

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

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No. 33

Finding The Balance

Steven Harper

Within the same paragraph in Paul's letter to the brethren of Galatia, he commanded the disciples to "Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2), and, shortly afterwards, reminded them, "each one shall bear his own load" (Galatians 6:5). This may seem, at first, to be conflicting instructions, but Paul is first speaking about the need to help one another bear the weight of temptations and putting off sinful desires [continued from Galatians 6:1], while the second part is speaking about the fact each man will have to give an account for himself to God, and cannot shift the blame to others, nor take credit for others.

But the idea of taking responsibility for self while, at the same time, helping others as much as we can, is a sometimes difficult situation: How much am I responsible for another person's spiritual condition and/or maturity, and how much will they have to answer for? Do I have a responsibility to watch out for my brother or sister and their spiritual condition? Finding the balance between personal responsibility for our own spiritual condition, and our responsibility towards others is quite often something not discussed simply because we don't know where to draw the line. Some brethren will state plainly that another's spiritual condition and actions are none of their business because "each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12), and what they do is just between them and God; others will insist we must be constantly checking on our brothers and sisters lest we miss some spiritual shortcoming and be judged for that in the end. What does God expect of me, and what is the right balance?

My Duty Towards Self. It is true, "each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12), and, "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10). So, yes, I am responsible for self. I am not going to answer for what you do or did, and you won't be answering for me and what I do or did.

I, as a disciple, am obligated "to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27); I cannot wait for someone else to fulfill that responsibility to orphans and widows, I cannot pay someone else to do it, and no one can keep me un-

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

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

spotted from the world. This is my responsibility.

As a disciple, I also know the command to “let each one give as he purposes in his heart” (2 Corinthians 9:7); I cannot hold back, thinking that because someone is wealthier than I, that means I do not have to give as frequently, as much, or at all. No one can give for me, and I cannot give for someone else. This is my responsibility.

I, as a disciple, also know Paul commanded “that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor” (1 Thessalonians 4:4), which means I must endeavor to keep myself sexually and morally pure. No one can exercise self-control for me, nor can I do it for anyone else. This is my responsibility.

We could go on and on with the list of things I must do, as a disciple, but this should be sufficient to answer the question as to whether or not I have to take personal responsibility for myself and my actions, for which I will be judged someday by my Lord.

But is that all there is? Do I have no responsibility towards my fellow man or my brother or sister in Christ? What does the Scriptures teach?

My Duty Towards Others. If I were to continue looking at the commands for which I will be personally responsible, I would eventually come across the one that says, “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4). In the investigation of my duties and responsibilities as a disciple, I find that I have a responsibility to look out for the interests [especially the spiritual] of others! Part of my personal responsibility is concern for what my brother or sister in Christ is doing, and how he or she is doing.

That necessarily means I must not close my eyes to a weak or negligent brother or sister and simply excuse myself from intervening because, well, “That’s his or her personal responsibility.” I cannot overlook a brother who skips the assembly or gradually quits coming more and more often by saying, “It’s his personal responsibility.”

Yes, each brother or sister must answer for self [as has already been noted], but we also have a responsibility towards one another. Remember, Paul admonished the brethren, “if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness” (Galatians 6:1). If I am “spiritual,” then I have a responsibility towards this brother who has been overtaken in sin. I cannot excuse myself from getting involved by simply saying, “Well, that’s his responsibility; he got himself into that mess, and he can get himself out.” I

have a responsibility towards my brother in need.

Even in material matters, we cannot close our eyes to the needs of others. John asks, rhetorically, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” (1 John 3:17). Implied in this is the responsibility I have towards a brother in need when I see his need and have the ability to help. I cannot excuse myself from helping by saying, “Well, if he hadn’t made such poor choices, he wouldn’t be in that mess.” Again, I have a responsibility towards my brother in need.

At the very least, John’s words should remind us that we have the basic responsibility of loving one another. Jesus said, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12), and John reminded the early disciples of Christ’s love right before he spoke of helping this brother in need — and even laying down one’s life for one another (1 John 3:16). Paul likewise admonished the brethren that they should, as members of the same body, “have the same care for one another” (1 Corinthians 12:25).

We could on with the admonitions to be “bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do” (Colossians 3:13), to be “teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (Colossians 3:16), to “increase and abound in love to one another and to all” (1 Thessalonians 3:12), to “comfort each other and edify one another” (1 Thessalonians 5:11), and to “consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24). To say the least, we have responsibilities towards one another, and the life of faith is not one that any disciple can live to himself or herself. While we each have the personal responsibility of spiritual growth, faithfulness, and obedience, we also all have the responsibilities towards our fellow believers — and that should not be overlooked or neglected.

Finding the balance is a matter of watching out for self and watching out for others, and not neglecting either one for the sake of the other. A disciple who cares only for himself will necessarily neglect others; a disciple who is always looking out for others but not paying attention to his own condition may put himself in spiritual danger. Yes, take responsibility for yourself, but also look out for your brothers and sisters, and help them when you can.

~via *The Words of Truth and Reason*; Rosenberg, Texas.

Confess or Deny?

Stacy Crim

There is a narrow road and there is a broad road. There is a house built on a rock and there is a house built on the sand. There is a kingdom of light and there is a kingdom of darkness. There is heaven and there is hell. The Bible is clear, there are only two choices that can be made when it comes to the eternal destiny of the soul.

In Matthew 10:32-33, Jesus said "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven."

The teaching of this passage is very clear also. A person either confesses Christ before men or he denies Him before men. Not only are we to acknowledge Jesus as our Savior for salvation, we must attach ourselves to Him in all areas of our life. We must be willing to speak up against sin and proclaim His message from home to home. We cannot let intimidation or persecution hinder us from sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:16) If we do, we are denying Him and are subject to Christ's own denial.

Which ever we choose, confession or denial, the Father will know because the Son is going to tell Him.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Mitzi Carruth	Freddie Mae Elmore
Doris Lovell	Patsy Thomas
Cindy Glass	Linda Jones
Ashley Sims	Ann Bush
Wayne Gooch	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Gayle Ball
Irene Inman	Janice Cagle
Jeanette Weir	Priscilla Tucker
Jenny Pickens	Ella Melvin
Daniel Ogles	Everette "Bud" Dollar
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

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

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
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36

Limestone Health Facility:

Jane Meredith, rm. 97

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 Dunnavant, 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 is scheduled to have open heart surgery to replace the aortic valve on Tuesday at Huntsville Hospital...*Kaleigh Conn* is scheduled for surgery on Wednesday in Birmingham to repair the hole in her heart...*Joel Hamm* broke a bone in his foot last week and is awaiting to see if they will need to do surgery. The recovery will be about six weeks...*Ruby Dean Ezell's daughter, Diane Kilpatrick*, received word last week that her cancer was in remission. What great news. ... *Priscilla Tucker* is scheduled to have another treatment this week.

CALL MESSAGES FROM MARKET STREET:

From time to time the church at Market Street uses an automated calling system to inform the members of the information that needs to be disseminated quickly. The phone number of the church for these calls is 256-297-2307. If you receive a call from this number, it will be the Market Street church message system. The message system is voice activated, so this will require you to say something and then the message should follow. There may be a slight delay in the start up of the message.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group Two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in

group of two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

OUT OF TOWN: *Jim Whitt* has been out of town with his work this week in Fort Still, Oklahoma... *Harvey Nixon* has been out of town with his work... *Sherry Davis* continues to be in Michigan with the passing of her uncle this week.

OFF TO SCHOOL: We have several of our young people that have left or will be soon leaving for school. *Griffin Holt* left Thursday for Tuscaloosa where he will be in school this fall... *Elizabeth Usery* left Saturday for Starkville, Mississippi for school at Mississippi State... *Keenon Currier* will be leaving for school in Tuscaloosa on August 19th... *Christian Usery* will be leaving for LaGrange, Georgia where he is in school at LaGrange College... *Brettlyn Currier* will be leaving later in the month for school in Auburn. We will miss *Brettlyn, Christian, Elizabeth, Griffin and Keenon* while they are away from us in school. We look forward to seeing them back with us from time to time and as they finish their schooling. May the Lord bless them and may we remember them and encourage them as they are away.

THE CHUMBLEYS: The Chumbley family will be making the second part of their move this coming Saturday. If you are able to help let me know and get a schedule. We will plan to leave Athens for Hueytown about 7:00 a.m.

SYMPATHY We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Sherry Davis*, and all the family, in the passing of Sherry's uncle, *James Davis*, this past Wednesday. The funeral and burial was in Michigan.

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 6th*
Sunday: Bible Classes 137
Morning Worship 166
Evening Worship 121
Wednesday: Bible Classes 126

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, August 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Larry Holt
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Joel Hamm
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Danny Holt Christian Usery
..... Tony Thomas Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 13th:

Ushers..... Marvin Putman/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, August 16th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
Bible Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin
Invitation..... Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

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 Danny Johnson
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 Adams