

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
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No. 39

Where Is My Head Today?

Lenny Chapman

It seems that no matter the age, people are very busy today. Because of this self-made situation, many find themselves fighting the battle of staying focused on the important things. Let us first establish that being busy is not a bad thing at all. Actually we can find teaching in the Bible that supports the idea of staying busy, *"And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not"* (1 Timothy 5:13). *"In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty"* (Proverbs 14:23), *"Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger"* (Proverbs 19:15).

So how does one stay focused on the important things, while juggling so many others?

First, one must take time to identify the "important" things. This may sound easy; however, this is not always an easy task. So many people define their goals and priorities very vaguely and not too well thought out. For someone to accomplish a goal successfully they must make a strategic plan and stay determined until the goal is accomplished. This takes attention, determination, and focus.

As it should be, many who have committed their life to the Lord would quickly answer that they have made a home in Heaven their number one priority. However, the decisions they make and the way they actually live may not show it to be a top priority. It is written, that those following Christ must *"lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls"* (Hebrews 12:1-3). Yes, this is a race, possibly a very long race. We have been instructed to eliminate anything that may hinder us from finishing the race. In the way the apostle Paul describes the race to the Corinthians we can see the importance and urgency that is needed to accomplish the

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 a(256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

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David A. Cox, Editor

goal. “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it” (1Corinthians 9:24).

Jesus also had much to say about the urgency and focus needed to achieve the goal. In one teaching moment He said the following, “Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13:35-37). As we can see, Jesus directs all that desire to follow Him need to prepare now. He stresses that procrastination is a bad idea. He points out that one needs a sense of urgency, and He says that this must be the top focus and priority one has.

All who want to inherit the kingdom must take the time to meditate (focus) on what is above and not what is here below (Philippians 4:8). How can anyone who seriously wants to have a home in Heaven not have this goal on the mind each and every day? This means to set time aside to work at it each day. What is interpreted when one reads the following scripture, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37)? Hopefully, the clear message is that it will take more than just saying, “I want to go to Heaven.” Hopefully, the message is clear that it takes a daily commitment which will include, time, energy, focus, and urgency.

Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). He has directed us to follow the Father’s words, commit ourselves to a life of faithfulness and godly living. He has urged all to do these things now, before it is everlastingly too late.

With these things in mind, we should be asking ourselves several times a day, “Where is my head today?” This alone will help to keep the number one goal (a home in Heaven) in the forefront of the mind where it needs to reside at all times. Every decision should be made considering this goal. If a choice draws one further from the goal, it is not worth doing. Decisions should be made to get one closer to the ultimate goal. For it is written, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” (Mark 8:36).

~via *Happy Hill Bulletin*; South Chesterfield, Virginia.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

What’s the Point of Miracles?

Perry Hall

“Points of Orientation” are positions from which other positions develop. For example, if you believe miracles are impossible, then automatically all “prophecies” occurred after the fact.

I heard a preacher state concerning a miracle of Jesus, “He first miraculously solved a social ill, and then taught the gospel.” The implication was, “the church needs to solve social ills as Jesus did, and then preach the gospel.” Is that why Jesus performed miracles? Did Jesus heal to cure social maladies?

There is no denying Jesus felt compassion which is why He healed (Matthew 14:13-14). Compassion was the cause, the starting point emotionally, but not the theological end. These are reasons Jesus demonstrated the divine powers:

1. Healing established His authority (i.e., confirmed the word) (John 3:2; Hebrews 2:3-4).
2. Miracles were a physical manifestation of spiritual salvation by faith (same word used for both – sozo) (Matthew 9:22).
3. Signs foreshadowed new creation, the physical reversal of the curses of Genesis 3 (John 2,11).
4. Casting our demons demonstrated His kingly power over the devil’s realm (Mark 1:7-13).

If Jesus came to solve social ills, then why didn’t he go around giving money to the poor, building schools, and hospitals? Now don’t get me wrong, sharing as individuals is an outgrowth of loving God and our neighbors; and we can’t practice pure religion without helping the outcasts of society. However, that doesn’t appear to be the purpose of miracles.

Consider this:

1. Jesus established His authority, and once established it does not need confirmation again. That purpose for miracles has ceased.
2. Jesus demonstrated His power to heal and forgive already. That purpose for miracles has ceased.
3. Jesus brought in new creation and we are part. That purpose for miracles has ceased.
4. Jesus defeated Satan and is sitting on the throne. That purpose for miracles has ceased.

However, social ills such as poverty, sicknesses, and such are still with us – “the poor you will always have with you” (Matthew 26:11). If Jesus performed miracles to solve society’s problems, then don’t we still need the ability to perform miracles today? And yet, we can’t. So... maybe Jesus didn’t “first miraculously solved a social ill”. Maybe miracles were pointing to something higher, a different point of orientation, that Jesus is Lord, Savior, Creator, and King.

~via *Winston Salem Bulletin*, Winston Salem, North Carolina.



But Abel Is Dead

Joe Hickman

In Genesis 4 we read about Cain and Abel, two sons of Adam and Eve. After just a few verses of the chapter Abel dies but Cain lives on to have a wife and progeny and to build a city. So Cain is the more successful of the two brothers, right?

Anyone familiar with the Biblical record about these two men knows that Cain’s outliving Abel does not mean that Cain was better off than Abel. For one thing, Cain also died in time, so longer physical life is not endless life.

Recollections of Cain tell of his having murdered his brother and the curse that he bore as a result of his sin and lack of contrition (Genesis 4; 1 John 3:12; see also Jude 11). Cain remains through thousands of years an example of unrighteousness and impenitence.

Abel on the other hand is recalled among the faithful (Hebrews 11:4). Cain outlived Abel and had more experiences on earth, but that has very little meaning when all is said and done. Jesus said, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

We may live a long life or a short life on earth, but what matters is whether we live by faith in God. That type of life requires that we learn His word and surrender to its message.

~via *Asheville Bulletin*; Asheville, North Carolina.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Loretta Warner	JoAnn Gilbert
Bobbie Adcock	Doris Lovell
Sue Taylor	Ann Bush
Lloyd Adams	Yvonne Strickland

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Phillip Harwell	Una King Carrier
Matt Poff	Gene Carpenter
Brittany Bates Carter	Denny Smith

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Dwaine Allfrey; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 496
Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Alvis McLemore, rm. 107	Flossie Smith, rm. 120
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Brenda Wilson, rm. 73
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Ann Bush, no visitors	

Limestone Health Facility:

Robert Beasley, rm. 110 Mot Beasley, rm. 110

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 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 is to begin her immuni-therapy on Tuesday and will continue every other week for a year...***Larry Mitchell*** has three blockages that will require surgery. He is awaiting an appointment with a neurologist before scheduling surgery.

BENEVOLENCE TO THE BAHAMAS: As the elders had announced to the church here, today's contribution in its entirety will be sent to the church in Nassau, Bahamas. This money will help to relieve the brethren there in the financial burdens due to the devastation of hurricane Dorian.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class*, met this past Monday evening and the next meeting will be *October 14th* at 7:00 in the East Auditorium. We will be studying "*Eternity and Today*."

LADIES' BIBLE CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* will meet on *October 7th* at *Ida Nell Griffin's* house. They will be studying lesson 8 in "*Lord, Teach Us To Pray*."

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning will begin meeting the first Tuesday in October in the West Auditorium. On the second Tuesday morning of the month the class meets at the Limestone Manor.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate *Landon Adams* and *Lynsey Harbin* on their marriage on Friday evening. We wish the very best for them as they begin their lives together. May the Lord bless them.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend out deepest sympathy to *Harvey Nixon* and *all the family* in the passing of Harvey's sister, *Betty Bradley*, last week in Arkansas. The funeral was last week in Arkansas.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college:
Keenon Currier, Auburn University
Clayton Hamm, University of North Alabama
Griffin Holt, University of Alabama
Elizabeth Usery, Mississippi State University
Matthew Usery, University of North Alabama

OUT OF TOWN: *Tena Wells* was in Nashville, Tennessee a few days this week. *The Ashes: Harold and Barbara* have been in Plainfield, Indiana visiting with family. *The Nixons: Harvey & Pat* have been in Arkansas this past week for the funeral of Harvey's sister. *Joe Hinkle* is in Florida visiting with family. *Marilyn Bradley* is in Houston, Texas.

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

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Sept. 22nd:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	140
	Morning Worship	174
	Evening Worship	131
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	105

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Russell Melvin
Assisting	Larry Tucker
Serving	Will Chumbley....Matthew Vaughn
.....	Clayton HammMatthew Usery
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Preaching.....	A. J. Price
Lord's Supper	Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer	Keith Hinkle

Other Assignments for the week of September 29th:

Ushers.....	Marvin Putman/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, October 2nd:

Song Leader	Marty Adams
Bible Reading	Russ Wulfekuhl
.....	Philemon 1:17-25
Prayer.....	Russell Melvin
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Tony Thomas

Sunday, October 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblenz
Preaching.....	Albert Haraway
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Albert Haraway
Serving	Heath Dollar Roger Hammonds
.....	Sam Gregory Harold Davis
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Kenneth Adams
Preaching.....	
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Larry Holt

Other Assignments for the week of October 6th:

Ushers.....	Keith Hinkle/Steve Bradley
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams