

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

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No. 44

It Hurts More Than You Might Think

Gary Henry

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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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

Some members of the church seem to feel that staying away from the assemblies of the church will not hurt anyone. It hurts more than you might think!

It Hurts You. It hurts your standing with God, not to mention with the brethren. You are disobeying a command of God (Hebrews 10:24-25). It hurts you because you are sinning, and sin always hurts the Christian.

It Hurts God. Our Father is grieved when we stay away from family gatherings, much the same way we would be hurt if our children avoided us. God smiles upon us when we do His will.

It Hurts The Congregation. When you stay away, the singing misses your voice. The collection misses your contribution. The fellowship of the Lord's Supper is not the same without you at the table. The church is composed of its various members (1 Corinthians 12:18-26). If a member of the body is missing, the body does not function as it should. Besides this, what if other members of the congregation did as you do? How long would it be until there was no congregation to assemble?

It Hurts Your Spiritual Strength. Without eating a balanced diet, your body cannot maintain its physical strength and health. Just so, the inner man cannot be strong when it is deprived of spiritual nourishment. There is benefit to having a "hunger and thirst" for righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

It Hurts Your Influence for Good. When you are deliberately absent from the assemblies of the church, you set an example that is not worthy of imitation. Your family, friends, and brethren all know that your faith is not strong and that your devotion is lacking. Worse than this, when you stay away from services your children will be influenced to do so, too. You could cause them to lose their souls. Other weak members of the church might follow your lead, and your influence suffers. To hurt yourself spiritually is bad enough, but to be the wrong influence for oth-

ers is terrible!

Please do not stay away from the assemblies of the church. It hurts more than you think. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another so as to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

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



Raising Cain

Bubba Garner

An Old Preacher's Joke says that baseball is a divinely approved sport. After all, the first three words in the Bible are “in the big inning...” That’s why it’s an old joke. But there are many “firsts” that happen in Genesis, the book of beginnings. The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, commit the first sin in Genesis 3. In chapter 4, the first sons are born to this first union: Cain and Abel.

Though this is obviously the first time Cain and Able are mentioned in Scripture, it is not the last. Abel is called “righteous” by both Jesus (Matthew 23:35) and John (1 John 3:12). And, though he does not speak one word in the Bible, he is listed in the great chapter of faith in Hebrews as one who still speaks (Hebrews 11:4; 12:24). Cain, in contrast to Abel’s righteousness, is said to be “of the evil one” whose “deeds were evil” (1 John 3:12). In Jude 11, Jude warned against men who behaved like unreasoning animals because they had “gone the way of Cain.”

If it was possible for men in the 1st Century to go the way of Cain, surely that danger still exists. It may have been a first in Genesis 4, but it is a path often repeated by those who look for the selfish way out.

What is the Way of Cain? The way of Cain shows no regard for God’s will. “And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard” (Genesis 4:4-5). Cain and

Abel, like most siblings, were very different. Cain was a “tiller of the ground.” Abel was a “keeper of the flocks.” When they both brought an offering to the Lord, God accepted the one from Abel but not from Cain. For what reason? Was God showing favoritism and arbitrarily choosing one sacrifice over the other?

“By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain” (Hebrews 11:4). How did he do it? By Faith. the same way Noah knew to prepare an ark (11:7) and Abraham to leave his homeland (11:8). God told them to. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). The only way Abel could offer a sacrifice by faith was by God telling him what He wanted. Hasn’t God expressed His will to us about worship, salvation, and morality? To offer Him anything else is to show no regard for what He said. That’s going the wrong way.

The way of Cain shows no respect for the subtlety of sin. The Lord warned Cain that “sin is crouching at the door” (Genesis 4:7). Cain became angry, but he was angry at the wrong person. “It’s desire is for you, but you must master it.” There goes the argument, “I was born this way, I can’t help myself.” You have to take control. But Cain didn’t listen. His anger boiled over and the first son born of the first man and woman committed the first murder.

Sin is still crouching at the door. The devil is watching you. His desire is for you. Isn’t it interesting that “do not give the devil an opportunity” is said right after the command to “be angry and do not sin” (Ephesians 4:26-27)? Anger and discouragement are just waiting to explode. You best take control before you lose control. Don't let the subtlety of bitterness and jealousy boil over and cause you to say or do something you can't take back. You are your brother's keeper.

The way of Cain shows no concern for the consequences of one’s action. We seldom think of the long-term effects of our actions. Cain sure didn’t. But he certainly reaped what he sowed. “You are cursed from the ground” (4:11). He would no longer have the same enjoyment and produce from the ground he once tilled. “You shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth” (4:12). Adam and Eve were banished from the garden, but Cain never again had a home. “And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain” (4:15). Who has ever used “the mark of Cain” in a positive light?

What kind of legacy do you want to leave? Sin brings

its immediate consequences: loss of purity, respect, and confidence. But don't forget to look further down the road. Sin full grown brings forth death. It's what God promised to Cain's parents, "in the day you eat from it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Don't go that way. Choose rather to have a faith that still speaks after you're gone.

The blood of Abel cried to God from the ground. But there is blood that cries out even more, the blood of Christ. His blood cleanses you of all sin. The way of Cain leads to death. The way of the cross leads home.

-via *Redeeming The Time*, Athens, Alabama.



There Is A Place of Quiet Rest

Chuck Durham

"So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed." Luke 5:16

There is a great lesson in the fact that Jesus often withdrew from crowds to the solitude of the country in order to commune with God.

How we all need our own quiet place to which we can retire and meditate on God's word! A place to listen to Him and to talk with Him as friend to Friend. We are so caught up with the hustle and bustle of our modern world that we find it almost impossible to "go to the mountain alone." No telephone to interrupt. No voices of men to distract. Not being torn in so many different directions that God becomes just another thing on our "Things to Do" list.

If you feel that something is missing in your spiritual life, may I suggest that it is this: no time for God and you – alone. If you spend no time with your spouse – without the kids, without friends, just the two of you alone – your marriage will certainly deteriorate.

The same hold equally true for our marriage to God (see also Ephesians 5). Find a secret place and the time to go there and spend it with God alone (Daniel

6:10). We will find lost peace and elusive happiness restored. And though most of us are city folk, we will love the country – with the wind in our face, walking hand-in-hand with God.

-via *Bible Viewpoints*, Houston, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Joyce Harbin	Robert & Mot Beasley
Irene Mitchell	Buddy Pepper
Bill Claxton	Betty Hastings
Wynell Casteel	Gwen Bullock
JoAnna Coblentz	Una King Carrier
Elizabeth Kate Miller	Jerry Taylor
Charles Burns	Mark Hargrove
Abby Gilbert	Lisa Swafford
Phillip Harwell	Ava Brooke Cambel

In The Hospital:

Arvid McGuire; HeathSouth, rm. 215
Morgan Barksdale; Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Fla.

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Mattye Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 18	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Mable Crafts, rm. 63	Ann Moore, rm. 81-B

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Jack Cannon, rm. 111A
Albert Norton, rm. 36	Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-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

GOSPEL MEETINGS: There will be a gospel meeting beginning today at the *Eastside church*. The meeting

will continue through Wednesday. *Chris Bates of Decatur* will be the speaker in the meeting. . . **Elkton church** in Elkton, Tennessee will begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Norm Webb, Jr.* will be the speaker in this meeting . . . **Jackson Heights church** in Columbia, Tennessee will begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *David Thomley of Spring Hill, Tennessee* will be the speaker in this meeting . . . **South Cullman church** in Cullman will begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Alan Yeater of Lafayette, Indiana* will be the speaker in this meeting.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are delighted that **Lona Jackson** has expressed her desire to be a member of the church at Market Street. We want to extend a warm welcome to Lona. She will be in work group three.

OUT OF TOWN: The Peppers: *Marion and Betty* have been on vacation this past week. . . **The Coblenz:** *Tommy and Marcella* are in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee this morning.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Oct. 27th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	134
	Morning Worship	180
	Evening Worship.....	117
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	102



Picture Are Being Made

Remember that pictures are being made or re-made of everyone. If you have not had your picture made, please do it soon in the High School/College Classroom.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Bonnie Sutton
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Tommy Burns
	Stefan Fudge
	Dan Lovell.....
	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Norman Brown

Evening Worship

Announcements	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Keith Hinkle
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer	Ross Melvin

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 3rd:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, November 6th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....	Mark 7:17-30
	Dan Reed
Prayer	Marion Mitchell
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Sunday, November 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Terry Andrews
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Delmer Carter
	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Nathaniel Adams
	Paul Hasting
Closing Prayer	Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 10th:

Usher	Danny Johnson
Work Sound System	Marty Adams