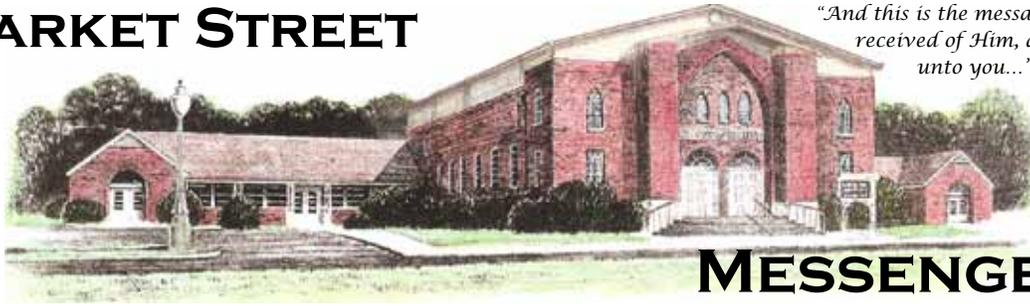


MARKET STREET



“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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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Volume IX

August 20, 2017

No. 34

The Nature of Faith and Evidence

T. Doy Moyer

Contrary to what some think, faith and evidence are in harmony with each other. God does not ask us to believe Him in spite of evidence to the contrary. He wants us to consider the evidence and make a decision to put our faith in Him based upon that evidence (e.g., Matthew 11:2–6). It is our purpose in these article to overview some of the evidences God has provided about the nature of evidence and faith.

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

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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

What Is Evidence?

“Evidence” is proof that helps to establish something as valid. It helps us to form a proper conclusion about a matter. The type of evidences to which we appeal are not scientific. For something to properly belong to science, it should be observable, repeatable, and testable. This excludes unique, historical events. Science is limited. There are matters of science that have a bearing upon the Bible, but these cannot directly test the historical events.

The kind of evidence to which we appeal is historical. Historical evidence involves data such as eyewitnesses, written documents, and archaeological finds. Historical data leads us to conclude that certain people existed, or certain events occurred. In this way, we know that Jesus Christ lived, died, and arose again from the dead. Faith in Jesus is based upon the historical validity of the events which are ascribed to Him. In seeking to know and understand history, we are building a foundation upon which to understand and trust God.

The testimony of eyewitnesses is significant. In a court of law, eyewitness testimony can help convict or acquit a defendant. The Bible claims to have been confirmed by eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1–4). The resurrection of Jesus was confirmed by hundreds of eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:1–8). This is of primary importance.

What Is Faith?

The basic idea of faith is “trust.” When we put faith in God, then we are willing to listen and do what He says. Why would one choose to trust God? Because of a conviction that God is true. This conviction comes by examining the evidence God has left for Himself. The evidence is strong

enough that it warrants a choice of faith.

Biblical faith is built upon evidence. This is shown in John 20:24–31. After Jesus was raised, He appeared to His disciples. Thomas, not present, later said that he would not believe unless he saw (v. 25). Jesus appeared to the disciples again. When Thomas saw, he responded, “My Lord and my God” (v. 28). The fact that Thomas would not believe did not change the nature of the evidence. Christ had risen whether Thomas believed it or not.

Jesus replied, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and believed” (v. 29). The resurrected Christ was evidence of the power of God. Note that in verses 30–31, the signs Jesus performed were designed to be evidence that would lead one to believe in Him. We have not seen Jesus, but the written records testify to His historical validity.

Faith is a reasonable response to the evidence. “Blind faith,” which has no supporting evidence, is unreasonable. Faith is not “believing something you know isn’t true.” It is accepting and acting upon that which has credible evidence to support it.

We should not take an approach to God solely on the basis of our reasoning. If we rely too much on our own thinking, we may reject biblical principles and commands because they don’t “make sense” to us (see Proverbs 14:12). We have the ability to reason and think, and God expects us to use our minds. But once we are convicted that “God is” and that He rewards (Hebrews 11:6), then we have reason to trust Him, even if we don’t understand everything (see Hebrews 11:8).

The study of evidences does not create faith, but it does help remove some stumbling blocks and give us greater confidence in the things of God. Faith comes by hearing God’s word (Romans 10:17). Let’s be convicted of this, and accept what God has done for us.

~via *South Bumby church of Christ*; Orlando, Florida.

Gospel Meeting

October 15-18, 2017

Dee Bowman, Speaking

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

514 WEST MARKET STREET

ATHENS, ALABAMA

God’s Way

Sewell Hall

The problem of disinterested people is not new. It existed in some places even in the first century. Paul said it existed in Corinth. “For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:22-23).

Paul had the power to offer signs to the Jews and the knowledge to compete with the Greeks in worldly wisdom. The philosophy described above would have suggested advertisement of a lecture on “The Judaistic Philosophy in the Roman World.” Obtaining his audience with this, he could then slip in a little about Jesus and the cross. But this was not Paul’s approach, as he told us: “For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). Human philosophy and human wisdom had no place in Paul’s plan for saving the lost in Corinth.

Preaching only the gospel, of course, Paul could have announced himself as “Dr. Paul, graduate of the University of Gamaliel, noted author, world traveler, inspired and dynamic lecturer.” Rather, he says, “And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God... I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:1, 3-5).

Worldly appeals simply cannot save lost men. And to attach them to the gospel is to cheapen the good news of Jesus Christ. By such appeals we may increase numbers and even “make waves,” but such individuals in the local church are liabilities rather than assets. As materials in God’s building they are classified as “wood, hay, and straw.” Paul warns against building such material into the church: “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it... Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work” (1 Corinthians 3:10, 12, 13).

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

Be Strong and of Good Courage

Steve Neimier

When the Lord spoke to Joshua in the first chapter of Joshua, He encouraged Joshua with the words, "Be strong and of good courage." How comforting that must have been to Joshua. Remember! He was chosen to lead the people into the Promised Land after the great servant of the Lord, Moses, had died.

Hardships come in many different sizes and shapes. This hardship for Joshua was three fold. First of all, he had to convince the people that he could lead them. The Lord addressed that in Joshua 1:18. Secondly, he faced the raging waters of the river Jordan. The Lord addressed this in Joshua 3:9-17. Thirdly, he had to lead the people against great odds to take the land the Lord had promised. The remaining chapters of the Book of Joshua show us how the Lord addressed this issue.

We may not face the task of having to convince people to follow us over the raging waters of the Jordan River. We most likely will not have to convince people to follow us into a land where we will face hostilities that threaten our lives. However, we will face hardships and dangers, disappointments and heartaches, in our lives here on earth. The present economic situation, being mistreated by our employer, the sickness or death of a dear loved one, the loss of our home, or the devastation of addiction by a child or spouse are among other stressful events of this life that can challenge our hope and stamina for the Lord.

The comforting words of God to Joshua should be in our thoughts, and by living in total obedience to God's word, we can lead others by our example through the tough times! These soothing words can also lead us to put the travesties of this life in perspective to our eternal future. May we all adapt to the words of "Be strong and of good courage" as we let the Lord guide us through the journey of this life.

~via *Plainfield Bulletin*; Plainfield, Indiana.



**The Market Street
church of Christ Website at:
MarketStreet-church.com**

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Jane Meredith
Mitzi Carruth
Doris Lovell
Cindy Glass
Ashley Sims
Wayne Gooch

Gayle Ball
Freddie Mae Elmore
Patsy Thomas
Linda Jones
Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard
Irene Inman
Jeanette Weir
Jenny Pickens
Daniel Ogles
Linda Ordonez
Cindy Walker
Gene Carpenter
Betty Christopher
Al Pollard
Elizabeth Howard
Phillip Harwell
Roger Whitt

Gayle Ball
Janice Cagle
Priscilla Tucker
Ella Melvin
Everette "Bud" Dollar
Wayne Wooldridge
Brittany Bates Carter
Charles Burns
Bobby McLemore
Ava Brooke Campbell
Matt Poff
Una King Currier

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Donna Wright; Huntsville Hospital; rm. 657
Billie Sue Whitt; Athens-Limestone Hospital; ICU
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville
Grady Threet; Florence Rehab - Florence

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

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

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 Dunning, at Brookdale Farms, Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

Updates:

Donna Wright had her open heart surgery on Tuesday in Huntsville at Huntsville Hospital and everything went

well...*Kaleigh Conn* had her surgery on Wednesday in Birmingham at Children's Hospital to repair the hole in her heart. She came home from the hospital on Thursday evening...*Gayle Ball* surgery to remove the tumor from her salava gland on Friday at Athens-Limestone Hospital...*Joel Hamm* will not have to undergo surgery for the injury to his foot. It will take about 4 weeks to heal with rest...*Priscilla Tucker* had another treatment this week.

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.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: We have several of our young people that are away in college:

- Brettlyn Currier*, at the Auburn University
- Keenon Currier*, at the University of Alabama
- Griffin Holt*, at the University of Alabama
- Drew Ogles*, at Auburn University
- Christian Usery*, at LaGrange College
- Elizabeth Usery*, at Mississippi State University

Remember them while they are away from us in school.

THE CHUMBLEYS' MOVE: The Chumbley family will not be unloading this evening after services as originally planned. They were able to do it all yesterday. Thanks to all who were able and willing to help them.

SYMPATHY We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Bonita Dollar*, and all the family, in the passing of Bonita's brother-in-law, *Charles Dollar*, this past Sunday. His funeral was Tuesday evening... We also want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Joyce McGlockin*, and all the family, in the passing of Joyce's niece, *Linda Davis*, this past Monday in Gadsden. Funeral arrangements will be made later.

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 August 13th

Sunday:	Bible Classes	140
	Morning Worship	169
	Evening Worship	116
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	88

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*

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Tommy Coblenz
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl ... Matthew Vaughn
	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Marty Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 20th:

Ushers.....	Danny Holt/Steve Bradley
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adam

Wednesday, August 23rd:

Song Leader	Ashton Gatlin
Bible Reading	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
 Dan Reed
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Invitation.....	Tommy Coblenz
Closing Prayer	James Johnson

Sunday, August 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Charles Vaughn
	Steve Usery
	Matthew Usery.....
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 27th:

Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Marty R. Adams