

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

Volume IV

January 29, 2012

No. 5

If We Believed What They Believed

Gary Kerr

One of the reference works I usually keep close at hand when studying any part of the New Testament is the paraphrase translation of J. B. Phillips, *The New Testament in Modern English*. I don't agree with all of Phillips' suggested wording, but I often find his efforts helpful in clarifying some particular passage or point. The translation was originally produced in sections, with the first, *Letters To Young Churches* (Romans through Colossians), being published in London during World War II (it included a preface and recommendation written by C.S. Lewis).

In his introduction to that book, Phillips writes the following about the New Testament epistles and their authors and recipients:

“Without going into wearisome historical details, we need to remember that these letters were written, and the lives they indicate were led, against a background of paganism.... Slavery, sexual immorality, cruelty, callousness to human suffering, and a low standard of public opinion, were universal; traveling and communications were chancy and perilous; most people were illiterate. Many Christians today talk about the 'difficulties of our times' as though we should have to wait for better ones before the Christian religion can take root. It is heartening to remember that this faith took root and flourished amazingly in conditions that would have killed anything less vital in a matter of weeks. These early Christians were on fire with the conviction that they had become, through Christ, literally sons of God - they were pioneers of a new humanity founders of a new Kingdom. They still speak to us across the centuries. "Perhaps if we believed what they believed, we might achieve what they achieved.”

That final sentence is profound and powerful — “Perhaps if we believed what they believed, we might achieve what they achieved!”

Within a generation of the establishment of the church, the apostle Paul could write of those who carried the gospel message that “their voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of

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
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David A. Cox, Editor

the world” (Romans 10:18). Paul preached “in all the world” and that it had been “proclaimed in all creation under heaven” (Colossians 1:6, 23). This is an incredible achievement — to begin with a few comparatively unknown and uneducated people (cf. Acts 4:13), and to have a message that did not appeal to the “wise”, the “mighty,” or the “noble” according to the flesh (1 Corinthians 1:26). But they had strong faith and a seal born of that faith, that caused them to launch out boldly and sacrificially, to the point of being willing to give up their lives for the cause they had taken up. And God gave them amazing success. They were “on fire” for the kingdom, for the gospel, and for the souls of their fellow human beings, believing with all their hearts in the sacrifice and promises of Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of men. Being a Christian and going to heaven meant everything to them, and they wanted “all creation under heaven” to share with them in these blessings.

Do not be deceived into thinking that their achievements were easily accomplished. Right from the start they were opposed and persecuted. When the first of their number was martyred, such a wide spread persecution developed that all except the apostles were driven from their homes and scattered abroad (cf. Acts 8:1). But this did not slow them down or dampen their enthusiasm. Wherever they went, they were found “preaching the word” (Acts 8:4) They preached it as they had opportunity, not depending on others (i.e., preachers, elders, etc.) to do the work for them. Each Christian considered him/herself both privileged and responsible to win souls for Christ. Their cause was new--they were pioneers.

I fear that today we do not appreciate our “spiritual blessings” as they did. It is not our life as it was theirs. We are not spending and being spent for it as they were. To some degree, at least, perhaps we do not “believe what they believed.”

“Perhaps if we believed what they believed, we might achieve what they achieved.” If we did, I am convinced that God would give us success, too.

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Product Recall

Shane Williams

Every year, cars, trucks, tires, toys, baby items, appliances, thousands of products are recalled by their manufacturers. In most every case, the message is similar: “This product is defective or dangerous and could cause serious injury or even death. Return it to us and we will correct the problem.” We appreciate a company being responsible enough to warn the consumer of potential problems. However it is up to the consumer to heed the warning and take appropriate action.

Suppose God labeled us with a warning: “Because of a fatal attraction to sin and willful misuse, this item is defective. Failure to correct this problem will result in certain spiritual death.”

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God said that the hearts of His people had become adulterous (Ezekiel 6:9- *I was crushed by their adulterous heart which had departed from Me*) and they had hearts of stone (11:19).

However the Lord longed for their hearts to be softened, and for them to come back to Him. He made this plea: “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!” (Ezekiel 18:30-32)

Today, by turning from sin to God through faith & obedience in Jesus Christ, anyone can have a new heart. However, if we fail to correct our problem, it will result in our spiritual deaths. God doesn’t want us to be condemned or separated from Him but it is man that turns away from Him (Isaiah 59:1-2). God desires our salvation. 2 Peter 3:9, “...but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 1 Timothy 2:4, “who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Will you follow Him?

~via *The Lilbourn Light*; Lilbourn, Missouri.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Before I Speak...

Carl McMurray

In James 4:9, James writes, "Do not complain brethren against one another..." It is pointed in a different direction, but the thought is still the same in 1 Corinthians 10:10 where the apostle instructs Christians not to grumble. Surely we understand God's admonition not to complain or grumble, but when we are unhappy about something, how many of us stop to consider if we are about to sin with our tongue? An article by Cathy Miller in Discipleship Journal, May-June 1998, addresses this problem with seven questions to help us break the complaining habit.

1. **Am I the problem?** If I were quiet would there be a problem at all, or am I just being self-centered and wanting things to suit me?
2. **What is my real motive in complaining?** Does my complaint glorify God or help me to serve others in some way? Wanting to make someone else look bad or desiring attention would be impure motives.
3. **Am I being humble, gentle, patient and forbearing with others?** (Ephesians 4:1-3).
4. **Am I genuinely interested in submitting to the church's elders?** (Hebrews 13:17). Be careful lest our complaint be little more than a thinly disguised case of rebellion.
5. **Am I demanding that others be perfect? If not, exactly what mistakes will I allow others to make without complaint?** Matthew 7:12 indicates that I should first consider how I would feel if someone took this same complaint to the elders about me.
6. **Can I state my complaint in the form of an encouraging suggestion rather than a hurtful criticism?** (Colossians 3:12-14).
7. **Am I willing to be part of the solution?** Your willingness to help and be active in solving the problem gives validity to your recommendation. It says you are willing to do more than grumble. Back up your words with actions (James 1:23-25).

Consider the above before you speak against another and God will bless you for your self-control and thoughtfulness toward His family.

~via *The Brooksville Bulletin*, Brooksville, Florida.

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Hazel Toone	Wynell Casteel
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Yvonne Sherbert	Martha Rice
Charles Burns	Matt Poff
Ava Brooke Campbell	Faye Cary
Joe & Sarah Collier	Clara Hicks
Kenneth Pressnell	Angeta Andersen
Brent Lowman	Betty Faye Holt
Larry Owens	Gladys Sandlin
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Rhett Bailey	Barbara Ogles
Hailee Walton	Paige Phillips

In The Hospital:

Eli Williams; St. Jude's Hospital, – Memphis, Tenn.

Limestone Health Facility:

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

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

WORK GROUPS: Work Group two will be meeting tonight after our evening service. If you are in group two, 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.

CONFESSION: This past Thursday morning, *Betty and Marion Pepper* came to ask for forgiveness of sin in their lives. They asked for our prayers and we prayed for their forgiveness and strength. We appreciate the good hearts demonstrated by Betty and Marion and we wish for them many more years to faithfully serve the Lord. May we all encourage them as they will encourage us in our lives as children of God.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Marion Mitchell* and *all the family* in the passing of Marion's mother, *Mary Smith*. She passed away last Sunday morning at the Limestone Health Facility. Her funeral was Wednesday at the Ardmore Funeral Home Chapel. She was laid to rest in the Gatlin cemetery... Also, we want express our deepest sympathy to *Irene Inman* and *all the family*, in the passing of *Roger Andrews* earlier Saturday morning. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

THE RECORD: For the Week of January 22nd

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 144
 Morning Worship 178
 Evening Worship..... 116

Wednesday:
 Bible Classes..... 115



Congregational Singing

Friday, February 24, 2012 — 7:00p.m.

Songleaders:

Jim Deason, Steve Klein & Mark White

Market Street church of Christ

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 Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Landon Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marty Adams
 Assisting Jerry McGlocklin
 Serving Nathaniel Adams Delmer Carter
 Ronnie Locke Todd Williams
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 29th:

Usher Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, February 1st:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
 Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 37:14-20)
 Bonnie Smith
 Prayer Hunter Cox
 Invitation Dan Reed
 Closing Prayer Stuart Wilson

Sunday, February 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Marcus Morris
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
 Assisting Jordan Lovell
 Serving Landon Adams Marion Pepper
 Hunter Cox Tyler Cox
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Larry Michell
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 5th:

Usher Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System Marty Adams