

# 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. 22

## *What Causes Unbelief?*

**John M. Duvall**

Unbelief is a great threat to the spiritual life of every person. Jesus warned the Jews, saying, "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). Unbelief causes spiritual separation from God, a separation which will become eternal if a person chooses not to believe in Jesus Christ.

Let us give thought to several causes of unbelief, beginning with ignorance. There are many people who do not believe in Jesus because they have not heard the word. While one may consider ignorance as an excuse, God does not. The apostle Paul wrote, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent," (Acts 17:30). The only way to remove ignorance is to study God's word. The apostle Paul wrote, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). However, the opposite of this verse is just as true. If a person does not hear the word of God, then there will be no possibility of that person believing in God.

Another cause of unbelief is a lack of conviction. There are many people who hear the word of God, but who are neither convicted nor persuaded by the evidence found within God's word. Simply put, they choose not to believe. While such unbelief is disappointing, it is not surprising. The apostle Paul referenced those who did not believe when he wrote, "For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar . . ." (Romans 3:3-4). It is possible for a person to see the evidence found within God's word, yet not be convicted by that evidence. There may be various factors which hinder a person from believing the Word of God, such as previous religious teachings, preconceived ideas regarding the Bible, a lack of interest in spiritual matters, family influences, worldly influences, etc. Consider the example of Felix who said to Paul, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you" (Acts 24:25). While Felix was afraid of what Paul was saying, he was not willing to believe and accept the Word of God.

The wisdom of the world also serves as a cause of unbelief. Despite

### 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 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

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### MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Market Street church.*

*David A. Cox, Editor*

the number of people who choose not to believe in Jesus Christ, many people have been convicted by the Truth of God's word. In order to remain faithful to the Lord, a Christian's conviction must remain strong. This strength of faith or conviction continues to build as one studies God's word. However, if we allow ourselves to listen to the wisdom of man, if we allow ourselves to believe man's ideas over God's truth, then we will begin to have doubts regarding that which God's word teaches.

As Christians, we must always keep in mind the greatness of God's wisdom. The apostle Paul wrote, "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness'; and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile'" (1 Corinthians 3:18-20). No matter how "brilliant" man's theories and speculations may appear, in the end, they are foolishness before God.

Listening to the deceitfulness of sin can likewise lead to unbelief within a Christian's life. The writer of Hebrews wrote, "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:12-13). When we listen to the deceitful story of sin, we may be tempted to believe what sin is telling us. Much like Eve who listened to the lies of Satan (Genesis 3:1-6), we too can be tricked by the lies of sin. If we follow sin's deceptive ways, then we will allow an evil heart of unbelief to grow within our lives.

I am certain there are other potential causes of unbelief within a person's life. However, the decision to believe or not to believe or the decision to remain faithful or become unfaithful falls upon the responsibility of every person. If you are a Christian, then give due diligence to faithfully studying God's word. Do not be convinced by the wisdom of man or tricked by the deceitfulness of sin. Continue to live your life, walking by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and avoid all causes of unbelief.

~via *In Remembrance*, Edmond, Oklahoma.

## Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

## Correct Me, O Lord

Grady Huggins

*"I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps"* (Jeremiah 10:23).

We are simply not capable of navigating our own way through life. God is the potter, we are the clay, and we desperately need Him to mold us (Jeremiah 18:1-6). Trying to take control of our own lives has just ruined the original beauty that God had envisioned for us. "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..." (Isaiah 53:6). God had a safe path plotted out for us, but we refused to listen to His guidance. We have rejected the narrow way for an easier road of our own devising. With the world cheering us on all around, we rush headlong toward destruction (Matthew 7:13-14).

Yet, trusting our own instincts we are often blissfully unaware of the danger we are in. "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death!" (Proverbs 14:12). We convince ourselves that we have it all under control. Stop and ask for directions? Never! In our certainty we forget the warning of Jeremiah. "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Is it possible that our heart is deceiving us? Is it possible that we are mistaken? Maybe we don't have it all figured out and under control. Maybe we need help.

Recognizing we cannot direct our own steps, we must cry out with the prayer of Jeremiah: "Correct me, O LORD, but with justice; not with Your anger, or You will bring me to nothing" (Jeremiah 10:24). Yes, we need correction. We need God to show us where we are deceiving ourselves. With His help we can stop covering up and minimizing our faults. We can rather expose and address them.

This process is not quick and painless. It is very difficult to see ourselves the way God sees us and constantly grapple with our insufficiencies. Yet, this struggle is exactly what we should expect traveling along the narrow way. And we can find comfort in God's grace. He does not correct us in anger, but in love. He is always there to pick us up when we fall and strengthen us to press on to higher ground. Though we continually fall short of His perfect character, He has made a way for us to bridge the gap through Jesus (Romans 3:23-24).

The important thing is that we never harden our

heart to His correction. It's when we are most at ease in our faith that we are most at danger (1 Corinthians 10:13). We must allow God's word to function as a mirror, showing us what corrections need to be made (James 1:23-25). We must allow it to function as a scalpel, opening up the innermost thoughts of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12). Like Jeremiah, we must pray for and welcome God's correction at all times, because there is no doubt we need it.

~via *Kirkwood Bulletin*; Kirkwood, Missouri.



## *Reflections In the Mirror*

**Kristopher Sanders**

The mirror is considered to be one of the greatest inventions ever. While its uses are many, the primary use or function is to aid a person in seeing their physical reflection. Whatever stands before it is reflected, nothing more or less. In the physical sense it's the ultimate revealer. I was out and about the other day and noticed mirrors everywhere. I then began to realize how convenient it is for people to stop and make immediate fixes to their appearance by simply taking the time to review their reflection in a mirror. While the mirror's convenience is great, the one function that has eluded it, is its ability to reveal the inner workings of a person's heart.

The Bible records in Hebrews 4:12-13 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account". For the Christian our mirror is the word of God, and while a physical mirror reveals what the outward man looks like, the spiritual mirror, the word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of every heart.

In God's mirror we can see a true reflection of who we are because we are completely exposed. One mirror feeds the outer man while the other feeds the inner man. Church family let us continue to stay in the word of God and be doers of his word by making corrections or adjustments when needed. "For if anyone is a hearer

of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like" (James 1:23-24). Amen

~via *Eastland Bulletin*; Louisville, Kentucky.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

Peggy Pepper	Nancy Abernathy
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Bobbie Adcock
Ann Bush	Nathan Craig

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

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

### ***In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:***

*Elease Barksdale*; Crestwood Hosp.

*Malcom Gordon*; Spain Rehab. Hospital – Birmingham

*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

### ***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

Bettye Harrison, Traditions

Irene Inman, at home

Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison

Stan Stanford, at home

William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

**Updates:**

**Jennifer Threet** had a heart procedure done on Wednesday and they determined to address her heart issues with medication. ... **Ross Melvin** is going to the doctor on Tuesday to discuss his heart valve replacement surgery ... **Bob Broadus** had a procedure on an abscess on his foot this past Tuesday. ... **Jewel Dean Kennamer's granddaughter, Brittany Bates Carter** has completed the weeks of treatments in Houston, Texas, but will continue treatments in Huntsville over the next 9 months.

**OUTOFTOWN:** **Steve Bradley** is in Houston, Texas. ... **Joe Hinkle** is in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this weekend. ... **The Tuckers:** **Larry and Theresa** are in Kansas helping Tyler get settled in for his residency.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **Hickory Heights church** in Lewisburg, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today. It will continue through Friday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be **Steve Wolfgang of Downers' Grove, Illinois.**

**PICTURES:** We are in the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing.

**MEN'S BIBLE CLASS:** It was announced last Sunday that we are looking at starting a men's Bible class. We are wanting to see the interest in the class. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the west wing. If you are interested in the class, please sign the sheet.

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS:** Meets each the first Monday of the month will not be meeting during the summer months and will resume in the fall.

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

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance for the week of May 26th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes .....	145
	Morning Worship .....	188
	Evening Worship .....	142
Wednesday:	Bible Classes .....	118

## Vacation Bible School

June 10-13, 2019 -- 10:00 a.m.

**MARKET STREET  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## Men Privileged To Serve:

**Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Tommy Coblenz  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer..... Harold Ash  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon  
Assisting ..... Terry Andrews  
Serving ..... Landon Adams..... Heath Dollar  
..... Russ Wulfekuhl ..... Charles Vaughn  
Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Tommy Coblenz  
Song Leader ..... Griffin Holt  
Prayer..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Harvey Nixon  
Closing Prayer ..... Marty Adams

Other Assignments for the week of June 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Marvin Putman  
Work Sound System..... Will Chumbley

**Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:**

Song Leader ..... Larry Holt  
Bible Reading ..... Keenon Currier  
..... Philippians 1:1-11  
Prayer..... Dan Reed  
Invitation ..... Albert Haraway  
Closing Prayer ..... Steve Usery

**Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Assisting ..... Steve Usery  
Serving ..... Griffin Holt ..... Sam Gregory  
..... Heath Dollar ..... Kenneth Adams  
Closing Prayer ..... Keenon Currier

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Tony Thomas  
Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Closing Prayer ..... Danny Holt

Other Assignments for the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers..... Christian Usery/Marcus Morris  
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams