

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

May 14, 2017

No. 20

A Mother's Love

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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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

“As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 66:13). *We are watched over by a God whose love for us is the uniquely tender love of a mother for her children.* Within the Trinity of God’s divine being there is to be found the perfect summation of all of the qualities that were divided between masculinity and femininity at our creation (Genesis 1:26-27). The complementary nature of men and women in our world is a reflection of the perfect communion that exists within the triune personality of God’s own being. Thus none of the unique endowments of men and women are insignificant. Each has its counterpart in God’s character, and each needs to be taken seriously in our own character and in our own interactions with others.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the matter of love. The familiar texts that speak of God as having a father’s love are complemented by those that describe the divine love in motherly terms. The fatherliness of God’s love is perfected by its motherliness.

If God loves us with a mother’s love, this is more than a theoretical point. In day-to-day practice, we should not fail to have the same kind of love for one another. Even Paul, the strong soldier of the faith, understood the need for **tender** love. To the church in Thessalonica, he wrote, “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8).

A mother is able to touch her children with a special tenderness because she **understands** them in a special way. God’s perfect love for us, of course, is possible because of an infallible understanding of our hearts, and we shall not be able to reach that level of empathy for one another. What we certainly can do, however, is to make a more conscious **effort** to understand the kinds of things a mother understands – and to love accordingly. If we seek God, we will seek to love as God loves. In our love and in our dealings with God’s children, we will include not only the productiveness of a father, but the tenderness and insight of a mother. “A

mother understands what a child does not say” (Jewish Proverb).

~via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas.



Are We Outdated?

Terry Francis

The idea that the “Church of Christ” is shrinking in our present society is a common thought. One writer focused on the poor model of churches today that seek to continue in the same methods and practices that they have always focused on. He points out that churches are continuing in a pattern that not only fails to attract the lost but loses the young church members as well.

It is true that research shows the “churches of Christ” are declining in their attendance rather than growing. (Research also shows that the number of Christians who attend any congregation are declining). The author blames the shrinking church on such things as classes that seek to prove points rather than transform disciples, the refusal to leave a print media based mindset, focusing on traditional sermons, etc. It is suggested that a younger digital generation fails to be attracted by the traditional approach (1880s based according to the the author).

The suggestion is made to change the climate of the church in order to attract more members and keep the next generation—a generation attracted to YouTube and gaming. Those suggestions included using videos throughout the assembly, using a three projection screen setup with only one featuring the message and the other two screens rotating images and video, dimming the lights to brighten the stage area, using testimonials and interviews, and using pre-worship and post-worship recorded music similar to that in a movie theatre.

Is there anything wrong with changing the number of screens, the lighting, or other parts of our assembly? No. There is nothing inherently wrong or sinful with those actions. **But** (you knew there was one coming) there is something disturbing about this approach. The problem is that all of these changes are intended to appeal to the senses—man’s senses or things of the flesh.

The changes submitted revolved around the popular trend among religious groups to change practices to

satisfy men. What is more important to many than truth is that the spirit is invoked and inspired. A high priority is placed on making sure the assembly is entertaining and enjoyable.

Before we point fingers at other religious groups as being the guilty parties, the reality is we can be just as tempted to adapt and change our patterns to attract more attendees. We must be careful we are not lured in by this temptation—many have been.

Those seeking to change the church want to emphasize the religious experience more important than the spiritual fellowship—specifically of the flesh and eyes. Oh sure, no one wants to admit that. This is all done in the name of being “more spiritual.” But if our religious experience is patterned after appealing to people in the same way that XBox, YouTube, and television, then I wonder what Paul might say. . . Perhaps, “What! Do you not have houses to play, watch, and be entertained in?” (1 Corinthians 11:22).

Let’s be careful that we aren’t offering “strange fire” to God in an effort to attract people to the church (Leviticus 10).

~via *The East Shelby News*; Collierville, Tennessee.



“And Then I Prayed”

Wes Webb

I really thought there were material things in this life that were important. I saw people living in luxurious furnishings. I saw their fine cars and their exclusive clothing. That seemed important, for a moment at least. Then I saw something else. I saw that so many who had all these things were living empty lives. I saw them grasping for some measure of happiness. I saw them looking into the bottle to give them some relief from their worried business deals. I saw them involved in extramarital affairs to bring them to “completeness”. I saw all of this in the lives of people who worked in the offices all around me in this world. Then I looked at humble, dedicated Christians – members of the congregation where I preached. I saw the genuine joy and rich fulfillment that was evident in that new convert. And

then I prayed... "O God, Forgive me for my longings for the material things in life! Forgive me for my envy of the unrighteous and their possessions...! O God, help me to be like that newborn Christian in being totally happy in my relationship with You. Make me a simple servant of Yours."

I watched a child at play. He had no worries of what he would eat, what he would wear or where he would live. He had a father and mother who he knew would care for him. He was so contented and happy. And then I prayed... "O God, make me like that little child. Help me always to remember that , I, too, have a father who will provide all I will ever need if I seek Him and His will first. Help me to be like that little child in contentment and peace of mind. Help me to always have the trust in my heavenly Father that he has in his father. O God, Make me like that little child?"

I sometimes wonder if my life should be a life of preaching. I thought maybe I should go some other way. But I looked about me and saw the crying need for the word to be taught to sinners and saints alike. And then I prayed... "O God, Help me to see the fields that are white unto harvest. Help me to know that my lot in life is to preach and teach your word. Help me to do the work of an evangelist, to make full proof of my ministry. Help me to be content in whatever financial state I am in."

I believe in the power of prayer. God truly hears my petitions. I am content with my station in life. I have all and abound. I have no compulsion for what the world has to offer. I have the riches of his mercy. I have the forgiveness of sins. I have the hope of heaven. And I have sufficient for living in this world! I would not exchange the pulpit for a throne! I looked at all this And then I prayed... "O God, Don't let me become arrogant with these blessings. Please help me to be humble before you all the days of my life! Help me to realize that someday I can exchange my life for a heavenly crown. O Lord, I Love You So. Help me to show it every day that I live."

~via *Capshaw Bulletin*; Capshaw, Alabama.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jane Meredith	Helen Blankenship
Jackie Whitt	Bonita Dollar
Jackie Cox	Patsy Thomas
Doris Lovell	Cindy Glass
Priscilla Tucker	Don Osborne
Linda Jones	Ashley Sims
Sara Ogles	Shaun Carruth
Ann Bush	Everette "Bud" Dollar
Wayne Gooch	Shelly Scruggs
Rick McLemore	Tracy Hodges

Updates:

Rick McLemore received a tick bite and spent time in the Huntsville Hospital... **Marty Romine, nephew of Joyce McGlocklin**, was involved in a serious car accident last week and is in serious condition in Huntsville Hospital, SICU... **Alvis McLemore's brother, Bobby McLemore**, continues to battle 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 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	Bobby McLemore

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Mot Beasley; River City Health & Rehab. – Decatur
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
Mattye 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	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert 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
 William Thomas, at home

SINGING AT NURSING HOME: Remember the singing at *Athens Rehab & Senior Care* on Tuesday evening at 5:30.

ELDERS/DEACONS: Last Sunday morning, the elders announced that they wanted the congregation to look out among them for men that would be qualified to serve as elders and deacons. The elders will be taking names and they ask that you talk to the men before turning their names in and to sign your name to the names you submit. May we all work together in this and may we find men that are qualified to oversee the work here.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Morris'*: Marcus and Bonnie are in Buloxi, Mississippi this weekend... *The Bradleys:* Steve and Marilyn are in Texas for the birth of their new granddaughter, Hazel Bea Zehner, this past Thursday... *Tyler Cox* is in Los Angeles, California today and will be home next week... *Landon Adams* will be going to Detroit, Michigan this week with his work... *Jim Whitt* will be in Oklahoma this week with his work.

GRADUATES HONORED: Next Sunday afternoon the *The Clubhouse at Deer Trail* on West Market Street has been reserved for a reception to honor the seniors from Market Street *Griffin Holt and Austin Hobson*. I hope that everyone can come and help to encourage these two young men on their accomplishments and as they continue their lives .

BAPTISM: This past Sunday morning, we rejoiced over *Austin Hobson's* decision to put on Christ in baptism. We appreciate Austin and his good heart to obey the Lord. May we all encourage Austin as he has and will encourage us.

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 May 7th

Sunday: Bible Classes 136
 Morning Worship 181
 Evening Worship 124

Wednesday:
 Bible Classes 97

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Larry Holt
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Marty Adams
 Assisting Harvey Nixon
 ServingHeath Dollar Tommy Burns
Keenon Currier... Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 14th:

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

Wednesday, May 17th:

Song Leader Larry Holt
 Bible Reading Colossians 1:18-29
 Dan Reed
 Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz
 Invitation Steve Usery
 Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Sunday, May 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Steve Usery
 ServingDavid Terry Ashton Gatlin
 Landon Adams..... Marvin Putman
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Griffin Holt
 Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 21st:

Ushers..... Keith Hinkle/Marcus Morris
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews