure. He gave thanks for them before God's throne.

Work of Faith

He remembers without ceasing their "work of faith," i.e. their work that faith produced. Faith is the basis of everything we do. It is more than a passing acknowledgment of Christ's deity, more than a brief confession of His lordship. The word "faith" has been vastly changed in the hands of Calvinistic teachers.

It did not mean to believe something without evidence. To the contrary, the word in the plural is often translated "the proofs," that is the evidence, the things that inspire confidence. It expressed a high degree of confidence based on strong evidence.

Faith without works is really a contradiction of terms. But for the desire to enjoy faith's benefits without labor's weariness, such a thing would never be contemplated. Faith and inactivity are direct opposites.

This is true because God requires us to be active. He created us for activity (Ephesians 2:10). One example of the Thessalonians' activity was that they "sounded forth" the word not only in Macedonia and Achaia but also "in every place." Their faith had produced this.

Faith always produces works. Works are therefore a pretty good measure of one's faith. If you want to know how much faith a man has, look at what he does.

Labor of Love

Labor is distinguished from work in that labor is difficult work. It is wearisome toil. "Work" is the more general term; labor, more specific. Work may be pleasant or unpleasant. Labor is troublesome and dreary.

But, love makes toil more bearable. Jacob served seven years for his wife, Rachel (Genesis 29:20). It was hard work. Yet, it "seemed but a few days because of the love he had for her." Love makes labor more bearable, and the time passes faster. The Thessalonians had received the word in much affliction. Their job was difficult from the beginning. But, they could tolerate the difficulty because of the "joy" they felt (1 Thessalonians 1:6). Love renders even difficult things joyous.

Patience of Hope

"Patience" means the ability to hold out under stress. The word Paul used means "remaining under" or "remaining absolutely," that is, digging in and holding out, staying power under difficulty. Hope makes it possible to hold out under stress. Hope is the vivid. This is about expectation of success of relief, of reward. When the human mind, filled with joy and love, projects itself into the future, partaking of the bliss and honor due to the faithful, this hope makes difficulty more bearable. The Thessalonians concentrated not on the miseries of the moment but on the rewards of the future. Their vivid hope inspired a commendable endurance. "Patience" (endurance) grows out of hope. Hopeful Christians can summon courage, persistence and strength that others, less hopeful, never know.

But, when hope goes, endurance goes. People who lose hope lose their courage. Faith is the basis of what we hope for (Hebrews 11:1). So the word of God is the source of hope. The Bible (Romans 10:17) provides first faith and love, then endurance and joy, then persistence in good works.

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

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

Pray Continually

Joe Hickman

The discussion of 1 Thessalonians 5:17 often goes like this: "Now 'pray without ceasing' does not mean 'stay on your knees.' We have other things to do." Even some commentaries face this verse by first telling what it does not mean. But what does the verse mean, and how are we to use it?

Is it possible to "pray without ceasing?" Paul said, "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing..." (1 Thessalonians 2:13; also 1 Thessalonians 1:23; Romans 1:9). The apostle who taught others to "pray without ceasing" was one who "practiced what he preached."

Some other passages of Scripture dealing with prayer will help us. "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). "Continuing steadfastly in prayer" (Romans 12:12). "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

These passages show us that fervent, continual prayer should be woven into every aspect of our lives. Some commentators say that to "pray without ceasing" includes not missing an opportunity for praying.

Steadfastness in prayer is vital, but let us not miss the point of prayer. Jesus warned about those who used vain repetitions when they prayed, who thought they would be heard for their many words (Matthew 6:7). Unceasing prayer is not the frequent reiteration of some "prayerful" words or phrases. Think about the faithful "widow indeed" of 1 Timothy 5:5 who "trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day." And we can again remember Paul who prayed "night and day exceedingly" (1 Thessalonians 3:10) even as he labored with His hands "night and day" (2 Thessalonians 2:9:3:8). There is no suggestion in these cases of numb recitation, but of faithful servants intensely and personally speaking to God.

Of course, Jesus provides the best example of all. He sometimes went alone to pray "a long while before daylight." In Luke 6 He "continued all night in prayer to God." There were times when the Lord took some disciples with Him when He "went up on the mountain to pray." Jesus obviously prayed "without ceasing." His prayers were not mere echoes of liturgical expressions learned by rote. The Son was pouring out His heart to the

Father (for example, John 17 and Gethsemane). And so should we be expressing our real thoughts when we pray.

As important as prayer is, for some reason, it is easily neglected. It seems that when we fail to pray, there is a more fundamental failure involved. The subject of prayer relates to the basic concept of faith toward God.

The child of God is willingly dependent upon God. "For in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28) is true of every person, but the people of God recognize the truth of it and acknowledge it. Also we know that eternal life in Christ Jesus is God's benevolent gift to the faithful and submissive. So we must set our course of life based on our continuing reliance upon God; we do not seek to take care of things on our own.

Prayer, properly understood and practiced, is by its nature an act of faith. If there is no God listening, then there is no reason to praise Him, thank Him, petition Him, etc. James 1:5f instructs one who lacks wisdom to "ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach," and to "ask in faith, with no doubting." The doubter should not "suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double minded man, unstable in all his ways." Remember, "the effective, fervent prayer of righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

The parable of the self-serving judge in Luke 18:1f, shows that prayer is not a wasted effort. If the unrighteous can be moved by importunity, then certainly our loving Father will hear our plea.

Our faith is to be expressed in ardent prayer to the Lord, though He "knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8). It is possible that "you do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). We pray, as He bids us, realizing that He "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

"Pray without ceasing," not because we have nothing else to occupy our attention, but because we do have much to do and to be concerned about, and we know where our hope lies. Keep on praying! Don't ever give up on prayer!

~via *Christianity Magazines*; Vol. 11 No. 8..

Vacation Bible School

July 17-20, 2017 — 10:00 a.m.

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Freddie Mae Elmore	Louise Melvin
Jackie Cox	Kim & Peyton Rogers
Patsy Thomas	Doris Lovell
Cindy Glass	Priscilla Tucker
Joan Glass	Ashley Sims
Linda Jones	Shelly Scruggs
Sara Ogles	Shaun Carruth
Ann Bush	Everette "Bud" Dollar
Wayne Gooch	

Updates:

Priscilla Tucker had surgery on Tuesday and the surgery went well. Continue to keep Priscilla in your prayers as she awaits treatments... **Tracy Hodges, the daughter of Paul and Dale Adcock**, had open heart surgery for an aneurysm at Vanderbilt Medical Center on Friday... **Jackie Cox** came home from the hospital on Friday... **Alvis McLemore's brother, Bobby McLemore**, is not doing well now as he battles Acute Leukemia.

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 Ordenez
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	Bobby McLemore

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Tracy Hodges; Vanderbilt Medical Center – Nashville
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	Mildred Lambert, rm. 106
Helen Trousdale, rm. 43	Judith Groce, rm. 10-B
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Glen Brackeen, rm. 91
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
Oneal Martin, rm. 81	

Limestone Health Facility:

Jim Sasser

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 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.

OUR MEETING: We had a very good meeting the-ispast week with *Gerry Sandusky* preaching. It was a blessing to have *Gerry* and his wife, *Diane*, with us this week. The meeting was will attended. We averaged 155 for each service of the meeting. Brother Sandusky did his work very well and all who came will be benefitted from the lessons taught. The sermons were recorded and are on the church's website. If you would like to have CD's of the meeting please note that on the Member's Card you fill out this morning. .

CONFESSION: This past Sunday evening, *Sherry Davis* came forward asking for prayers for her spiritual strength to serve God. We appreaicte Sherry and the good heart she has in making a commitment to serve the Lord.. May we all encourage Sherry as she has and will encourage us.

OUT OF TOWN: *The McLemores: Alvis and Ann* are in the mountians today and will return in a few days... *Nell Barksdale* has been on vacation visiting with family this past week... *Jim Whitt* has been out of town with his work this past week.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group Three will be meet- ing 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 23rd

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	142
	Morning Worship.....	175
	Evening Worship.....	153
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	135

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 30th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements..... Joel Hamm
- Song LeaderAshton Gatlin
- Prayer..... Landon Adams
- Preaching..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding.....Tommy Coblentz
- Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
- ServingMatthew Vaughn..... Heath Dollar
-James Johnson Larry Holt
- Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Evening Worship

- Announcements..... Joel Hamm
- Song Leader Hunter Cox
- Prayer..... Ross Melvin
- Preaching..... Song Service
- Lord's SupperTommy Coblentz
- Closing PrayerA.J. Price

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 30th:

- Ushers.....Keenon Currier/Steve Bradley
- Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, May 3trd:

- Song LeaderJerry McGlocklin
- Bible Reading..... Colosians 1:1-8
-Joy Warner
- Prayer..... Larry Holt
- Invitation..... David Cox
- Closing Prayer Tony Thomas

Sunday, May 7th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements..... Kenneth Smith
- Song LeaderTommy Burns
- Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
- Preaching..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding..... Bonnie Sutton
- AssistingMike Ogles
- ServingGriffin Holt..... Hunter Cox
-Tony Thomas Charles Vaughn
- Closing PrayerKenneth Adams

Evening Worship

- Announcements..... Kenneth Smith
- Song Leader Tyler Cox
- Prayer..... Dwaine Allfrey
- Preaching..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
- Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 7th:

- Ushers..... Danny Holt/Jerry McGlocklin
- Work Sound System..... Marty Adams