

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
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Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

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 IV

February 26, 2012

No. 9

“The Last Mile of the Way”

Jim Ward

Calvin Coolidge, thirtieth president of the United States, in spite of his reputation of quietness — he was called “Silent Cal” — he said some powerful things. His words on persistence are well known:

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with great talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan “press on” has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

Of course, misguided tenacity can be as fruitless and frustrating as tasks left unfinished. Still the president was onto something significant. If I might modify his words slightly, I would more likely grant omnipotence to an **informed** persistence.

After power, the thing that most commends persistence to us is this: **it is possible for everyone.** There are things we cannot do no matter how hard or how often we try. But perseverance is within the reach of every one of us. It requires no expertise in either skill or knowledge. All it takes to do it is to do it—to hang in there—to never say die. I can persist, and so can you. All it takes is determination.

The third thing that commends persistence is **the necessity of it.** It is mandatory at every stage of life, in every pursuit of life. It’s how babies learn to walk and birds learn to fly. It’s how athletes hit a ball or run a marathon. How a hunter trains a retriever or a quilter quilts a quilt. Without it musicians would never play Carnegie Hall or climbers survey the world from the peak of Everest. For lack of doggedness, wars have been lost, and with it, wars won.

In the early days of World War II, only Great Britain, with an iron will forged in the fires of Winston Churchill’s speeches, stood in active defiance of Hitler’s war machine.

We shall not flag or fail, said Churchill. We shall go on to the end.

We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and the oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.

Every pursuit in life requires perseverance and the religion of Jesus Christ is no exception. We must persist in every aspect of our service to Jesus. However, this article will look at only two.

Resisting Sin

Sin is the great enemy of man; it separates us from God; it enslaves us; and ultimately, it kills us. Paul speaks of being “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). Clearly, we must make every effort to root sin out of our lives. John wrote these demanding but encouraging words: “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 Jn.2:1). John urges us to resist sinning. But, recognizing human weakness, he wrote of Jesus, our Advocate with the Father, who can cleanse us when we do sin.

This is not a one-time battle: it is a lifelong war. The writer of Hebrews said, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us” (12:1). Then he continues, “...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (12:2). From this text, consider four things about Jesus.

It tells who Jesus is: the founder and perfecter of our faith. The term founder is sometimes rendered author. Jesus is the originator of our faith. Perfecter is sometimes given as finisher. One commentator called Jesus “one who carries through completely” in establishing our faith. The idea of Jesus finishing our faith encourages us to endure as He did.

It tells what Jesus did: endured death on the cross, discounting the shame it brought. As we consider how Jesus bore this hostility, it helps us not to become “weary and discouraged” in our souls.

It tells why Jesus did this: for the joy ahead of Him. This may refer to His anticipation of the restoration of His heavenly glory (John 17:5). But more likely, it refers to His joy in redeeming sinners and being able one day to present them to God. Jude wrote that Jesus “is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy” (v.24). We persevere for the joy that awaits us.

It tells where Jesus is now: at God’s right hand. “Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). No matter what we must bear, our future in Christ is never in doubt.

Jesus is both the inspiration and the example for our endurance. If He had stopped short of the cross, we would have no hope. If He had given up before reaching the throne of God, we would have no intercessor. But He didn’t, He endured. And for the joy of serving Him and basking in His eternal fellowship, we will lay aside sin and run our race with endurance.

Doing Good

As important as it is to persevere in our resistance to sin, it is not the only thing. Of equal significance is a tenacious determination to do good. We know that Scripture says a great deal about this, but perhaps we have never noted just how much.

In his concluding remarks to the saints at Thessalonica Paul said, “As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good” (2 Thessalonians 3:13). He gives a similar but better known admonition in Galatians 6:9: “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Should we ever slack off in doing good, these two passages by themselves should get us back on track. But God says more: the New Testament gives us many reasons why good works are important.

Good works bring glory to God. This is the principle reason for everything that Christians do. The question that is always uppermost in the mind of every saint is this: How can I glorify my Father? Paul urged the Corinthians that “whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). Jesus said, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

God created us in Christ Jesus for good works. Paul makes good works our *raison d'être* in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." In essence this says that God created us for good works and that He created good works for us. God purified us as "a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14).

Good works silence our enemies. Compassion is a strong weapon against Satan and all who follow him "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people" (1Peter 2:15).

Good works help people. And then there's the most obvious reason of all for good works: they help people. They relieve suffering and need. "And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful" (Titus 3:14).

As Churchill said, "We shall never flag or fail. We shall go on to the end...we shall never surrender." A beloved, old hymn speaks of the joys that await us when we've gone "the last mile of the way." Remember, "Heaven will surely be worth it all." Don't give up—ever.

-via *Lost River Church Bulletin*; Bowling Green, Kentucky



Gospel Meeting

April 29 – May 3, 2012

(Sunday through Thursday)

Sewell Hall, Speaking

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Delmer Carter	Betty Pepper
Mary Will Johnston	Albert Bowers
Frances Bowers	Hazel Toone
Wynell Casteel	Peggy Wolf
Mary Ruth Gardner	Yvonne Sherbert
Ruth Lawson	Frances Thornton
Charles Burns	Faye Cary
Matt Poff	Ava Brooke Campbell
Joe & Sarah Collier	Betty Faye Holt
Hailee Walton	Paige Phillips
Kenneth Pressnell	Angeta Andersen
Brent Lowman	Una King Currier
Barbara Ogles	Gladys Sandlin
Phillip Harwell	

In The Hospital:

David Gardner; HeathSouth, rm.
Connie Dollar; Birmingham Hospital;
Shannon Felker; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 836
Eli Williams; St. Jude's Hospital, – Memphis, Tenn.

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 36	David Rice, rm. 111
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Limestone Lodge:

Martha Rice, rm. 25

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 three will be meeting tonight after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group.

GOSPEL MEETING: There is a gospel meeting beginning today at the *Old Moulton Road church* in Decatur. The meeting will continue through Friday with services

at 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *David Hartsell*. . . The **Pepper Road church** is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. The speaker in this meeting will be *Dave Hamlett*. . . The **First Street church** in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a gospel meeting Friday, March 2nd and it will continue through Sunday with services Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. The speakers in this meeting will be *Friday – Frank Richey; Saturday – Ken Chapman; Sunday am – Joshua Webber and Larsen Plyler; Sunday pm – Jeremiah McElyea.*

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Kathleen Wales**, in the passing of her brother-in-law, **G.C. "Buddy" Lawson**. He passed away early Friday morning. His vistingation and funeral were yesterday afternoon. He was laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery.

OUR SINGING FRIDAY NIGHT: Our First Annual singing this past Friday night was a great success. We had a tremendous crowd. It was an encouraging and edifying night the members of the church that were able to come, but it also gave an opportunity for those that were not members of the church to come and get acquainted with us. A number of visitors that were not members of the church commented to me how much they enjoyed it and hope to visit with us again. I appreciate everyone for their support of this effort.

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of Febuary 19th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes.....	130
Morning Worship	160
Evening Worship.....	118

Wednesday:

Bible Classes.....	100
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Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

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

Market Street church of Christ

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Marion Michell
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Marion Pepper
	Landon Adams
	Keenon Currier
	Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Todd Williams
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, Febuary 26th:

Usher	Danny Johnson
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, February 29th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 38:9-22)
	Marion Mitchell
Prayer	Larry Michell
Invitation	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Marty Adams

Sunday, March 4h:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Todd Williams
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Stuart Wilson
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	David Terry
	Delmer Carter
	Brandon Griswold
	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer	Tyler Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 4th:

Usher	Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System	Marty Adams