

# 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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### *Helping Children Grow Up*

**Don Truex**

The NickelodeonNetwork has begun showing episodes of the ancient sitcom, *Father Knows Best*. If you remember the show or have seen it in its latest reincarnation, you know that it focused on a family unit and, in particular, the patriarch of the clan, Robert Young. The interesting thing about that program (and others of its ilk) is that regardless of the problem that arises, it is neatly, fully, satisfactorily solved within thirty minutes! Wouldn't it be nice if real life was like that? If the challenges associated with rearing children from their cradle to their wedding were so easily conquered? But, much to our dismay, they are not.

It is often said that children arrive sans an owner's manual. That, of course, is not entirely true. After all, a bewildering array of "child rearing" books can be found in any local bookstore. But more importantly, He who knit our children together in their mother's womb (Psalm 139:13) provides ample instruction so that they might eventually "increase in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). But much of that is left to the discretion and direction of Moms and Dads.

Perhaps that's why the psalmist observed, "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth" (127:4). Like the arrow, our children need purpose and direction. David lived that principle after realizing that he would be denied building the temple. From that day forward, his passion—the focus of his life—was to prepare his son, Solomon, to fulfill the will and work of God for his life (1 Chronicles 28:2ff). To that end he dreamed, planned and provided (1 Chronicles 29:1ff). Can the same be said of us regarding our relationship with our children? Are we as dedicated to our kids being godly as we are to them being academically successful, musically inclined, athletically talented and socially acceptable?

I am somewhere near the middle of the process of "raising my kids." My daughter, Heather, is 12 and my son, Josh, is 8. Like most parents, I feel inadequate for the job God has entrusted to me (Psalm 127:3; Ephesians 6:4). I struggle with not letting my work make an absentee father of

#### **Schedule of Services**

##### **Sunday**

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship..... 4:00 p.m.

##### **Wednesday**

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

#### **Elders**

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843  
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

#### **Evangelists**

Buc Chumbley ..... (256) 777-1065  
David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910  
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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#### **MARKET STREET MESSENGER**

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*David A. Cox, Editor*

me. I wonder if my influence testifies to the importance of the kingdom. And I wonder if the concepts of their Heavenly Father that my children develop by living with their earthly father are what God desires. I wonder what I can give my kids that will help them the most as they grow up; as they navigate their way from earth to heaven. As I contemplate the last of these issues, my mind continually returns to four areas; four things we need to give our children to help them successfully mature.

**1. Respect for the word of God.** Yes, I want my children to be sensitive to what others think. Yes, I want them to have an awareness and appreciation of the cultural milieu. But the bottom line, in every issue is the will and word of God. Moses' counsel is still timely. "These words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children ..." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7a). You see, our kids are going to know whether we think more of what the brethren think, what the tradition says, what the family thinks rather than what God thinks. One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is to let them see that when decisions are made, when advice is given, when the rubber of faith meets the road of reality—above all else, at all cost, we respect the word of God.

**2. Belief in the power of God.** Wouldn't it be nice if we could tell our children that if they just follow the Lord, nothing will ever go wrong? But, of course, that would be contrary to the word of God (e.g., "In this world you shall have tribulation," John 16:33). The question is: How will we face the troubles, the vicissitudes of life that inevitably arise? Do our children see us respond with drink, depression or despair? Or do they see us respond with faith and prayer? Do they hear us speak of confidence in the care and providence of God? Or do they see us live our faith that God is not tired or retired? We must illustrate in our lives—and in so doing, teach our children—that Jehovah is still able to do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

**3. Awareness of the reality of spiritual warfare.** To merely float downstream in the moral, ethical, spiritual pollution of this world is not an option. Our kids need to understand "in the days of [their] youth" that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). They must know that with sagacious subtlety our enemy seeks to "steal, kill and destroy" (John

10:10). He seeks to destroy our families, our churches, our lives. To bury our heads in the sand is to commit spiritual suicide. To recognize the reality of the warfare, to effectively wield the sword of the Spirit, and to put our trust in God is to win the victory.

**4. Having done our best to teach and model the aforementioned, we must give our children freedom.** Through the multiple passages in childhood, adolescence and young adulthood, we struggle to balance between appropriately releasing our grip and holding on to protect, direct and love. Every ounce of discretion and wisdom, bathed in prayer, is required. To loosen the grip is, admittedly, a painful process. Our hearts rail against it. And yet, "as the eagle stirs up its nest" (Deuteronomy 32:11), how rewarding it must be to see our children spread their wings and fly. How rewarding to say with Paul, "For though I am absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ" (Colossians 2:5). May God help us to make it so.

~via *Christianity Magazine*; Sept.-Oct.1992, Vol 9 No. 8.



## *Can You Be Good Without God?*

**Ken Weliever**

A Pew Research Center Poll revealed that for the first time a majority of Americans say it is possible to be a good person without religious beliefs.

The poll conducted in June and July surveyed 5,000 American adults and found that 56% said that "God is not a prerequisite for good values and morality," according to Greg Smith, Pew's associate director of research. Smith attributed this response to the increased number of Americans who are religious "nones," that is they have no religious affiliation.

In a separate Poll, unaffiliated people were asked whether 16 specific beliefs and behaviors were essential, important but not essential, or not important to be a good "moral person."

The top responses including honesty (58%) being grateful for what you have (53%), spending time with family (47%) and forgiving those that have wronged you (39%). Interestingly in an open-ended question 23% of

“nones” listed “the golden rule” as essential to morality.

In addition to these qualities we all know people who give money to charity, volunteer to help others, and are generally good moral people who are not Believers.

Conversely, we all know religious folks who are selfish, immoral and difficult to get along with. In fact, Jesus often referred to the religious leaders of His day as hypocrites (Matthew 23).

So, maybe the question has a false premise.

Where does good come from? Who defines what is good? How is morality determined?

If there is no God, then society is left with subjective feelings to decide what is good. The standard is not fixed. It becomes a matter of personal preference. With no external reference point who is to say whether something is good or bad? Right or wrong? Moral or immoral?

The Psalmist affirmed that “God is good” (Psalm 73:1). Forms of this refrain are often repeated throughout the Bible. God’s goodness is expressed in His character. It is connected to His love, mercy, and grace (Psalm 69:16; 100:5; 84:11). To his blessings toward all people, both the evil and the good (Matthew 5:45). And to every “good gift” that comes from his bountiful hand (James 1:17).

When a young man came to Jesus and called him “Good Master,” Jesus responded, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God” (Mark 10:18).

If there is no God, why should any specific standard be imposed upon others? And who gets to decide? Governments? The majority? The powerful?

Those with children have witnessed an older child telling his younger sibling what to do, and they respond with “Says who?” The younger child is, in essence, saying you don’t have the right to tell me how to live.

The Bible teaches that all authority emanates from God. Jesus claimed his authority came from the Father (Matthew 28:18). Governments derived their authority from God (Romans 13:1). Shepherds in the church receive their right to rule from the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:1-4). Even in the home, our relationships are regulated by what the authority of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).

If there is no God, the “rules” are constantly in flux and can be arbitrarily changed at any time by anyone.

There is, however, an even bigger question for us to consider, “Is true religion just about being good?”

Christians must be careful not to equate being good with being pleasing to God. The prophet reminds us that “all our righteousness is like filthy rags.” True goodness and righteousness is epitomized in Jesus and revealed in the gospel (Romans 1:16-17). Without Him and His sacrifice for our salvation, we are lost.

The gospel of God’s grace (Acts 20:24) reminds us all that human goodness apart from God is futile. “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

~via *West Main Bulletin*; Lewisville, Texas.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Jane Meredith  
Patsy Thomas  
Doris Lovell  
Wayne Gooch  
Linda Jones

Pat Nixon  
JoAnn Gilbert  
Ann Bush  
Cindy Glass

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

Joe Leopard  
Janice Cagle  
Priscilla Tucker  
Jenny Pickens  
Phillip Christopher  
Linda Ordonez  
Cindy Walker  
Gene Carpenter  
Betty Christopher  
Al Pollard  
Elizabeth Howard  
Will Weir

Irene Inman  
Jeanette Weir  
Bobby McLemore  
Ella Melvin  
Everette “Bud” Dollar  
Wayne Wooldridge  
Brittany Bates Carter  
Charles Burns  
Una King Currier  
Ava Brooke Campbell  
Matt Poff

### *In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:*

*Jimmie Lovell*; ECM Hospital – Florence  
*Norman Hamm*; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

### *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:*

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

### *Shut-In or Away From Home:*

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur

Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
Marjorie Dunnivant, 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:**

**Margaret Carter** is scheduled for gall bladder surgery in Huntsville on Tuesday...**Donna Wright's daughter, Lori Wells**, is scheduled for valve replacement surgery in Huntsville on Tuesday...**Dan & Doris Lovell & Jeanette Weir's brother, Jimmie Lovell**, had open heart surgery on Thursday at the ECM Hospital in Florence...**Jeanette Weir son, Will Weir**, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer...**William Thomas** continues in the Ardmore Health & Rehab, but will be moving to Madison soon.

**AWAY AT SCHOOL:** Remember our young people who are away in college:

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

**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.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** *The Pettusville church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speakers in the meeting will be: *Sunday morning – Rhett Bailey*, *Sunday evening – Bob Watson*; *Monday – John Gibson*; *Tuesday – Stephen Russell & Wednesday – Buc Chumbley*.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Adams: Marty, Marvella & Kenneth* are in Virginia today with the senior class trip from Athens Bible School...**Jim Whitt** returned home yesterday from his lengthy trip to Germany...*The Wulfeuhls: Russ, Lisa & Ali* are in Colorado this weekend.

**GRENADA WORK:** The Lord willing, I will give a report on my recent trip to Grenada this afternoon at our service.

#### **THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of Nov. 5th

Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 136  
Morning Worship ..... 176  
Evening Worship ..... 127

Wednesday:

Bible Classes ..... 99

**Remember Our Service This Evening at 4:00.**

## **Men Privileged To Serve:**

### **Sunday, November 12th:**

#### *Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Marcus Morris  
Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz  
Preaching..... Buc Chumbley  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Keith Hinkle  
Assisting ..... Mike Ogles  
Serving ..... Tony Thomas ..... David Terry  
..... Charles Vaughn ..... Danny Holt  
Closing Prayer ..... Roger Hammonds

#### *Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Marcus Morris  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer..... A. J. Price  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Keith Hinkle  
Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 12th:

Ushers..... Danny Johnson/Heath Dollar  
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

### **Wednesday, November 15th:**

Song Leader ..... Larry Holt  
Bible Reading ..... 1 Timothy 2:1-8  
..... Steve Usery  
Prayer..... Landon Adams  
Invitation..... Joel Hamm  
Closing Prayer ..... Arvid McGuire

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### **Sunday, November 19th:**

#### *Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz  
Song Leader ..... Ashton Gatlin  
Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon  
Assisting ..... Marcus Morris  
Serving ..... Keenon Currier.. Roger Hammonds  
..... Danny Johnson..... Matthew Usery  
Closing Prayer ..... Steve Usery

#### *Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz  
Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox  
Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton  
Preaching..... Buc Chumbley  
Lord's Supper ..... Harvey Nixon  
Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 19th:

Ushers..... Dwaine Allfrey/Larry Mitchell  
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews