

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

March 25, 2012

No. 13

Never To Late To Begin Again

Dee Bowman

Nightmares are horrible. They invade the sanctity of our peace, rouse us out of our sleep, and cause us fear and anguish. Like a pale rider of terror they scream across our tranquility. We have trouble escaping their horror. We awake with a start, a sheer feeling of panic, hoping that what we’ve just experienced was only surreal.

But then comes the morning. The first rays of sunshine that creep across the patchwork quilt seem to just wash away all the apprehensions, all the distress and fright. There’s just nothing like a new beginning.

New beginnings are part of life. We make resolutions at the beginning of the New Year, we look forward to a new start, a new marriage, a new baby, a reconciliation after an angry exchange, a new job or a new grade in school. New beginnings are everywhere.

Think about what is involved in this greatest of all new beginnings, a new life in Jesus Christ.

It is not available anywhere else. Forgiveness, with all that it entails, is not performed by a priest or by some clergyman or by submitting to some creed, discipline, or manual. It can be accomplished only when one submits to the authority of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). He is the final authority, the only source of forgiveness. There are no new beginnings without doing as He has said.

Truth is absolutely essential to each new start. The gospel and the truth are synonymous. “Contend earnestly for the truth once revealed” (Jude 3) is the same as “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Romans 1:17). It is the practical manifestation of Christ’s complete authority. When someone offers God’s new start by recommending more or less than what the gospel says, it is an empty promise. Only God knows when forgiveness takes place; and he has told us that it is when we are converted—by the gospel. That is, when we give ourselves to exactly and precisely what it says for our redemption we are forgiven, not before. Not when some man says,

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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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

not when the church says, not when some conclave says, but when the gospel says—no sooner and no later.

It is just that—a new beginning. This new beginning is not an end itself, but a means toward an end. “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” It’s hard to continue to walk in the light; but it is nonetheless necessary. You have to keep on keeping on. You can’t begin anew and then go immediately back into the world and think you have a secure future. This new beginning is just that—a beginning. It must be translated into a new life. “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

The conscience is man’s nightmare. Man is brought under condemnation when he realizes that he sins — does wrong. His conscience, a sort of moral compass, tells him he’s on the wrong course. Only when he submits to the salvation that is in Christ can he have the relief of his conscience and the new beginning that such obedience assures. “The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us...the answer of a good conscience toward God” (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism, the final act in the new birth process, changes our relationship from the world and into Christ, while simultaneously relieving our conscience by the knowledge that we have done what God said to have His forgiveness. Talk about a new beginning!

Every day can be a new beginning for the Christian. First, because everyday he has the right to petition his Father for forgiveness. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). And second, he knows that the Lord is ever before the throne to plead his cause. “Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:17).

How foolish to let the nightmare reign, to let all the fear and anxiety of sin rule in our lives. The gospel is plain: whoever believes, repents, and is baptized can be saved from sin and have the new beginning. Get rid the horror of hell. Let Him have His way with you.

~via *Folsom View*; Folsom, California..

Fighting Temptations At Work

Rob Harbison

Where are you the most vulnerable to Satan’s temptations? It might surprise you to find out that it is your own workplace. That is one place where the devil has us all alone — our family is not there to be our conscience, our brethren are not there to stand behind us, and our closest friends at work may be the ones he uses to drag us down. Satan knows our vulnerabilities, and will gladly use them to force a one-on-one showdown.

Flirtations. They begin innocently enough-but with time they escalate into romantic infatuation and passionate lust. When we spend more time with someone else’s spouse each day than we do our own, the attraction and temptation can become very strong. Do you look forward to seeing some co-worker in the morning more than you do seeing your spouse at night? If so, there is something dangerously wrong. “For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword” (Proverbs 5:3-4).

Filthy Language. Everyone wants to be accepted. Therefore we are tempted to conform our speech, and if we are not cautious we begin to sound like everyone else because we want to fit in. Our language may not be as raw as some of our co-workers, but the temptation is strong to use those softened curse words-those which mean the same thing as the other obscenities, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).

How brightly does your light shine when you are away from the church and your family? How do you act when there is no one to check up on your actions? How do you respond to the specific temptations that only you face? Would Jesus recognize you when you go to work?

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

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Let Me First

Michael W. McLemore

On one occasion Christ heard these words, “I will follow thee, but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house” (Luke 9:61). Some say, when confronted with the passionate pleas of the Gospel, “Let me first get my education, a better job, a home, a new automobile, and the other necessary things of life.” These folks have a place for Christ in their lives – second place! They seem convinced that material security will somehow prepare them to follow Christ. Such a perception fails to grasp the meaning of Christ’s words: “A man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). So many have actually reversed the saying of Christ and are seeking first the wealth of the world thinking the kingdom of God will be added unto them. To gain all the world and to lose Christ is to lose all.

A young college student manifested another attitude commonly encountered. He said, “I will follow the Lord one day; but let me first sow my wild oats. When I have had all the good times I want, then I’ll be a Christian.” The first objective of this self-described life is to serve self, to satisfy every lust of the flesh. Following Christ and serving sin are as opposite as the poles. If one spends his life engaging in the sinful practices of the world he cannot hope to be with Christ in heaven.

Still others want first to gain a vast knowledge of the world. Have you heard men boast of their years of schooling as evidence of the truthfulness of their ideas? I’ve heard Christians do exactly that.

A few others are showing by their fruits that they will follow Christ, if they can be first. They want to be admired for what they do and say. They desire the praises of men more than the praises of God. It is a self-serving religion, not a God serving commitment.

How many other things do people put first in their lives? Dear reader, there is nothing wrong with having a good education, a better job, a home, a new or better car, or even having a depth of worldly knowledge. The harm is in allowing these things to take precedence over the things of God’s kingdom.

What is first in your life? Is it money, pleasure, education, glory, or is it Christ Jesus?

~via *Bible Viewpoints*; Katy, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gilbert Hardy	Peyton Rogers
Wayne Gooch	Stuart & Caroline Wilson
Wynell Casteel	Hazel Toone
Mary Ruth Gardner	Yvonne Sherbert
George Williams	Jerry Gilbert
Ruth Lawson	Charles Burns
Ava Brooke Campbell	Matt Poff
Faye Cary	Joe & Sarah Collier
Betty Faye Holt	Gladys Sandlin
Phillip Harwell	Hailee Walton
Una King Currier	Barbara Ogles
Brent Lowman	Paige Phillips
Eli Williams	

In The Hospital:

Frances Bowers; Athens-Limestone Hosp., rm. 324
Connie Dollar; Birmingham Hospital; Spain-Wallace
Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. – CCU
Gladys Meals; Huntsville Hospital, rm.558

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 36	David Gardner, rm. 98
David Rice, rm. 111	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74	

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

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
David/Martha Rice, Atria Regency, Mobile, rm.

CHURCH WEBSITE: The Market Street church website continues to undergo a total redesign and structure. Hopefully, we will have the site up and running by the first of April.

We need your help to get the members section to where we can utilize it effectively. Please give us any updates or changes in the directory information. This will be vital in getting communication out. So, if you have a new email address for each person in your family or cell phone numbers that receive text messages, we would like to have that information along with your cell phone provider. This information on cell phones will not be published unless you want it published. Please provide this information on the Members Card you fill out on Sunday.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Morris'*: Marcus and Bonnie are on vacation in Florida... *Jonathan and Lawinda Keenon* are out of town this week... *The Curriers:* Kevyn, Mary Glenna, Brettlyn and Keenon are in Oklahoma for a family reunion... *Mary Cecil Keenon* is also in Oklahoma for the family reunion this week.. *Hunter Cox* is in Temple Terrace, Florida this week.

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

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of March 18th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 131
Morning Worship 174
Evening Worship..... 117

Wednesday:
Bible Classes..... 106

Gospel Meeting

April 29 – May 3, 2012

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday– 7:00 p.m.

Sewell Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Tommy Coblentz
Serving Paul Hasting..... Jerry McGlocklin
..... Keenon Currier Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 25th:
Usher Maurice Dollar
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, March 28th:

Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 40:21-31)
..... Marion Mitchell
Prayer Joel Hamm
Invitation Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Sunday, April 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Dan Reed
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jordan Lovell
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving Will Chumbley..... Todd Williams
..... Maurice Dollar Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 1st:
Usher Maurice Dollar
Work Sound System Landon Adams