

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) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblantz(256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell(256) 230-0185
Todd Williams.....(205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl(256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox(256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell.....(256) 777-8998

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 V

February 24, 2013

No. 8

No Need For Bitterness

Bryan Gibson

Joseph could have been, after his brothers sold him into slavery (Genesis 37:12-28), but he wasn't (Genesis 45:5-8; 50:15-21). David could have been, after Saul tried numerous times to kill him, but he wasn't (1 Samuel 24:8-12; 26:7-12; 2 Samuel 1:17-27). Paul could have been, after his friends deserted him, but he wasn't (2 Timothy 4:16-17).

Think you would have handled these situations as well as these men did? The truth is, we often become bitter over far less than what these people had done to them. It's time, with the Lord's help, that we rid ourselves of all bitterness, and to do that, we need to understand some of the underlying causes.

Someone wrongs us. Several things can happen in this situation. First, this person may come to us, say he's sorry, and ask for our forgiveness (Luke 17:3-4). That's easy – we forgive him, right? Of course we do, but what if we say, "I forgive you," but still harbor some bitterness? Sorry, but that's not the kind of forgiveness Jesus had in mind (Matthew 18:35), and it's not the kind we want to receive for our own sins. On the flip side, suppose this same person does not repent, does not ask for forgiveness, even after repeated attempts to get him to do so (Matthew 18:15-17)? Do we now have the right to be bitter? It's tempting, but the answer is clearly no. Let the Lord handle it, and let's get on with our lives (Romans 12:17-21; Colossians 3:25). Bottom line, a wrong done to us is not the worst thing in the world. We really ought to be more concerned for the wrongdoer than ourselves, because it's his soul that's in danger.

Envy. Someone is better off than we are. They've done something we haven't. They're getting bragged on, and we're not. No question, there's a close connection between envy and bitterness (James 3:14). Just ask King Saul (1 Samuel 18:5-9), Cain (1 John 3:11-12), Joseph's brothers (Genesis 37:1-11), and the rulers who handed Jesus over to be crucified (Matthew 27:18). So how do we handle it when others seem to be out-doing us, when others are getting more attention? "Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15). "...if one member is honored, all the

members rejoice with it" (1Corinthians 12:26). That doesn't leave any room for bitterness.

Hard times (sickness, death of loved ones, other tragedies, etc.) In cases like these, the bitterness is often times expressed toward God. "Why me?" "how could God let this happen?" But really, wouldn't the better question be, "Why not me?" Suffering is just something we have to endure in this sin-cursed world (Romans 8:18-25), and none of us should feel like we're immune. Let's remember this, too, That nothing is more certain than God's love for us, something he forever proved when He sent his Son to die for us (Romans 8:31-32).

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31).

-via *The Eastside Enlightener*; Athens, Alabama.

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"Behold, I Thought..."

J. Wiley Adams

2 Kings 5 is a classic account of man's wisdom versus the wisdom of God. In Isaiah 55:8-9, we learn that God's thoughts and ways are not man's thoughts and ways. His thoughts and ways are higher than ours as the heavens are higher than the earth. What may seem right to man is not the criterion for pleasing God (Proverbs 14:12).

In the earlier days of this century, gospel meeting sermons used to include such basic topics as why we sing but do not play, strange fire, the comparison of the Old and New Testaments, morality, and nearly every preacher had a sermon on Naaman, the leper. Under such preaching the stories of the Bible came alive. Brethren were well taught. Even the children sat speechless at the Bible accounts of Noah and the ark, David and Goliath, as well as the wise man and the foolish man. It has changed but it needs to be revived.

Such a subject had been assigned to this writer for this special issue. It is about Naaman, the leper reported

in 2 Kings 5. No one ever preached it better than the late Fred Dennis of the upper Ohio Valley. I can hear him now as he preached the plain and simple story of the need to let God have His way – the need to obey Him rather than man.

Naaman was the captain of the Syrian host. He was the Syrian king's chief - of - staff. He was a great, honorable and brave man. At times he fought against Israel and took captives from among them. One of these captives was a little maid who waited on Naaman's wife.

It was discovered that Naaman had the dreaded disease called leprosy. He was a leper. He sought desperately to find a cure. He was willing to try anything to get well. When the little maid from Israel knew that her master had leprosy, she told her mistress there was a prophet in Samaria (Elisha) who could heal him. The king of Syria heard of this possibility and told him to go with a letter from him to the king of Israel. He sent many gifts to get on the good side of him and he in effect demanded that he be healed. This nearly scared the king of Israel to death. He thought the king of Syria was trying to pick a fight with him. He tore his clothes in frustration. He said, "Am I God to kill and make alive?" No one had ever been healed of leprosy before (see Luke 4:27).

But when Elisha, the man of God, heard the king of Israel had torn his clothes in despair he said, "Let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So, this important man and all his company came to Elisha's door. Normal courtesy was not extended. After all, this man was an enemy of Israel. Instead of asking him into his house or going out to roll out the red carpet for him, the prophet sent a messenger with the simple message to dip seven times in the Jordan river and he would be healed of his leprosy. Sometimes we tell people we don't like to jump in the lake. It may have sounded like that to Naaman. He was outraged. He said in his wrath, "Behold I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper."

What a simple thing the prophet had required of him to do. He took issue about the superiority of the rivers of Syria over the muddy Jordan. His pride was badly injured. He either had to get rid of his pride or his leprosy. In a rage he turned away. One of his ser-

vants was a wise man and appealed to him to try this simple procedure - wash and be clean. He decided to swallow his pride and obey the prophet of God. When he dipped seven times in the Jordan he was cleansed, "and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

The lessons we learn from this Biblical account are several. First, we must go to the right source for help - the prophet and not the king. Second, one must then have faith enough to do what is required - not argue the point. Third, we must not challenge God's will at any point - we must yield. And Fourth, we must obey God to obtain the desired end - salvation. Sin is worse than leprosy. Only the blood of Christ will take it away when we obey the gospel (Romans 1:16).

As long as Naaman fought the will of God, he remained a leper. What a lesson for those of us who live on this side of the cross. God requires the hearing of his word to gain faith (Romans 10:17), confessing the deity of Christ (Romans 10:10), repenting of sins (Acts 2:38), and being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). This is plain and simple. Many like Naaman are outraged at this simplicity and turn away, but they are still in their sins. Those who submit and turn to God will go away with sins removed - saved.

Are you like Naaman? Many are. Why not be like the three thousand on Pentecost (Acts 2) or the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8)?

"And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

-via *The Voice of Truth*; Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Gospel Meeting

April 14-17, 2013

(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.

Mark W. White, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gwen Bullock	Gilbert Hardy
Mary Ruth Gardner	Wynell Casteel
Charles Burns	Bruce Mordecai
Una King Currier	Ronald Harrison
David Hartsell	Abby Gilbert
Phillip Harwell	Ava Brooke Campbell
Matt Poff	Shelia Dunnivant Douglas

In The Hospital:

Frances Bowers; Athens-Limestone; rm. 205

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Matty Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 100	Dyral Allfrey, rm. 80

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B
Albert Norton, rm. 36	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74	

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 29-E

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are continuing the study, "*The Barnabas Factor*". All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

PICTURES: *Joel Hamm* is taking pictures of those that we do not have pictures of in the directory and those that would like to have their picture updated. Please see Joel to get these pictures made so that we can get the new directory published soon.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Mary Cecile Keenon* and all the family in the passing of Mary Cecile's sister, *Betty Faye Holt*. She passed away on Friday evening in Tullhoma, Tennessee. The visitation tonight from 5:00 to 9:00 and the Tullahoma Funeral Home. The funeral will be on Monday in Tullhoma at 10:00 a.m. The burial will be Monday afternoon at 2:00 in the Roselawn Cemetery... Also we want to express our deepest sympathy to *Lisa Wulfekuhl*

in the passing of her great uncle , L. H. Owens. He passed away Monday morning and the funeral was on Thursday in Cherokee, Alabama. He was laid to rest in Arkansas. May all that have lost loved ones find the comfort of God.

THE SECOND ANNUAL SINGING: Our Second Annual Singing was a great success. We had 331 present and it was a pure delight to be able to assemble together and to lift our voices together in praise to God. It was truly a very uplifting and edifying night for those who were able to be present. There were many members of the other congregations that came and a good number of visitors that were not many of the church, but all expressed to me how much that enjoyed being here and look forward to being with us again. I appreciate the work of *Jim Deason, Steve Klein and Mark W. White* in leading the singing. They did their work well. I want to thank each of the members at Market Street that worked hard and diligently in helping to prepare and to make the singing what it was: the work in the audio/visual area, ushers, greeters, parking lot workers. Thanks also to those who invited and Elders here at Market Street for their leadership and support in this effort. This could not have been done without the work done by each one. I truly appreciate the work and it was noticed by all who came.

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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Gooch Lane church* in Madison is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *David Thomley* will be the speaker in the meeting...The *Elkton church* in Elkton, Tennessee is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *John Zellner*.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The Children's Bible Drill is each Sunday afternoon at 4:40 and lasts about 15 minutes. It meets in the auditorium and will end about 5 minutes before the beginning of our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present this evening for the Bible drill.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for Week of February 17th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 123
Morning Worship 165
Evening Worship..... 110
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 107

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Wayne Vaughn
Assisting Tommy Coblenz
Serving Brandon Griswold Stefan Fudge
..... Russ Wulfekuhl Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 24th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, February 27th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 61:1-11
..... Kenneth Smith
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Invitation Todd Williams
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, March 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Dan Reed
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Terry Andrews
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Nathaniel Adams Harold Davis
..... Keenon Currier Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Jonathan Keenon
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 3rd:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Marty Adams