

# 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. 26

## *Test It and Test It Again*

**Bryan Loughmiller**

### 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

### Evangelist

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  
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Market Street church.*

*David A. Cox, Editor*

In laboratories around the world scientists test their scientific theories to prove that they are in fact true. They test them and then test them again. The same experiment will be run several times to verify that the results are indeed correct. Sometimes the test proves their theories to be false and then there is the occasion that the test will prove them true. The scientist cannot afford to assume that what he believes to be a scientific truth is true unless it can pass the "acid test."

The same thing should be true of those who profess to be Christians. Do you "Test all things, hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21)? The acid test to preaching and teaching of the gospel is to test it against what the word of God declares. The Christians in Berea were considered to be more "fair-minded than those in Thessalonica" because they searched the scriptures to see if what had been taught could withstand the scrutiny of the scriptures (Acts 17:10-11).

The reason for testing the teaching from the pulpit or the bible class is that men preach and men are not infallible. Any preacher or teacher worth his salt will welcome the testing of their teaching by a brother or sister who opens their bible and tests the message received against the inspired word of God. We should always respond to biblical questions with "The scripture says" and not with "well old brother preacher says" or "in my opinion." If this is our approach to God's word then we should heed the words of Animal Planets Crocodile Hunter "Danger, Danger, Danger" because we put ourselves in the perilous position of being led astray.

When we take the approach to religion that we blindly trust the teaching of men we open ourselves up to accepting new innovations and teachings that cannot pass the acid test of the scriptures. Paul warns the church in Colossae to "beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the basic principles of the world, not according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8). Peter warns his reader about false teachers (2 Peter 2:1-ff). Paul speaks of a gospel that caused people to turn away from God (Galatians 1:6-10). John warns that if men do not hold fast to the doctrine of Christ

they “do not have God” (2 John 9-10). These warnings should be sufficient for the child of God to understand the necessity of testing all things. Not every person is going to try to deceive you into believing a lie but because they are mere men you still need to test their teaching to be sure that they are speaking “the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11).

We must always approach the preaching of the gospel with open eyes, open ears, open hearts and most important with open bibles. Our desire should be to hear “the things which are proper for sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1) so that our souls remain spiritually healthy. Therefore, test the teaching, if it passes God’s test then hold fast to what is good.

~via *Think On These Things*, Fort Smith, Arkansas.



## *Emotional Investment*

**Jim Jonas**

Someone was recently commenting on a television series they had been watching. They were disappointed in the season ending and said, “Thanks a lot; after all the emotional investment I made in the characters and story, this is how it ended.” We’ve probably all been frustrated with a TV show when they’ve killed off a character or surprised us with “to be continued” at the end of an episode. Or, to the contrary, we get so attached to a show that we don’t want to miss an installment, we discuss it with others or become inspired by it. Who did not pretend to be Superman or Wonder Woman or the Lone Ranger when they were little?

But here’s the question: How can we become so moved by fiction, something that is not even real? Answer: As noted above, we become emotionally invested in the story and characters. Though fictional, we have identified with them on some level and have become “wrapped up” in them. This shows the power of human emotions. These emotions can be tapped into by forces that seek to manipulate us, or they can drain us of precious time and mental focus.

We choose what we will be emotionally invested in, and that investment can be very powerful. Last week it was noted that Bill Buckner died. If you are not a baseball fan, Buckner was a talented player who became infamous for one major blunder in the 1986 World

Series: a ground ball bounced between his legs in the 10th inning of Game 6, keeping the NY Mets alive in the Series. They won it all in Game 7.

But here’s the kicker: the Boston Red Sox fans were so emotionally invested in their team that they hated Buckner for his mishap. Things got so bad that he had to move his family out west to escape the vitriol, hate mail and death threats. Buckner never lived down his error, partially due to TV news and documentaries which replayed the clip thousands of times.

What have you chosen to be emotionally invested in?

Are you emotionally invested in Jesus Christ? Over and over last weekend we heard pleas to honor “those who gave it all” on Memorial Day. There is a lot of emotional investment in the military, the fallen heroes, the Gold Star families, cemeteries, memorials, etc. – all well deserved. But each child of God must make a choice to establish and retain emotional investment in Christ who has done far more for the world than war veterans.

By “emotional” I do not mean emotionalism. But we are emotional creatures, and while the basis of our relationship with Christ is belief, trust, devotion and obedience, it is not to be robotic or ritualistic. Jesus is a divine person who took on our fleshly nature and died for us. That is more than a set of facts; that is love, grace, sacrifice and service that cannot be dispassionately ignored. To be emotionally invested in Christ is to think about Him, study Him, emulate Him and long for that moment in eternity when we will see Him face to face.

Are you emotionally invested in the local church? While our knee-jerk reaction to this question might be, “Of course I am! I’ve been a member here since \_\_\_\_\_,” the real test might be in how others would answer that question for us. Is our investment evident in the fruit of our lives? Paul was not only emotionally invested in the congregation where he happened to be, he had “deep concern for all the churches” (2 Cor 11:28). He rhetorically asked, “Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?” (11:29).

Do you know your fellow members and are you able to converse with them? Do you ever call or email anyone? Are you on time to worship or chronically late? Are you financially engaged in the church’s work? Does your body language suggest you are happy to be worshiping the Lord? Do you come to class prepared to learn and possibly add to the discussion? Do you let the elders know – as they have requested – when you

will be absent from the assembly? Do you find it easy to miss services? Do you verbally support those who present lessons, lead the singing, lead prayers, etc.? Do you leave quickly after services because of discomfort in dealing with fellow Christians? Do you volunteer to do anything? These are just some of the questions we might ask ourselves as we seek to evaluate our emotional investment in the Centreville church.

**Are you emotionally invested in the lost?** While we might be wrapped up in our TV drama, there is a real drama being played out around us every day. We are surrounded by people living miserable, empty lives. They are morally adrift, intellectually confused, materialistic, narcissistic and overwhelmed by a world that doesn't really care about them. It is easy to dismiss the lost as those who are suffering the fate of their own decisions, but we are called upon to show compassion, be a light, share the truth and warn of the judgment to come.

It is hard to invest in others when they are oblivious to their own spiritual condition and hostile to our efforts to guide and motivate them spiritually. Our tendency is to pull back and protect ourselves, but genuine love for the lost will resist this. We must remain grounded and confident and our priorities must be clear so as not to be easily put off. In TV drama, all we can do is watch a story line unfold; we are totally passive. In real life, we can make a difference in someone's eternal destiny. We can help someone change their story from tragedy to triumph.

**Are you emotionally invested in your own salvation?** People do religious things for all kinds of reasons besides genuine faith toward God. And life, especially in our area, is draining and demanding (which might be a major reason we get lost in our TV dramas, movies and sports). But we must take our own salvation seriously: "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:13).

It is easy to let God and our faith slide down the priority list. Life will take over if we let it. But we are to be deliberate, self-aware, alert and dedicated to preserving our faith and nurturing it day by day. Is God getting your best or the leftovers? Do you have an energy and enthusiasm for God's people? You are the central character in your drama, and you have a hand in writing the script. Are you excited for the next episode? Are you inspired by the supporting cast around you? How does your story end?

~via *Thew Centerville Journal*, Centerville, Virginia.

## *Who Moved?*

**David Maxson**

There's an old story about a couple who had been married several years sitting at a traffic light behind a young couple who sitting close to each other in a pickup truck. The young man had his arm around his young bride who was snuggled up close to him (This is back when trucks had bench seats.)

The wife saw this young couple sitting so close and asked her husband in an accusatory tone, "Why don't we sit close like that anymore?"

The husband looked across the bench seat to his wife sitting way on the other side and replied, "Who moved?"

If I am feeling distant from... If I feel like there is something lacking in my relationship with him... If I'm getting frustrated with God because I fear He's left me or abandoned me, perhaps I need to take a hard look at myself and imagine in those moments God looking down at me and asking the same question this old man asked of his wife, "Who moved?"

~via *Eastland Bulletin*; Louisville, Kentucky.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

Bob & Gina Werka	Elise Barksdale
Peggy Pepper	Pat Nixon
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Kennedy Pepper
Bobbie Adcock	Ann Bush
Lloyd Adams	

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

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

Gene Carpenter            Wayne Wooldridge

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

*Myrtle Ruth Barnett*; Athens-Limestone Hosp, - 205  
*Norman Hamm*; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

***Athens Health & Rehabilitation:***

Deanie Britton, rm. 123    Valeria Dalton, rm. 7  
Mattie Murray, rm. 2     Eva Lovell, rm. 117  
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73    Christine Hudson, rm. 77  
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36     Randy McConnell, rm. 90

***Limestone Health Facility:***

Robert Beasley, rm. 109

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

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:***

*Donna Wright* went to her radiiation oncologist on Thursday to determine the treatemnts she will be taking... *Gina Werka* continues to be sick and is not able to be out ... *Aroid McGuire* has been diagnosed with skin cancer. He will be taking 26 radiation treatments.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *Clayton Hamm & Matthew Usery* are in Florida this week... *The Tuckers: Larry and Theresa* have been out of town on vacation.... *Jim Whitt* has been in Fort Rucker with his work... *Jim Whitt* has been in Fort Rucker with his work... *Jackie Cox* is in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma... *The Holts: Danny & Debra* are on vacation this week... *The Coxes: David & Kerry* are in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma ... *Chuck Stiles* is in the United Arab Emirates with his work.

**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.

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

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance for the week of June 23rd:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes .....	137
	Morning Worship.....	185
	Evening Worship .....	130
Wednesday:	Bible Classes .....	118

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

***Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>:***

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer..... Keith Hinkle  
Preaching..... Zack Howard  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Marty Adams  
Assisting ..... Steve Usery  
Serving ..... Charles Vaughn ..... Will Chumbley  
..... Kenneth Adams..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
Closing Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Prayer..... Landon Adams  
Preaching..... Brendon Kirby  
Lord's Supper ..... Steve Usery  
Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of June 30<sup>th</sup>:

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

***Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>:***

Song Leader ..... Tony Thomas  
Bible Reading ..... Matthew Usery  
..... Philippians 2:19-30  
Prayer..... Bill Eden  
Invitation ..... Larry Tucker  
Closing Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell

***Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>:***

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Terry Andrews  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer..... Marty Adams  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz  
Assisting ..... Marcus Morris  
Serving ..... Roger Hammonds .. Clayton Hamm  
..... Nathaniel Adams..... Matthew Usery  
Closing Prayer ..... Danny Holt

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Terry Andrews  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Tommy Coblentz  
Closing Prayer ..... Bill Eden

Other Assignments for the week of July 7<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Danny Johnson  
Work Sound System..... Will Chumbley