

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 XI

April 21, 2019

No. 16

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) 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

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

Beginning Today

GOSPEL MEETING

April 21 – 24

Sunday:

9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday — Wednesday:

7:00 p.m.

Evangelist — John Gibson

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA**

Competition For The Mind

Dee Bowman

In Ephesians 4:26-27, Paul commanded, *“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil.”*

This passage is variously translated. Phillips renders it, “Don't give the devil that sort of foothold. Good-speed's translation says, “You must not give the devil a chance.” The Twentieth Century New Testament gives it, “And give no opportunity to the Devil.” The thought in all of these is the same: mainly, don't give the Devil residency in your mind.

Someone has said, “you can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair.” In the same way, you can't keep the Devil from making periodic trips through your mind; but you don't have to give him a place to stay.

In this age there is a constant bombardment of the mind by the Devil. He is seeking a place to stay. And one of the ways he does it is by advertising. Our society is addicted to it. Its influence in our lives is astounding.

This competition for the mind is relentless and indefatigable, just as the means is subtle and effective. Secularism is disguised as success; materialism wears the mask of excellence; free love is passed off as freedom of the human expression. The result is indifference toward God.

Those who give over to this cunningly devised plan will find it hard to leave. Once they enter this world of “let me do it my way,” they quickly become so mired that only the strongest will can divorce them from their predicament. The appetite for such loose activities cannot be satisfied and calls for an ever-deepening, always increasing evil just to top the last “satisfaction” enjoyed.

Such careless subscription to the devil's ploys results in disaster. The giving of oneself to a life without restraint results in a cluttered, undisciplined mind, one difficult to penetrate and often without much feeling for others. Such thinking dampens the spirit of purpose, causes its adherent to be tentative in his plans, temporary in his judgment. It restrains the inclination to grow—intellectually, spiritually, or any other way. It is short-sighted, foolish to listen to promises of the sort we see everywhere displayed by our adversary.

Three things stand out to me as necessary to guard

against the Devil's efforts to capture the mind.

Make sure your focus is right. Where are you looking? In what direction are you headed? Like Paul, we must “...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). The Hebrew writer said of Jesus, “...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...” (Hebrews 12:2). We need to set before us a focus toward heaven.

Develop a determination toward self-regulation. Paul said it was necessary: “But I keep under (“buffet,” ASV) my body and bring it into subjection: that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (1 Corinthians 9:26-27). A life not properly managed vacillates, is tentative, not fixed on course. It's headed toward sure destruction.

Return to regular associations with truth. It is just so that we are influenced by our companions. When we tolerate associations with the Devil, we are just more apt to become like him. “Be not deceived; evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Corinthians 15:33). But when you are in constant contact with the truth, it will be the pervading influence in your life. Truth frees!

There is a battle raging — a serious, eternal-life-threatening battle. It's a personal battle. We can lose it if we are not careful. The mind is the battle ground for the conflict. Be very careful, won't you?

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



Speak Lord, Your Servant Hears

David Thomley

“Young man! Do you hear what I am saying to you?” Those words still strike terror in the heart. We vividly remember the tone of voice, the stern expression, and the pointed finger of our parents as they demanded an acknowledgment that their words had been understood. Actually, our parents wanted more than a mere affirmation that we heard them — our parents wanted to know that we would obey them. “Speak LORD, for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:9). The aged Eli advises young Samuel of the proper response to the Word of God. One of the essential characteristics of the Lord's servant is that he

hears the words of his Master. Jesus reminded the Jews that it is absurd to speak in terms of Master and servant if, in fact, the servant has no intention of obeying the voice of His Lord (Luke 6:46).

Hearers Are Doers

The biblical concept of hearing the Word of the Lord involves more than the response of the human auricular nerve to divine auditory stimuli. Passive listening is deceptive and deadly for a Christian. This is the habitual exercise of those who regularly sit on pews and hear sermons, but have absolutely no intention of changing their lives. Years of listening and not responding causes the heart to become callous. At the conclusion of the great Sermon, Jesus warned His audience of the folly of hearing His words and subsequently failing to do them (Matthew 7:24-27). Later, James would insist that Christians be doers of the Word, and not hearers only (James 1:22). The sincere Christian approaches his study of the Word with a heart that has already determined to obey whatever truth is discerned.

I'm Busy Now Try Me Later

Can you imagine a master calling for his servant, only to have his servant respond by calling back, "Wait a few minutes, man! I'm on the phone right now." How absurd! Or can you imagine a servant saying to His master, "Excuse me, but would you go over those instructions again. I had my mind on something else while you were talking just now." It would never happen. Yet, too many Christians will sit through a Bible class or a sermon while their minds churn with secular and mundane thoughts. Unless the mind is engaged, the ears are wasting time. Let's stop deceiving ourselves about the most serious distractions in the assembly. Overcrowded schedules and cluttered minds ruin far more worship services than crying babies or whispering children. The most priceless information ever given to man is the Word of God. How foolish we are when we regularly give more time and attention to CNN and USA Today!

Attendance and Spirituality

It is true that church attendance is not the only factor by which the spirituality of a Christian might be measured. But brethren, let's not pretend that one's willingness (may we say "eagerness") to participate in the collective worship is inconsequential (Hebrews 10:24-25). Our church buildings and furnishings are becoming increasingly commodious and plush to accommodate the most delicate among us, yet far too many congregations are struggling with significant attendance problems on

Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. There was a time, not so long ago, when Christians would drive to another city or town to attend a gospel meeting or Bible lectures. As we approach the turn of the century, many churches are struggling just to get their own members to show up. Aside from all the explanation about changing lifestyles and extenuating circumstances, the bottom line is that too many Christians are no longer "hungering and thirsting" for the Word (Matthew 5:6; 1 Peter 2:2).

He Who Has Ears To Hear

Often when Jesus was teaching, He said, "He who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Those who heard were blessed. Those who ignored His teaching were condemned. Too many of us, like Martha (Luke 9:39ff), are cluttering our lives with things that are not sinful, but neither are they necessary. Blessed are those who, like Mary, consistently choose the one thing that is needful!

~via *The Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	JoAnn Gilbert
Loretta Warner	Doris Lovell
Bobbie Adcock	Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Robert Beasley	Jeanette Weir
Cornelia Pepper	Pat Wulfekuhl
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Kenneth Fisher
Una King Currier	Matt Poff
Susan Cox	Gene Carpenter
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Wayne Wooldridge	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Brittany Bates Carter; M. D. Anderson – Houston, Texas
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Leonard Clines, 99	Valeria Dalton, 7
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, 77
Evelyn Hogan, 36	Dorothy Draper, 73

