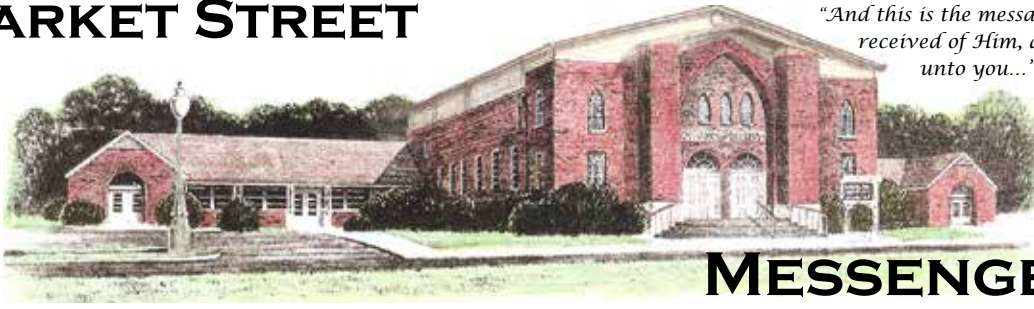


# MARKET STREET

*"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. 49

## ***IRRITABILTY***

**Berlin R. (Buc) Chumbley**

### **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

#### **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.*

*Buc Chumbley, Editor*

1 Corinthians 13 contains a wonderful section on what love is all about. In verse 5 Paul writes that "love...does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil"

"Love... is not provoked" (NKJ; NAS). Other translations say "love ... is not easily provoked" (KJV), "not easily angered" (NIV), "it is not irritable" (ESV).

The underlying Greek word used by Paul in this verse means "to sharpen." It can be used in the positive sense of urging or driving things forward. It can also be used in the negative sense to provoke, irritate, exasperate, or even to despise something. It is easy to see how quickly the positive slides over into the negative. What starts out as encouragement or motivation for someone to do right, can evolve into criticism which belittles or demeans the individual.

Irritability can be a special problem among morally upright church going people. Because of the high standards we have (or think we have) we become irritated when others fail to measure up. We give a sneering look, a deep sigh, we roll our eyes, or we turn away abruptly. Whichever it is, they get the message that we are not pleased with them.

Paul says that love doesn't do that. That love is not "provoked, easily angered or irritable." We would do well to stop making excuses for ourselves. Stop explaining away our shortcomings as, "that's just the way I am." That just doesn't cut it.

If you are one who is easily provoked, confess your sin, and ask the Lord for forgiveness. The world will be a better place when "good" people become "nice" people.

# ∞ *TUMBLEWEED CHRISTIANS*

**Jefferson David Tant**

Tumbleweeds are a familiar sight in the western united states. A tumbleweed is a structural part of the above-ground anatomy of a number of species of plants. Once it is mature and dry, it detaches from its root, and then is blown across the landscape by the wind. "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" is a song made popular by Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers and others many years ago.

How well this describes some who call themselves Christians. It seems they have become detached from their roots, and are thus susceptible to be blown here and there by whatever wind of doctrine that comes along.

Our Lord has made provision for His people to be firmly rooted and grounded in the faith. Paul wrote about this in his letter to the church at Ephesus.

"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-15).

We don't know if Paul was familiar with tumbleweeds, but his description of those who are "carried about by every wind of doctrine" surely fits. And what was a danger then is truly a danger in the present. Paul's picture is of a ship at sea that has no fixed course, but is tossed here and there by the winds and waves.

The culture in which we live today is obsessed with the idea of inclusivism. We all ought to sing "com by yah" (however you spell that) and agree to disagree, because truth is relative and there are no absolutes. The commonly seen bumper sticker expresses the idea very well. We should "coexist" all the way from the religions of Islam to Christianity to Hinduism to Scientology to Atheism, etc.

I once asked a high school student if she really understood the message she was sending out by having the sticker on her car. She really had no idea of the teachings of the religions she was promoting. Basically, she just wanted

to be Politically Correct. It was obvious that wherever she went to church, there was no fundamental teaching.

We remember the parable of the sower in the gospels. Some of the seed "fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away" (Matthew 13:5-6). That's the same problem tumbleweeds have — no roots.

The point is that we need to teach basic principles of the gospel, evidences, how to establish authority and what Biblical doctrine really is. We need to make sure our young people are deeply rooted in truth, for they will face many challenges to their faith in their school classrooms. One survey shows that 66% of denominational young people lose their faith by the time they graduate from college. Some professors have plainly stated their intent is to destroy the faith of any of their students who are so ignorant as to believe in God. Consider the following statement:

"We try to arrange things so that students who enter as bigoted, homophobic, religious fundamentalists will leave college with views more like our own... We are going to go right on trying to discredit you (fundamentalist parents) in the eyes of your children, trying to strip your fundamentalist religious community of dignity, trying to make your views seem silly rather than discussable. We are not so inclusivist as to tolerate intolerance such as yours." [Prof. Richard Rorty, in essay "Universality and Truth"].

This philosophy is spreading in our nation, and is prevalent in our institutions of higher learning. This makes it imperative for both parents and churches to teach God's word to our children, so that they may be planted firmly with deep roots. And parents cannot just leave it up to "Sunday School" to teach their children. Would we expect our children to get a good education by going to school just two or three hours a week? Obviously not! God knew the necessity for parental involvement long, long ago.

"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Paul wrote to the church at Colossae: "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ" (Colossians 2:6-8).

Paul expressed his desire for the Ephesian Christians "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love ..." (Ephesians 3:17).

Without deep roots, we are destined to become "tumbleweed Christians."



This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6.19-20

Everyone has an anchor.

The only question is, how well does it hold? If your soul is anchored to your money, what will you do when the money runs out?

If your soul is anchored in your career, what will you do when you are fired? If your soul is anchored in your happiness, what will you do when hard times come?

If you put your anchor in the sand, it will never hold. You need a place for your anchor to rest so it can't be moved. That's why we need to "drop anchor" in the Lord Jesus Christ. There it will never move, slip, fail or give way. It is an anchor firm and fast.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Anita Wheeler | Theresa Tucker      |
| Dale Adcock   | Loretta Warner      |
| Bobbie Adcock | Doris Lovell        |
| Sutton Smith  | Damien Powers       |
| Ann Bush      | Myrtle Ruth Barnett |

### Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Janice Cagle     | Jeanette Weir       |
| Patsy Thomas     | Ella Melvin         |
| Marvin Putman    | Paul Hasting        |
| Cornelia Pepper  | Al Pollard          |
| Charles Burns    | Ava Brooke Campbell |
| Cindy Glass      | Una King Currier    |
| Susan Cox        | Wayne Gooch         |
| Gene Carpenter   | Cindy Walker        |
| Wayne Wooldridge | Phillip Harwell     |
| Linda Ordonez    |                     |

### In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

*Dean Holt*; Huntsville Hospital rm 476  
*Adam Strickland*; Providence Med. Center – Anchorage  
*Norman Hamm*; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

### Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Valeria Dalton, 7 |                      |
| Mattye Murray, 2  | Dorothy Draper, 73   |
| Joyce Martin, 63  | Christine Hudson, 77 |
| Evelyn Hogan, 36  |                      |

### Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at City Center, Decatur  
 Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor  
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison  
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle  
 Irene Inman, at home  
 Bettye Harrison, Traditions Assisted Living rm 125  
 Virginia Meyer, Traditions Assisted Living  
 Stan Stanford, at home  
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

**UPDATES:**

*Lucille Craig* passed from this life this past week. She was buried Wednesday...*Jane Meredith* is in Madison Hospital suffering with pneumonia...*Dean Holt* has been moved to room 476 of Huntsville Hospital...*Donna Wright* received a good report following her scans and tests....*Paul Adcock* continues to improve at home....*Paul Hastings* is undergoing dialysis treatments at home

**WORKGROUPS:** **Work Group Two** will be meeting after our evening service. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group tonight.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** *Colby Phillips* will be speaking this afternoon

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance for the week of Dec 2nd*

|            |                       |     |
|------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Sunday:    | Bible Classes .....   | 136 |
|            | Morning Worship ..... | 177 |
|            | Evening Worship ..... | 134 |
| Wednesday: |                       |     |
|            | Bible Classes .....   | 94  |

**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*
- Come Join Us As We Study Together*



**Men Privileged To Serve:**

*Sunday, December 9th:*

*Morning Worship*

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Announcements.....   | Terry Andrews                   |
| Song Leader .....    | Tommy Burns                     |
| Prayer.....          | Landon Adams                    |
| Preaching.....       | Buc Chumbley                    |
| Lord's Supper        |                                 |
| Presiding.....       | Larry Holt                      |
| Assisting.....       | Mike Ogles                      |
| Serving .....        | Keenon Currier... Will Chumbley |
| .....                | David Terry..... Tony Thomas    |
| Closing Prayer ..... | Harold Ash                      |

*Evening Worship*

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Announcements.....  | Terry Andrews  |
| Song Leader .....   | Tyler Cox      |
| Prayer.....         | Harvey Nixon   |
| Preaching.....      | Colby Phillops |
| Lord's Supper ..... | Larry Holt     |
| Closing Prayer..... | Tommy Coblentz |

Other Assignments for the week of December 9th:

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ushers.....            | Danny Johnson... Hunter Cox |
| Work Sound System..... | Marty R. Adams              |

*Wednesday, December 12th:*

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Song Leader .....    | Marty R. Adams   |
| Bible Reading .....  | Joy Warner       |
| .....                | Mark 11.1-11     |
| Prayer.....          | Jerry McGlocklin |
| Invitation.....      | Albert Haraway   |
| Closing Prayer ..... | Arvid McGuire    |
| Usher.....           | Keith Hinkle     |

*Sunday, December 16th:*

*Morning Worship*

|                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Announcements.....   | Steve Usery                       |
| Song Leader .....    | Hunter Cox                        |
| Prayer.....          | Marcus Morris                     |
| Preaching.....       | Buc Chumbley                      |
| Lord's Supper        |                                   |
| Presiding.....       | Tommy Coblentz                    |
| Assisting .....      | Joel Hamm                         |
| Serving.....         | Kenneth Adams... Heath Dollar     |
| .....                | Russ Wulfekuhl... Christian Usery |
| Closing Prayer ..... | Roger Hammonds                    |

*Evening Worship*

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Announcements.....   | Steve Usery    |
| Song Leader .....    | Tony Thomas    |
| Prayer.....          | Keith Hinkle   |
| Preaching.....       | David Cox      |
| Lord's Supper .....  | Tommy Coblentz |
| Closing Prayer ..... | Wayne Vaughn   |

Other Assignments for the week of December 16th

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ushers.....            | Danny Holt/Danny Johnson |
| Work Sound System..... | Will Chumbley            |