

# MARKET STREET



*"And this 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

### 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

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847  
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050  
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

#### Deacons

Marty Adams .....(256) 233-5147  
Rusty Brand .....(256) 233-7343  
Tim Craig .....(256) 233-4597  
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223  
Bobby McGuire .....(256) 232-7887  
Frank Noblitt .....(256) 777-0725  
Stuart Wilson .....(256) 233-6291

#### Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910  
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net  
Warren Glass.....(256) 233-6086

#### Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.org

### 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*

Volume I

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## *The Importance of Biblical Faith*

**David A. Cox**

The Hebrew writer says, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). We see here the necessity of faith if we are going to please God. The value of faith cannot be over estimated. If we are concerned at all about pleasing God, faith is a basic foundational element upon which we must please Him. Since faith is so important to our pleasing God then we must ask, "Does everything man calls faith pleasing and acceptable to God?" The answer is simply, "no." In the world in which we live it is not uncommon for peoples' concept of faith to be just the idea of mental assent. This is the kind of faith that James was speaking of when he said, "Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble, but thou know, O vain men, that faith without works is dead" (James 2:19-20). Surely, all understand that the faith the devils had will not save, but what kind of faith will please God?

We learn two things about the kind of faith that pleases God in Hebrews 11:6: (1). "Must believe" this is a belief, (firm conviction... trust... assurance) that God exists. (2). "Diligently seek Him" the action of seeking after God. These two elements of faith may be emphasized in different verses, but they never contradict one another. So if we are going to have a faith that pleases God it will not be just faith in His existence, but a faith that motivates us to actively seek His will. Paul, in Romans 4, speaks of one that had this kind of biblical, God-pleasing faith. His name was Abraham. God told Abraham that his descendents would become a great nation, that all nations of earth would be blessed through his family, and he would receive a promised land. Abraham by faith left his homeland and lived as a pilgrim and sojourner on this earth looking for the promised land. Abraham's faith is described as being strong, not weak and staggering. By his faith he was justified because his faith was not in just the fact that there is a God, but he diligently sought to do the will of God. In Hebrews 11, the writer reminds us of the faith of

Abraham; doing what God told him to do, even if it might have seemed by human reasoning to be wrong. His faith was strong; he sought to do what the Lord wanted to be done.

As we have seen in these passages, Biblical faith involves both belief and action. Jesus taught this in the sermon on the mount, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23). It is quite clear that those Jesus told to depart had a belief (mental assent) in God, but it was not the Biblical faith that is required to please God. Jesus described this kind of faith that pleases God as the faith that does the Father’s will or diligently seeks after Him. James also described the faith that pleases God and saves man as being an active, living, working faith and not just mental assent or “faith only” (James 2:14-24).

Let us be zealous to have the kind of faith that saves, which is the faith that comes from God’s word (Romans 10:17). More than just a feeling or an impulse, but that which is done in accordance with a “thus saith the Lord.” With that kind of faith we can rest assured that we have a faith that pleases God. Anything short of that will cause disappointment and grief (Matthew 7:22-23; 25:41-46).



## ***Fogetting the Past***

**Edwin Crozier**

If you have seen charts tracking the trends of the stock market, you have seen a picture of my spiritual life, filled with peaks and valleys. Sometimes you see major victories, marked by spiking spiritual highs. Sometimes you see dark defeats, marked by dire dips. Mostly you see days of slight progress and days of minor setbacks. I like to think that when you zoom out to see the big

picture, the general trend is up.

This picture demonstrates one of the greatest obstacles I have to spiritual progress. Philippians 3:13-14 provides the solution I must constantly apply to my life. “But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal...” (ESV). Too often I am so distracted by the peaks and valleys of where I have been, I forget I am going somewhere.

Sometimes I struggle because I cannot get my numerous failures out of my head. I can still remember the language I used in high school and the day I let one slip in front of my dad. I remember lies and lusts. I remember times I coveted. I remember cheating on a high school Spanish test. I remember times when my dating did not maintain a high standard of purity. I remember my freshman year of college and how low it was spiritually. What distracts me even more, however, are the recent times of sin – outbursts of anger, lust, periods of pride, and so much more.

Temptation and sin are constant struggles; as we grow, we fall. However, while we must not allow Christ’s grace to give us license to sin, we must allow Christ’s grace to turn our eyes away from our sins and back to the prize for which we strive. While we must learn from our falls, that we may not repeat them, we must not so focus on them that the memory cripples us. We must forget what lies behind so we may press on for what lies ahead.

At the same time, I am not always distracted by my failings and sins. Sometimes I am too enamored with my victories and wins. I have sinned more than I wish to recount, but I have done some really good things too. I can think of sermons I have preached that were home runs. I think of the people with whom I have studied and baptized. I think of the times I have stood up in the face of persecution for the truth. I think of times I was tempted to lie and didn’t. I think of times Satan played on hard and I escaped.

It is far too easy for me to be like the star high school quarterback who, twenty years later, is still enamored with the winning touchdown pass he threw in the state championship, wishing to recapture that day of glory but never doing anything else. When we are distracted by our past successes, we find it easy to rest upon them. We find it easy to think we have done enough. Sometimes we find it easy to believe we are good enough. God

didn't ask us to grow only so far. He asked us to keep growing. Like trees by the streams of water (cf. Psalms 1:3), we either keep growing or we are dead.

We are pressing on for a prize. If we wish to attain it, we must in many ways forget where we have been so we may be free to focus on where are going.

-via *Focus Magazine*; April 2008.



## *Living In The Danger Zone*

**Tony Mauck**

As our generally ungodly society progressively worsens, it should be no surprise to see individuals who wear the name "Christian" also heading in this direction. Some have the attitude -- how close can I get to sin without sinning? Just how much can I get away with? How little can I do and be pleasing to God? Thus, being influenced by the world, they are living in the danger zone. The eternal welfare of the soul is jeopardized. May I suggest some areas where the influence of the world is great and a word of caution is needed.

(1) **Evil Companions.** Paul forewarned in 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals." The people Paul had in mind may not have been "absolute filth." Maybe his warning simply had to do with spending too much time with folks who have no redeeming spiritual qualities or Godward inclinations. Being detracted from our spiritual warfare allows Satan an opportunity to take advantage of us. He will use anything or anybody he can to accomplish his purpose. Letting others determine your behavior or do your thinking for you is quite perilous spiritually. It you're in need of some good companionship, and we all are, why not spend your time with brothers and sisters in the Lord? And most importantly for the Christian, spend time in communion with God.

(2) **Media indulgence.** The information we filter through our mind undoubtedly affects the way we think and behave. To continually fill our minds with the world's philosophy is quite harmful whether by television, radio,

movies or magazines. Seeing or hearing that which is immoral filth has no redeeming value. Also, we must be careful not to take a lighthearted or tolerant attitude toward sin when we witness it.

(3) **Immodesty.** It's hard to feel comfortable when you "stick out like a sore thumb" in a crowd, but the Christian must, if the majority does evil. Regardless of the world's standard of dress, Christians must adorn themselves in a manner which reflects the proper attitude of heart (1 Timothy 2:9-10). The sacrifice of comfort and peer acceptance is a small price to pay in glorifying God. Beware of the dangers associated with immodest dress, evil influence, lust, sexual promiscuity, etc.

(4) **"And things like these."** (cf. Galatians 5:19-21). Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, narcotics, modern forms of dance. Being engaged in these practices cannot strengthen us spiritually. They will only weaken us. Any small participation in or even too much association with these practices hurls one into the danger zone spiritually.

Beware of living in the Danger Zone! "Abstain from every form of evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

-via *South Cullman Companion*; Cullman, Alabama.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Evelyn Hays*; Hartselle Hospital

#### *At Home:*

Reba Byram	Raymond Brown
Angela Green	Jeff Waddell
Matt Poff	Tony Corsbie

#### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Mary Smith, rm. 85
Christine McGuire, rm. 57	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Lorene Bradford, rm. 117	Rosella Pugh, rm. 33
Wilton Pepper, rm. 99	

*Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

*Limestone Manor:*

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

*Shut-In:*

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.

Jimmy Killen, at home

Reba Adams, at home

Jerry Gilbert; at home

Majorie Lambert, at home

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

Cody Brown; Iraq

Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan

Joel Smith; Iraq

Whitney Smith; Japan

**ELLIS DUNNAVANT (1927 – 2009):** It is with sadness that we note the passing of *brother Ellis Dunnavant*. Brother Dunnavant has been sick for quite some time and has not been able to be at services since last November. He passed away at his home on Friday afternoon. We express our deepest sympathy to *Jo, Mary Jo* and *all the family* in the passing of brother Dunnavant. His funeral will be this afternoon at Limestone Chapel and his burial in the Athens City Cemetary.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS:** The *Westview church* in Hartselle is a beginning meeting/VBS this week and it will continue through Friday. *Alan Yeater* is the speaker in this meeting...The *East Florence church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Frank Jamerson* is the speaker in this meeting...The *Highway 157 church* in Cullman is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. The speaker will be *Jeff May*.

**HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE AGE:** This coming Saturday evening, July 25th, will be the time for another of our High School/College Age studies. We will be looking at the "*The Goodness of God*". Remember these studies and tell others about them.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance – Week of July 12th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 121  
Morning Worship ..... 154  
Evening Worship..... 115

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 109

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

*Sunday, July 19th:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements .....Jerry McGlocklin  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell  
Preaching. ....David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Assisting ..... Joel Hamm  
Serving ..... Delmer Carter..... Tim Craig  
..... Raymond Brown..... Frank Noblitt  
Closing Prayer ..... Curtis Glass

*Evening Worship*

Announcements .....Jerry McGlocklin  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Albert Bowers  
Preaching ..... Stuart Wilson  
Lord's Supper ..... Joel Hamm  
Closing Prayer ..... Steven Bradley

Other Assignments for Sunday July 19th:

Usher ..... Larry Mitchell  
Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson

*Wednesday, July 22nd:*

Song Leader ..... Marty Adams  
Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 18:1-11)  
..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
Prayer ..... Jack Cannon  
Invitation ..... Warren Glass  
Closing Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton

*Sunday, July 26th:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith  
Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
Prayer ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Preaching. ....David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Stuart Wilson  
Assisting ..... Steven Bradley  
Serving ..... Hunter Cox..... Bonnie Sutton  
..... Gilbert Hardy ..... Larry Mitchell  
Closing Prayer ..... Tyler Cox

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith  
Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Preaching ..... (Song Service)  
Lord's Supper ..... Steven Bradley  
Closing Prayer ..... Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday July 26th:

Usher ..... Danny Johnson  
Work Sound System ..... Tim Craig