

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
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No. 27

How Important Is Your Faith To You?

David Deason

Dedication to a task is one of the most important elements one must have in order to complete it. In any athletic event, the people who play must be dedicated in order to succeed. Athletes will dedicate their time, their money, and their efforts so that they will be at the top of their game. It can be said of many athletes that they dedicate their lives to become the best at the sport that they play. Their success is of a great importance in their lives.

The preacher said, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all of your might" (Ecclesiastes 9: 10). When people have a job to do, their response should be in diligent labor to finish the job. This is true in every aspect of that person's life, but more so even in their walk as a Christian. How hard they work on this job will reflect just how important they view it. All will see how dedicated this person is to their Christianity.

Please look at these questions and honestly search your own heart for the answers:

1. How dedicated are you to being a Christian?
2. How important is your faith to you?
3. Do you really want to go to Heaven?

These questions can sometimes be quickly and easily answered.

Perhaps the most important question to ask then would be "does my life show my dedication to the Lord?"

When people are totally dedicated to being a Christian, they are going to be active and busy serving the Lord. The days of their lives begin and end with a prayer. Throughout the day they are looking for and taking advantage of the multiple opportunities that come their way. They understand that dedication demands hard work and they are willing to do the work.

When Christians place great importance on their faith, they cherish every opportunity for it to grow. They are studying daily. They seek to improve their knowledge of why they believe what they do. They rely

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 Coblentz (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
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Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

on their own faith and not the faith of their parents or grandparents. Their faith is valuable to them because it is their own.

When Christians really want to go to Heaven, they strive to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. This is a daily walk that will take them many places. They must be excited to be around other Christians, looking for every opportunity to do so. Enjoying times spent in songs of praise and in talking to God. They do this because they are dedicated and because their faith is of great importance to them.

Sometimes as you are driving down the road, you may see a young person in their little red hot rod. As this young person pulls out of a driveway or parking lot, you may hear the sound of tires screeching, smell the odor of rubber burning, and see the white smoke flying. When people encounter this scene, the statement is often made, "his daddy must buy his tires." That statement is made because we understand the fact that we sometimes take better care of the things that we saved our own money for and bought. When our faith is our own, the same principle applies. We are going to take better care of it. We are going to cultivate it and help it grow because we truly want to go to Heaven and we have dedicated our lives to that end. When our faith is not our own, we haven't taken the time to cultivate it and it is not growing.

How important is your faith to you? Is it your own? Are you dedicated to watching it grow?

—via *Hueytown Church Bulletin*, Hueytown, Alabama.



The Ulitimate Donor

Ralph Walker

I organize the Blood Drives at Florida College; four a year. Our students are wonderful about rolling up their sleeves and giving their blood to help others.

We have one of the highest percentages of giving of any organization in Florida. We had a blood drive this week, Tuesday, March 16. Ninety-six students and staff seen, 78 pints of blood donated.

I have a lot of time to think and reflect about blood donations as I lay on the gurney to give. Here are some things I've thought about that help me appreciate the ultimate donation of my Lord Jesus. Maybe they will help you too, especially as you remember His death in the Supper.

First Peter 1:18-19 talks of Jesus' precious, unblemished blood. When you donate blood, you're asked a long list of questions which qualify your blood as usable or not. If you've been out of the country, taken certain medications, been in contact with people who have "tainted blood", then you can't donate. Your blood may infect someone else. You've got to have pure blood.

I think of Jesus, living among "highly contagious" sinners for over 30 years, yet He was never tainted by sin. Everyone around Him was infected, but He kept Himself unblemished and spotless. In fact, His was the purest blood this world has ever seen, or ever will see. Pretty amazing that He could do that.

But it was necessary because He was going to save us by that blood. If His blood was touched by sin, it couldn't be the blood that saves us. Be thankful, eternally thankful, that Jesus was able to pass God's questionnaire and "donate" His purest of blood so that we might live.

I also note how careful the blood services personnel are to make us comfortable. They have soft drinks to replenish us, snacks to build up our sugar intake. They have comfortable reclining gurneys for us to occupy. They swab us to keep us from getting infections. They use a sterile needle of the smallest gauge they can allow and still get the pint they require. They ask if tourniquets are too tight, and even apologize when they prick our fingers for the iron test. We're bandaged with colorful wraps to wear proudly as a badge of honor when we're done. We're thanked with words and free T-shirts and food coupons or small gifts.

How many of us would be willing to volunteer if our blood donation were called a "blood sacrifice?"

I've sometimes mentally moved from the room where I and others are donating, to another place of blood-letting. No sterile, razor-sharp needles there. Just

blunt, crude metal spikes. Not thoughtfully puncturing, but coldly slamming through tender skin, past tendons, bone and blood vessels. Hands and feet horribly mangled, forever scarred. These spikes, and the spear that drew forth the final gout of blood - carelessly dragged back out of the hole it created. No stanching that hole, no bandaging that wound. No compassionate regard given to the now limp, soul-emptied body of the Lamb of God.

Read the account again, from John 19. Read it, and thank God and Jesus for loving you and me enough to suffer so horribly for us.

~via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana.

and we cheerfully give of our means to do good works together. How wise is God to call us together and not allow us to be aloof of one another. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another..." Hebrews 10:25.

Most importantly we assemble to reverence God (Psalms 89:7). "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth" John 4:24 . We assemble regularly to offer our praise unto our Awesome God. Let us be glad to go into the house of the Lord often.

~via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia

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Assembling With The Saints

Stacy Crim

God is so wise. When He established His church, He saw fit to bring those who believe in him together on a regular basis. (Acts 2:42, 46) In his infinite wisdom He knew that we need one another.

We need others to regard our spiritual and physical well being. "And let us consider one another..." Hebrews 10:24 By mutual kind encouragement we press each other on in faithfulness. This is hard to do when members are absent.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love..." Hebrews 10:24 Brethren assemble to incite one another to greater love for one another, others, family, and God. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" Psalms 122:1.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto... good works" Hebrews 10:24. When we come together we encourage one another to be doing the good works of God. We sing songs to this end, we pray to this end,

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Benton & Gayle Ball	Marvin Wales
Judy Vaughn	Gwen Bullock
Betty Hastings	Wynell Casteel
Abby Gilbert	Una King Currier
Will Carl Sullivan	Charles White
Jerry Taylor	Robin Legg
Ava Brooke Cambell	Charles Burns
Barbara Piper	Phillip Harwell
Matt Poff	

In The Hospital:

Mot Bealey, Huntsville Hospital, rm. 1551
Elizabeth Kate Miller, St. Jude's Hospital; – Memphis

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Matty Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 43	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

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. 11

Limestone Manor:

Jack Cannon, rm. 91

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Mary Ruth Gardner, at home

David Rice, Mobile, Alabama

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coblenz:* Tommy and Marcella are returning from their trip to Colorado... *Polly Leonard and Stephanie Brown* are on vacation... *Nancy Hardison* return to North Carolina on Saturday... *The Bradleys:* Steve and Marilyn are in Texas... *Bonita Dollar* has been in Birmingham.

LECTURES/VBS: The *Anderson church* will begin its VBS on Monday and it will continue through Friday morning at 10:00. *Gary Patton* will be the speaker... There will be a series of lectures at Athens Bible School this week on "Building Strong Families." There will be morning and evening sessions. The first session will begin on Monday at 7:30 p.m. There is an announcement on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

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

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember *Mitzi Carruth's* son-in-law, *Joel Smith*, who is in Afghanistan serving the U. S. military. Keep him in your prayers.

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

THE RECORD: *Average Attendance for Month of June*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 133
Morning Worship 176
Evening Worship..... 123

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 105

Bible Study



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Danny Johnson Dan Lovell
..... Nathaniel Adams Delmer Carter
Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 7th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, July 10th:

Song Leader Todd Willams
Bible Reading..... Mark 2:23-28
..... Marcus Morris
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Sunday, July 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Todd Williams
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Kenneth Smith
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Mot Dollar
..... Paul Hasting Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer Norman Brown

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Huner Cox
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 14th:

Usher Marvin Putman
Work Sound System Marty Adams