

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

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

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

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757
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Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

Volume IV

January 15, 2012

No. 3

How Do I Know If I've Forgiven Someone?

Zack Lee

We have all experienced pain caused by someone that we are close to. Maybe it's been something that was said. Possible it was an action or a reaction that caused you pain. When this happens we have a choice to make. Will I extend forgiveness? Or will I harbor bitterness, resentment and anger?

As disciples of Christ we are taught to forgive those that sin against us. Jesus made some big statement about the need to forgive. He said, "whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25). He also said, For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will you Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15). Jesus not only taught forgiveness, He modeled it. While He was hanging on the cross He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Thus, forgiveness is not an option. It is a command given to us to obey. God is watching to see how we forgive.

How about you? Are you extending forgiveness to those that have hurt you? You may be saying, "Well, I think I have. I guess so. I'm not really sure?" This is serious business and we don't need to be guessing whether or not we've truly forgiven someone. So let's answer the question, "How do I know if I've forgiven someone?" We find the answer to this question in Ephesians 4:31-32 where Paul wrote, "let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

There are four things that Paul lists in this verse that will help us see if we've truly extended forgiveness.

If I've extended forgiveness damaging emotions will no longer control me.

When we harbor grudges and refuse to forgive we are controlled by emotions that eat us up on the inside. Do any of these emotions control you? Bitterness is something that cuts us up inside causing us to have a sour demeanor on the outside. Wrath is indignation that springs from unresolved issues and it is always simmering inside us. Anger is what causes us to have outbursts of rage. Clamor is a damaging emotion because it causes us to continuously talk about the hurtful matter. Slander is the words that we use that are intended to hurt. Malice is simply what causes us to have a bad heart and says, "I'm unwilling to let the hurt go." Does one or more of these emotions control you? If so, you are still harboring a grudge; it needs to be dealt with immediately.

If I've extended forgiveness, efforts to heal the relationship will be renewed.

Paul says we should "be kind to one another." This is not teaching that we only need to be kind to those we like, do nice things for us, and make us feel special. This is teaching that we should be kind, without reservation, to those that we have had to forgive. Kindness is a fruit of forgiveness. Are you willing to perform a kind act for the person who hurt you? If not, you haven't truly extended forgiveness.

If I've extended forgiveness compassion will be displayed.

"Tenderhearted" means that we will be willing to feel the pain of the person who hurt us. We will try to understand why they hurt us. Perhaps they had to deal with a difficult situation that caused them to hurt me. Tenderheartedness feels the pain of the other person. Are you showing compassion? If not, you haven't truly extended forgiveness.

If I've extended forgiveness Christ will be seen clearly.

When we forgive the way we are commanded, it will be just like the way God forgives us in Christ; just as freely, and just as fully. What if God forgave us the way we forgive sometimes? Where would we be: Is the example of Christ seen through your forgiveness? If not, you haven't truly extended forgiveness.

Who is it that has been at the front of your mind while reading this? Is it a parent? Spouse? Child? Brother or sister? Friend? Make a choice to forgive today! It

will bring tremendous blessing to your life and the lives of those around you.

~via *Manslick Road Speaker*; Louisville, Kentucky



If The Dead Could Talk

Mike Thomas

People leave this world every day. In a world of six billion in population there is likely never a moment when someone is not passing from this life. But that doesn't mean a person ceases to exist spiritually when they depart; for "surely there is a hereafter" for every soul (Proverbs 23:18). That being so, what would the dead tell us if they could talk to us?

This world is temporary. Paul made the observation that "the things which are seen are temporary" (2 Corinthians 4:18). I challenge you to find one thing seen that is not. Everything visible is temporary, even the earth and heavens (Hebrews 1:10-12). This includes every house, car, movie, document, title, deed, award, record, statistic, coin, stock, and credit score. Not only is that which is seen temporary, it ends for us the moment we depart from this life because we will never return to partake of it (Ecclesiastes 9:6). It's as "good as gone" for us when we die. Since that is so, why lose our eternal soul for that which is temporal? Why trust in things and people who are but for a moment? The dead know better than that now.

Obey the gospel. Those who have passed are fully aware of the spiritual consequences of sin (Romans 6:23). If they could speak to us, they would zealously preach on repenting of sin and being converted to the Lord (Acts 3:19). they would have no shame in telling others to be baptized into Christ (Acts 22:16; Romans 1:16). "If the dead would have such an important message, why doesn't God let them come back to warn us?" He's already done that in the resurrection of Jesus (Acts

17:30, 31). If we won't listen to Him, neither will we listen to others (Luke 16:31; Hebrews 1:2).

You're next. If your relative or friend could come back, they would plead with you to realize that your time on earth is fragile and fleeting--and it's about to be taken from you. This world is a facade that hides true reality. They know without any misunderstanding that life is "a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). They would beg you to use your time wisely in understanding God before your time is up (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

Wisdom is speaking to you, do you hear her? Will you listen to her (Acts 24:25)?

~via *Standing Firm*, Beaver Dam, Kentucky.

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Just and Determined

Dennis Carrow

The essence of the virtues of being just and determined is in doing what is right regardless of the circumstance or who is involved. However, prejudice cripples our influence. If we center our objective on those things that are spiritually right and true we will be able to overcome prejudice and injustice. Often times the pressure that rises out of "who" is involved in a particular circumstance causes us to lose sight of what is just.

The relationship that justice and determination have with one another is the consistent application of right. This is true in the work place, at school, among friends, and when working with others in a local congregation.

Determination is at the heart of our faith as we run with certainty (1 Corinthians 9:24), we run with endurance (Hebrews 12:1-2) and we finish our course (2 Timothy 4:7).

The break down in our walk of faith can come when we hold the faith of our Lord with partiality. Prejudice that can exist between races, classes, genders,

etc. is a sad testimony against many who profess faith in Christ. The unity that should exist in Christ crosses every prejudicial boundary. Justice prevails regardless of who is involved. Truth is objective, and should be consistently applied to self and toward all. This is truly a characteristic of the virtuous family.

These things also belong to the wise:

It is not good to show partiality in judgment.

Proverbs 24:23 (NKJV)

~via *What Is True?*, Little Rock, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Margaret Carter	Hazel Toone
Wynell Casteel	Gilbert Hardy
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Yvonne Sherbert	Alvis McLemore
Martha Rice	Angeta Andersen
Matt Poff	Ava Brooke Campbell
Joe & Sarah Collier	Faye Cary
Kenneth Pressnell	Gladys Sandlin
Brent Lowman	Betty Faye Holt
Larry Owens	Barbara Ogles
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Rhett Bailey	Paige Phillips

In The Hospital:

Charles Burns; Huntsville Hosp. – rm 1746
Eli Williams; St. Jude's Hospital, – Memphis, Tenn.

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 11

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 107	Mary Smith, rm. 85
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Windsor House- Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 300

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74
Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

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:

Andrew Deen; Japan
Whitney Deen; Japan

WORK GROUPS: Work Group Three will be meeting tonight after our evening service. Remember the groups have been realigned, so please check to see if this is your group. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group this evening.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: *Jesus Trevino* and his wife, *Susana*, were here this past Wednesday evening. Jesus' gave us a report of the work that he is doing in Lake Jackson, Texas, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, etc.. It was very good to see them again and to see and hear first of the good work that he is doing. We wish the very best for them in their continued work in the kingdom.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of January 8th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 139
Morning Worship 167
Evening Worship..... 112

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 104



Congregational Singing

Friday, February 24, 2012 — 7:00p.m.

Songleaders:

Jim Deason, Steve Klein & Mark White

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlockin
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Terry Andrews
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Marty Adams
..... Keenon Currier Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlockin
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Todd Williams
Preaching Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 15th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, January 18th:

Song Leader Jordan Lovell
Bible Reading (Isaiah 36:18-22)
..... Nathaniel Adams
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Invitation Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Sunday, January 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Alfrey
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marcus Morris
Assisting Stuart Wilson
Serving Will Chumbley . Brandon Griswold
..... Russ Wulfekuhl Stefan Fudge
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Alfrey
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 22nd:

Usher TBA
Work Sound System Marty Adams