

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

May 27, 2012

No. 22

Five Smooth Stones of Parenting

Sewell Hall

In Goliath, David faced what seemed an indomitable foe. David's goal was not so much to kill the giant as to protect the children and honor of God. He took five smooth stones from the brook to achieve his purpose.

In the pervasive humanism of our society, parents face what appears to be an equally unconquerable giant who is determined to destroy their children. They have five stones with which to protect them.

Purpose: "A child left to himself brings shame to his mother" (Proverbs 29:15). Consequently, Wisdom says, "Train up a child in the way he should go..." (Proverbs 22:6). This requires first determining "the way he should go," then pointing the child in that direction. For Christians one direction supersedes all others: eternal life in heaven via Christ-likeness on earth. Scores of agencies with different goals challenge us for control of our children. My father used to say, "I will not let the schools take my children away from me." Today there are many additional threats: TV, internet, video games, iPods, scouts, sports, neighbors, etc. These must be constantly monitored and controlled. A mother of two fine children, one a teenager, said, "Every day of the lives of our children, their spiritual welfare has been in the forefront of their father's mind." Parents of good children are often told, "You are just lucky." No, good children are not the product of luck, but of purpose relentlessly, sacrificially and proactively pursued.

Training: "Bring them up in the training...of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Training a plant requires knowing where you want it to go and then patiently bending it, pruning it, and perhaps even tying it. Training an animal involves knowing what you want it to do, using force at first, then patiently guiding, correcting, and finally rewarding and punishing. In both instances, training means establishing authority and maintaining control. Training children begins with example and sometime physical force, then guidance, correction, and eventually reward and punishment when the child understands what is expected. Above all, it means estab-

lishing the parents' authority and letting the child know who is in control. This must begin very early. Once willful rebellion is tolerated, a wrong direction is established and the necessary "bending, pruning, and tying" become all the more difficult. The mother of John and Charles Wesley described good discipline as "shaping the will without breaking the spirit." This agrees with the Spirit's counsel: "Do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up..." (Ephesians 6:4).

Instruction: "Bring them up in the...admonition (instruction--NASB) of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Unlike plants and animals, children can be admonished and instructed. This, also, parents must do. The very intellect that enables children to be instructed also enables them to exercise their free will as they grow older. Parental control constantly diminishes, and unless God's control is established, their lives will be out of control. God's control is established by teaching them the scriptures. Long after Timothy was beyond the control of mother and grandmother, their faith dwelt in him (2 Timothy 1:5). How was this accomplished? Paul reminded Timothy, "From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). Faith in older children is the result of early instruction in righteousness. Parents should take advantage of the classes offered by the church, but this is not enough--they must teach their children personally. A mother once told me of overhearing her husband saying to their young infant in the crib, "Let me tell you about Jesus." Not surprisingly, that young infant is now a godly young teenager.

Affection: Training and instruction must be administered with love--a love that "suffers long and is kind," that "does not behave rudely," and above all, "does not seek its own" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). Children will forgive many mistakes if they can always be sure of their parents' love. "Love will cover a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Affection without firmness is disastrous, but equally disastrous is firmness without affection.

Prayer: David did not attribute his defeat of Goliath to the stone, to his sling or to his skill. "The battle," he said, "is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47). So it is with the training of our children. God is concerned with the outcome and we are servants whom He has entrusted with our little ones. We must pray daily for the wisdom that He has promised to supply (James 1:5) and for His

providence to overrule our inevitable mistakes. And when our children have become what we hoped for, we have no ground for boasting, only for the humble exclamation, "to God be the glory!"

David succeeded, using only one stone; parents will need all five.

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

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His Grace Reaches Me

David Owen

The subject of grace can be found throughout the text of God's word, and for good reason—it is the theme of the Bible. One such passage is Titus 3:1-7, where the apostle Paul discussed the grace God had shown to the Christians on the isle of Crete. Below are some thoughts that the text suggests about God's mercy.

First, grace is unmerited favor. As a concise definition of grace, this serves well. More elaborate definitions have their place; but simply stated, grace is unmerited favor. It is undeserved on the part of the recipient. It is unearned and unearnable. Someone has correctly said, "grace is everything for nothing to those who don't deserve anything."

The Christians to whom Titus preached had no claim on God's grace. They were foolish...disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending {their} life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another (v.3). In short, they were in a state of total demerit. Anything God might do to save them could not be in response to any merit they had (for they had none at that point) nor as a reward for anything they had done (they only deserved to be punished). His grace toward them was pure unmerited favor.

Who among us will be so bold as to say his/ her life has been so meritorious that God owes a reward? We, like the Cretans, need to remember the unmeritorious deeds from which God has saved us.

Second, grace is not cheap. Grace is free to the recipient but costly to the donor. The only way one

may say that grace is not very costly is if the particular benefit costs the donor very little. Grace cost our Lord an immense amount when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared (v.4). The appearance of God's kindness was in the person of Jesus Christ. To use the word cheap in the same breath with the grace of God in salvation seems almost blasphemous. It cost our Lord Jesus His life. Some may insult grace, reject it, trample on it, or disgrace it, but that does not lower its infinite value.

Third, it is not easy to believe someone who offers grace. We rightly sing of God's grace as being "amazing." It is difficult to read Titus 3:5 and not sense a note of wonder in Paul's statement: He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

We all spend most of our time in a merit system, in which acceptance is based solely on performance. "Do this and you will be paid a commensurate wage." This kind of merit system permeates all of life and much of religion. Human works, however, are incapable of producing divine favor (Romans 4:1-4). We can do nothing that will make God indebted to us for salvation. Were that possible, we would have a reason to boast. Instead we must depend upon Him for mercy. As in the case of Abraham, God's mercy is bestowed on a conditional basis. The prerequisite of receiving it is faith. Paul said his apostleship was for the purpose of bringing about... the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake (Romans 1:5).

When all is said and done, it is still difficult to believe that someone will extend an unmerited favor to those who are so undeserving.

Fourth, grace that is received changes one's life and behavior. There had been a drastic change in the lives of the Cretan Christians. Formerly, they were foolish, disobedient, etc. (v.3). But after the appearance of His grace, they were justified by His grace...and made heirs... (v.7). Their bond to God personally was strong. They followed the Lord wherever He might lead, and they had new insight into the love of their Savior for them.

Our own response to God's grace must produce such a change in our lives. A true appreciation for the fact that "His grace reaches even me" will do no less.

~via *Book Chapter and Verse*; Brandon, 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:

Kathleen Wales	David Terry
Betty Pepper	Barbara Fudge
Mary Ruth Gardner	Wynell Casteel
Yvonne Sherbert	Gilbert Hardy
Betty Faye Holt	Joan Greenwald
Charles Burns	Gladys Sandlin
Brent Lowman	Ava Brooke Campbell
Faye Cary	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Hailee Walton
Una King Currier	Barbara Ogles
Paige Phillips	Leroy Davenport

In The Hospital:

Angie Phillips; Athens Limestone Hosp. – rm. 218

Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. – CCU

Josh Hurn; UAB Hospital; Birmingham

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

David Hartsell; Houston, Texas

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 10

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Mae Bragg, rm. 57

Albert Norton, rm. 36 David Gardner, rm. 65

Frances Bowers, rm. 100 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Rosella Pugh, rm. 74 Marie Bates, rm. 97

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. 17

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Ann McLemore** and all the family in the passing of her brother -in-law, Robert Amerson. He passed away on Tuesday and his funeral was Friday afternoon.

WEEKDAY LADIES CLASS: There has been some interest and discussion about having a weekday ladies' class meeting one weekday morning at the building. If you are interested, or have comments or questions about this, please speak to me.

OUT OF TOWN: **Tommy Coblentz** is in Maine this week with his sister's family due to the critical health of Tommy's sister, Joan Greenwald... **The Smiths:** **Kenneth and Peggy** are in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this weekend with their children... **The Morris':** **Marcus and Bonnie** have been out of town this past week.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: This past Sunday **Shirley Sterling** expressed her desire to be a member of the Market Street church. She has moved here from Ardmore recently and we are glad to have her among us...Also, on Wednesday night, **Marilyn Woolridge** expressed her desire to be a member at Market Street. Marilyn has been visiting with us for a while and we are glad that she has decided to join us in the work at Market Street. May the Lord bless both Shirley and Marilyn as they work together with us at Market Street.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES: There will be a reception this afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30, at the Gathering Place in New Haven in honor of our graduates this year at Market Street.

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

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of May 20th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 134

Morning Worship 170

Evening Worship..... 110

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 106

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Bonnie Sutton
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving Delmer Carter Paul Hasting
..... Keenon Currier Stefan Fudge
Closing Prayer Jordan Lovell

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 27th:

Usher Marcus Morris
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, May 30th:

Song Leader Marty Adams
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 43:14-21
..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Sunday, June 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Jordan Lovell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marcus Morris
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Harold Davis Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Marvin Putman Marion Pepper
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 3rd:

Usher Jerry McGlocklin
Work Sound System Marty Adams