

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

July 23, 2017

No. 30

Feelings or Faith?

Sewell Hall

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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell..... (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
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

The nineties may well go down in history as the decade of feeling. Feelings clearly determine the values and standards of our times. Feeling good about ourselves is the mark of the good life. Feeling good is considered our birthright, and anyone who interferes with our good feelings has wronged us.

Schools encourage this attitude. I recall visiting the principal of a school which was adopting a new educational policy. Each student made a contract with the school and when he arrived in the morning he could do whatever he felt like doing that day. I have not heard the results in that school, but the results of such education are evident in our society. Multitudes of able-bodied people are depending on others for their livelihood simply because they feel more like loafing than working.

Feelings have become the test of morality. "If it feels good, do it" is a popular motto. "How can this be wrong when it feels so right?" is a question asked in a familiar song. More than one jury has acquitted an obviously guilty criminal simply because they felt good about him. And the grossly immoral conduct of more than one executive has been tolerated because people felt good about how things were going.

In religion, as well as in other areas of thought, people now talk more about how they feel than about what they believe. Years ago, it was not uncommon for someone to leave an assembly disturbed by what I had preached, saying, "I don't believe that, and I am going to take my Bible and prove you wrong." Now they say, "I don't feel as you do on this subject" and go their way and think no more about it.

Some judge the success of a worship service by how good they feel when it is finished. Churches often cater to this by introducing various devices to produce those good feelings, and attendance grows. One problem with this is that such devices must continually be upgraded as the old ones cease to have the desired effect, and before long activities are introduced which are not authorized in scripture. Any criticism of such practices, however, is refuted by pointing to their rapid numerical growth.

Another problem is that those who are not right with God need to feel bad about themselves. Godly sorrow is necessary to produce repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). Nathan's rebuke left David feeling bad about himself, but it was his salvation. "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord ... No chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:5, 11).

Justifying our conduct by feelings is a cop-out. We do not feel obligated to defend our feelings, for no one else can know how we feel. But our beliefs must be defended; we are expected to be able to give reasons for what we believe.

Is right and wrong determined by feelings or by faith? Not one word in scripture justifies anything on the basis of feeling. "We walk by faith" (2 Corinthians 5:7), and "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

The demands of faith and those of feeling often conflict. The heroes of faith featured in scripture often acted contrary to their feelings. Would you suppose that Abraham "felt like" leaving his homeland for an unknown destination, or offering his son on an altar? Yet, he did those things by faith (Hebrews 11:9-18). Do you think that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego "felt like" defying the king's command to worship his image, knowing that a fiery furnace was already prepared for those who did? Or that Daniel really "felt like" praying openly to Jehovah when he knew that hungry lions were waiting to feast on one who did so?

Read Paul's lists of things he endured as recorded in 1 Corinthians 4, 2 Corinthians 6 and 11 and ask if he really "felt like" preaching. In 2 Corinthians 5:12 he summarizes it all by saying, "death is working in us." Why did he continue preaching? The next verses gives the answer: "But since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak." Paul acted by faith, not by feeling.

Many justify absence from worship or failure to study and pray because, "I just don't feel like it and if I don't feel like it, it will do no good." When we are tempted to think this way it is time to revisit Gethsemane. "See that suffering sinless one weeping, praying there alone." And what is His petition? "O My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from me." Does He feel like going to the cross? Obviously not! Yet, he adds, "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

When Feelings say "NO" to any duty, Faith says, "Nevertheless, Father, not as I will, but as You will." Only then do we have a right to "feel good about ourselves."

~via *South Bumby Bulletin*; Orlando, Florida.



The Prepared Heart

Gary Henry

"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10).

Our "nature" is given to us by God, but our "character" is created by our choices. What we do with the raw materials of our created nature brings into being a character that is either good or bad. Of course, the fact that character is a matter of choice does not mean the choices are always carefully made. Indeed, many people simply live by default, going with the flow and ending up with a character that has been chosen haphazardly. But haphazard choices are still choices. Whether we've been careful or not, we'll still have to account to God for our decisions.

Ezra is said to have "prepared his heart". Apparently he had given some thought to the sort of man he wanted to be. Surely he was aware of what the major alternatives are that lie before a human being, and his choice to pursue godliness seems to have been a deliberate decision. It's not unlikely that Ezra had given some consideration to the matter of consequences. There is no more "consequential" choice than the choice of one's character, and Ezra had no doubt considered that some kinds of character would take him places he didn't want to go.

It is worth noting the particular character Ezra prepared himself to have. This wise man determined that he would (1) seek God's will, (2) do whatever he learned, and (3) teach to others the things that he had both learned and lived. We could look a long time and not find a better three-point program for character development. Seeking, doing, and teaching... the will of God. These things point to the very heart of what human existence is all about.

If we've not already done so, it's urgent that we prepare our hearts. It's time to think seriously about what matters most to us. What kind of people do we intend to be, anyway? "When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind" (Seneca). But preparing our hearts requires more than charting our course. We must also count the cost and resolve that we'll pay the price to have a character that's worth having. The devil is eager to test how well prepared our hearts really are.

"You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one" (James Anthony Froude).

~via *The Kirkwood Bulletin*; Kirkwood, Missouri..

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Bettye Harrison	Freddie Mae Elmore
Doris Lovell	Patsy Thomas
Cindy Glass	Linda Jones
Ashley Sims	Sara Ogles
Wayne Gooch	Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Gayle Ball
Irene Inman	Janice Cagle
Jeanette Weir	Priscilla Tucker
Jenny Pickens	Ella Melvin
Daniel Ogles	Diane Kilpatrick
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Brittany Bates Carter
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Bobby McLemore
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Eli Williams	Everette "Bud" Dollar

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Paul Adcock; Huntsville Hospital - Huntsville - rm. 776
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Reba Byram, rm. 64	Nelva Reed, rm. 61
Helen Trousdale, rm. 43	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Oneal Martin, rm. 81	Joyce Martin, rm. 73
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 39	

Limestone Health Facility:

Opal Conn, rm. 117	Gilbert Hardy, rm. 115
--------------------	------------------------

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, 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

Updates:

Donna Wright is scheduled for open heart surgery on August 15th at Huntsville Hospital...*Essie Hardison* spend a few days in the hospital last week following a fall. She is now at home...*Bettye Harrison* continues her recovery from her broken arm...*Drew Ogles* continues a series of tests for the health problems he is experiencing...*Alvis McLemore* fell this past Wednesday afternoon, but was not seriously hurt...*Patsy Thomas* continues to make progress in the recovery from knee surgery...*Kaleigh Conn* is scheduled for surgery in August in Birmingham to repair the hole in her heart...*Priscilla Tucker* continues her treatments for her cancer.

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 tonight.

OUT OF TOWN: *Steve Bradley* is back home now after being in Temple Terrace, Florida for the last week or so.....*The Coblenz: Tommy and Marcella* have been out of town this week visiting with family in the New England states...*The Holts: Danny and Debra* have been on vacation this week in Mexico.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: This past week we had a great VBS. We studied *Trailblazers For The Faith*. We averaged 119 each morning. I appreciate those who taught: *Marilyn Bradley, Hunter Cox, Kerry Cox, Joel Hamm, Sharma Hamm, Heather Hammonds, Andrea Price, Elizabeth Usery, Steve Usery and Lisa Wulfekubl*. The work and dedication of these teachers meant much

to the great success that the Vacation Bible School was. We are blessed with great, dedicated teachers. I appreciate *Terry Andrews* for his work in the sound room and taking care of the PowerPoints. Also, I appreciate all who attended the VBS and gave encouragement to the work that was being done. We had several that even took time off from work to be present at some or all of the services. It was good to have *Brandon Trout, Lowell Sallee, Nick Woods, and Derek Chancellor* here in the past week to speak to the adults during the class period, as well as, *Shawn Jeffries* to preach to us Wednesday night. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless the church here as we continue to look for souls to save.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *New Hope church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Don Miller*.

SINGING: The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee will be having their annual singing this Friday night at 7:00p.m.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Debra Holt and all the family* in the passing of her brother, *Jeff Solomon*. His funeral was yesterday at the Spry Funeral Home. He was laid to rest in the Rose-lawn Cemetery. Also, we want to express our deepest sympathy to *Wayne Gooch* in the passing of his mother, *Sally Marie Gooch*. She passed away last Sunday and her funeral was Tuesday afternoon at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Limestone Memorial Gardens.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of July 16th
 Sunday: Bible Classes 138
 Morning Worship 170
 Evening Worship 130
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 110

Gospel Meeting

October 15-18, 2017

Dee Bowman, Speaking

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting A. J. Price
 Serving Charles Vaughn ... Matthew Vaughn
 James Johnson Mike Ogles
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Griffin Holt
 Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 23rd:

Ushers..... Marvin Putman/Hunter Cox
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, June 26th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Bible Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
 Russ Wulfekuhl
 Prayer..... Steve Usery
 Invitation Ashton Gatlin
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblenz

Sunday, July 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Larry Holt
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Landon Adams Griffin Holt
 Heath Dollar Keenon Currier
 Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
 Preaching..... Dan Reed
 Lord's Supper Larry Holt
 Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 30th:

Ushers..... Danny Holt/Steve Usery
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams