

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

December 31, 2017

No. 53

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 Coblentz..... (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

*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Where The Battle Is

David Banning

While my boys were in high school, there were a few occasions when I had to go home in the middle of the day. The road from the church building to my house took me right past their school. I would glance over and wonder...what's happening with my kids? Are they struggling through an algebra test? Could Satan be tempting them to copy from someone else's paper? Are they eating lunch with friends right now? Are they struggling with the decision to get up and walk away from an inappropriate conversation? Are they being taught evolution in their science class? Are they wrestling with the decision to defend their faith? Sometimes parents wonder where the battle is for their kids.

Recently I was talking to a group of teenagers about heaven. As we wrapped up our study, I gave each one a card and asked them to answer this question: What is the one thing that might cause you to miss heaven? I want to share some of their answers ... so we will know where the battle is.

I struggle with lust.

Jesus taught that, if a man lusts for a woman, he has committed adultery with her in his heart (Matthew 5:28). Whoever wrote this answer on the card certainly understood this danger. And yet, they also acknowledged that this is a struggle. We live in a sexually charged world. Opportunities to look with lust are everywhere. The Internet offers easy access to an endless supply of corrupt images. Young men can't even walk through the school without seeing things they should not see. It's where the battle is.

If we want our kids to go to heaven, we need to help them push back against this assault by Satan. This will require having some uncomfortable conversations with them. Some parents are reluctant to discuss sexual purity with their children. They fear they will rob them of their innocence. But in our culture, silence is not an option.

Take them to the text and teach what God says. Go to Genesis and teach that the desire we feel for each other comes from God (Genesis 1:27). Use the Song of Solomon to demonstrate the beauty of sexual intimacy

in marriage and emphasize the importance of patience until that time (Song of Solomon 2:7). Show them the Bible warnings about keeping ourselves pure; not just refraining from fornication (Hebrews 13:4), but also keeping our thoughts and actions pure (Galatians 5:19). Use Bible stories to illustrate the terrible things that can happen when we don't listen to God (2 Samuel 11-12).

The Bible has a lot to say about sexual purity. When kids hit adolescence, they need to have this information. For many of them, this is where the battle is.

My friends are a bad influence on me.

Of all the answers given by this group of teens, this one appeared far more frequently than any other. For many kids, the battle is with their friends. It is an odd answer. Friends should help us, not hurt us. But remember that there are basically two kinds of people – those who draw me closer to God and those who will pull me away. God warns us about this danger (Proverbs 1:8-10; 1 Corinthians 15:33). Sometimes the people our kids choose as friends are not friends at all. They are harming them in the worst possible way.

If we want our kids to go to heaven, then we must help connect with the right crowd. There are few things a parent does that are more important than this. So, how do we help them without coming off as a controlling dictator trying to run their lives?

Start early. From the time they begin associating with other kids, start talking about good and bad influences.

Get to know the crowd. Let their friends come over and play on the swing set or pile up in the living room and watch a movie. Feed them. Make your house the place to be. But as you do this, watch and listen. Get to know these kids.

Steer them toward healthy relationships. Encourage them to spend time with good influences. Adjust your schedule and change your plans to make it happen. At the same time, make it inconvenient for them to spend time with bad influences.

Be a parent. There may come a time when you must intervene and end a friendship that is damaging your kid. We must do this calmly and clearly express our concerns. But whether our kids understand or not, we must act. We cannot sit back, behave as though we were powerless and allow an evil influence to drag our kids away from the Lord. They may be angry with us, but they will get over it.

This is where the battle is. Our kids see the dangers. We need to see them too.

~via *Get Them Talking*, Beaumont, Texas.



Editor's Note: The following article was written by my uncle Willard who passed away last weekend. He began preaching in 1948. During his time in preaching, he worked with churches in Alabama, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, but most of his years was spent in Texas and Oklahoma. From 1954 - 1956, he preached for the County Line church between Moulton and Decatur. During those years, he taught at Athens Bible School. His funeral was Wednesday in Searcy, Arkansas and he was laid to rest in the Greenview Memorial Gardens in Florence on Thursday.

Loving God and His Word

Willard M. Cox

Why is it essential to love God and His Word? God loves us (Romans 5:8). "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Is it not reasonable that we should love God in return? Jesus said that the first and great commandment is: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37-38). Isn't it also right to love His Word, the Bible? This is the Book which God, our Creator, Provider, Savior, and Judge gave to us so that we may know Him and so we can know our relationship with Him. "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). People who love God and His Word like to think about God and learn more of what the Bible teaches.

In John 3:16 we can read that God loves the whole world and that He proved it by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for your sins. Three verses later we can read "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). We are living in dangerous times. The Bible calls it "perilous times" (2 Timothy 3:1). People will be "lovers of their own selves" (2 Timothy 3:2). It is sad when people so love themselves they become selfish, and do what they want to do, instead of loving God, and doing what He

tells them (us) to do. 2 Timothy 3:4 tells us that people will be “lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” God should come first in loving Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. Between these two above verses, we can see the kind of culture people will become when they (we) fail to love God and His word as we should. People will be “covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded” (2 Timothy 3:2-4).

We can have a better world for our children and grandchildren when more and more people will put the love for God and His Word, the Bible, back into their lives. The best favor a person can do for himself is to love God first with all his heart, soul, and mind, and to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). In so doing, he can help make his community, our nation to have better morals and give himself the hope of living with God in heaven. It takes effort, sacrifice, and perseverance, but it is worth it personally and for others.

~via *Woodland Church of Christ*; Sylva, North Carolina..

Editor's Note:

Brother A. J. Rollings, an evangelist at Market Street for many years, would recite this poem each year as the old year would be finishing and the new year would be coming in. We appreciate the truths that are told within this poem and commend the thoughts of it to you. May we all do better with the time that is ahead of us.

I came to my teacher with quivering lips,
My task undone;
“Teacher hast thou another sheet for me?
I have spoiled this one,”
She took the old sheet, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad face smiled,
“Do better this time, my child.”

I came to the Father with a quivering heart,
The old year done;
“Father, hast thou another year for me?
I have spoiled this one.”
He took the old year, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad heart smiled,
“Do better this time, my child.”

Forgiveness

Dee Bowman

There is a lone grave stone in a cemetery not far from New York. On its rocky face is inscribed one word: “forgiven.” There is no name, no date of birth, no date of death, no inscription of some passage of scripture. Only one word: “forgiven.”

Do you ever long for a few minutes of complete silence during which you can contemplate the fact of your forgiveness?

Are you ever able to sit quietly for a moment at mid-day and define, in your heart, the meaning of your forgiveness?

Have you ever taken long enough to add up all the figures in your life and determine your real worth? And does it not all add up to forgiveness?

Do you ever sit down on the curb and watch the traffic go by and deal with the sudden recognition that nobody seems concerned about forgiveness?

Have you ever felt the sheer horror, the revolting realization that you are not forgiven?

Have you ever felt at once both the joy and pain of Jesus when He looked down from the cross and said, “Father, forgive them”?

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Bonnie Sutton	Grady Threet
Doris Lovell	Marion Mitchell
Cindy Glass	Ann Bush
Linda Jones	Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Irene Inman
Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Priscilla Tucker	Patsy Thomas
Jenny Pickens	Ella Melvin
Phillip Christopher	Everette “Bud” Dollar
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Brittany Bates Carter
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff

Will Weir Phillip Harwell
 Bobby McLemore Susan Cox

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Helen Trousdale, rm. 43 Nelva Reed, rm. 61
 Mattye 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
 Kathleen Wales, rm. 103 Flossie Smith, rm. 108

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
 Elvin Stoffregen, at daughter's in Rutherford, Tennessee
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

Updates:

Bonnie Sutton had two stints inserted in his heart on Wednesday and is at home... **Dwaine Alfrey** continues to recover from his recent surgery... **Marion Mitchell** is at home after the removal of the kidney stones... **Priscilla Tucker** is under-going her radiation treatments... **Susan Cox, Jackie Cox's granddaughter-in-law**, has been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. She lives in Brisbane, Australia. She will be undergoing radiation and chemo treatments for 7 weeks... **Grady Threet** continues under hospice care and is not doing well... **Adrian Maynard**, a preacher for the Hindsbury Rd. church in Barbados, is at home following his surgery for the brain tumors.

SING IN THE NEWYEAR: The Userys have invited everyone to come to their house on Sunday evening following our afternoon service. It will be a pot-luck of finger foods. Come join everyone as we bring in the new year.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASS: The new quarter for the Bible class will begin next Sunday morning, January 7th. If you have not been a part of these classes now would be a great time to begin.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Dec. 24th

Sunday: Bible Classes 147
 Morning Worship 183
 Evening Worship 154

Wednesday: Bible Classes 95

Remember Our Service This Evening at 4:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 31st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song LeaderTommy Burns
 Prayer.....Dwaine Alfrey
 Preaching.....David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Harvey Nixon
 AssistingJoel Hamm
 ServingChristian UseryKeenon Currier
Roger Hammonds ..Danny Johnson
 Closing PrayerMike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song LeaderAshton Gatlin
 Prayer.....Dan Reed
 Preaching.....Harvey Hixon
 Lord's SupperJoel Hamm
 Closing PrayerLarry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 31st:

Ushers.....Tommy Coblentz/Steve Bradley
 Work Sound System.....Terry Andrews

Wednesday, January 3rd:

Song LeaderTony Thomas
 Bible Reading1 Timothy 5:1-16
Danny Johnson
 Prayer.....Larry Holt
 Invitation.....Harvey Nixon
 Closing PrayerLandon Adams

Sunday, January 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Terry Andrews
 Song LeaderTyler Cox
 Prayer.....Keith Hinkle
 Preaching.....Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding.....Tommy Coblentz
 AssistingMarty Adams
 ServingGriffin HoltClayton Hamm
Matthew Vaughn... Christian Usery
 Closing PrayerJoel Hamm

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Terry Andrews
 Song LeaderHunter Cox
 Prayer.....Marcus Morris
 Preaching.....David Cox
 Lord's SupperTommy Coblentz
 Closing PrayerLarry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 7th:

Ushers.....Danny Holt/Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System.....Landon Adams