

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

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No. 48

The Danger of Having Been Here Longer

Gary Henry

"Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more" (Ecclesiastes 4:13).

Just as there are special challenges for those who are young in the faith, there are also some for the older. One of these is the pride that comes from comparing ourselves to those who are our juniors, spiritually speaking. "May God help us to avoid thoughts such as these: 'But I have been here the longest. I have worked harder. Someone else is being favored.'"

Pride is especially dangerous because of its subtlety. It can take many different forms, some of which are extremely hard to see when we are the ones who are guilty. If we think only of blatant egotism and arrogance, we may judge ourselves to be free of pride, but we need to think twice. It may be that some of the attitudes we classify as "spiritual maturity" are actually forms of pride, nicely disguised as the virtues of strength and wisdom.

For example, it's hard for experienced Christians to keep satisfaction with their experience from sliding off into the swamp of smugness. Perhaps we would never say so, and perhaps we're clever enough to keep others from knowing we think this way, but inwardly we may feel a warm, condescending glow of ever-so-subtle superiority when we think how little others have suffered. "When they've been around as long as we have, they'll see things differently," we sigh, congratulating ourselves for being older.

If you think you're not troubled by this particular malady, ask yourself this question: how willing am I to be corrected by someone with far less experience than I? The patronizing, "mature" smile with which you listen to criticism from your juniors is probably a sign of pride, and you may need to listen to Solomon: "Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will admonished no more." Hasn't pride closed many an older ear?

Whether we're young or old in the faith, it's a good idea to minimize the amount of time we spend making comparisons. It really doesn't mat-

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 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

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David A. Cox, Editor

ter whether we are ahead of or behind someone else in life's experience, We won't have been in heaven for five seconds before we realize how absolutely silly such comparisons are. The only gap that matters is the gap between us and God!

-via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*; Montgomery, Alabama.



Paul's Warnings

Alan Turner

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world and not according to Christ” (Colossians 2:8).

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down stronghold, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

According to Paul, vain philosophy is a brigand that, if we are not careful, will take us captive and steal from us our spiritual possessions. Deception, long the technique of those who would cheat and steal, is the major device of all man-made philosophy. Promising everything, it delivers nothing; claiming to be one thing, it turns out to be something else entirely!

Too many of us have either forgotten Paul's warning or no longer believe it. We have been seduced into thinking that man-made philosophies are religiously neutral, even though they decidedly are not. Seemingly unaware of the paradigm of idolatry, we have become enchanted by the smorgasbord of thoughts/ideas/philosophies that obscure the way, pervert the truth, and totally wreak our spiritual lives. We must be reminded that it was Jesus who said: “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). What this means is that apart from the way, there is no going; apart from the truth there is no knowing; and apart from the life, there is no spiritual living. This, quite frankly, is why the apostle Paul said that “every thought” must be brought “into

captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

In Colossians 3:17, Paul wrote that everything one does in “word or deed” is to be done “in the name of the Lord” (i.e., by the Lord's authority). But how can one's actions be correct if one is not thinking properly? And how can one be thinking properly if one has not brought “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”? Therefore, it is clear the Lord calls upon His disciples to out-think, out-live, and out-die those all around us who are both in and of the world.

All man-made philosophies are destined for total defeat. It is, therefore, ludicrous that those of us who have been “called out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9) would want to return again to the “weak and beggarly elements” of this world, symbolized in the Bible as spiritual darkness (cf. Galatians 4:9; Ephesians 4:17-20; Colossians 1:9-14).

Today, our theological chickens are coming home to roost. We are creating idols for our own destruction (cf. Hosea 8:4). If we don't repent, we will be destroyed for our ignorance of God's Word (cf. Hosea 4:6). As the Lord's own unique and special people, we will be “cut off.” As free moral agents, the choice is ours. None of us is immune. Tickets punched can and will be unpunched if we do not continue to meet the conditions of His magnificent grace. Therefore, self-examination is not out of order for anyone, even the most devout. We must remember that whatever is on the throne in our hearts and minds, whatever controls our lives, is our idol. It may be “mammon” (Matthew 6:24); it may be personal pleasure (cf. Philipians 3:19); it may be one's work or family; it may be drugs; it may be “omnipotent,” “infallible” science; or it may just be **self** (cf. Daniel 5:23). Whatever it is, it must be abandoned.

“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourself this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you will dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. So the people answered and said: ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods’” (Joshua 24:14-16).

-via *The Eastside Eastlightner*, Athens, Alabama.

Sowing The Seed

Allen Malone

Our Lord told a parable about a sower who went forth to sow (Matthew 13:3-9). It is a short parable and easy to understand, especially since He explained it in detail (Matthew 13:18-23). In its few lines are lessons for those who would sow the seed of the kingdom, the word of God. These lessons can greatly enhance our overall effectiveness as teachers of the gospel of Jesus. Notice the parable and its lessons:

“Behold a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up. Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up, and because they had no deepness of earth, when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns and the thorns sprung up and choked them. But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let them hear.”

Why was this sower effective? First of all, because he sowed! “Behold, a sower went forth to sow!” Imagine that! Its hard to reap a harvest you have not sown, isn’t it? How probable is it that we will be able to convert sinners whom we have not taught?

Why was this sower very effective? It seems it was because he sowed alot. He did not sow merely that he might pacify his conscience and be able to say, “I have sown.” Broadcasting one or two handfuls of grain would have allowed him to say that. No, he sowed alot, everywhere, and as he had opportunity, because he was a sower interested in the greatest possible harvest. We are going to have to convert as many people as possible to Christ. To convert alot of people, you must teach alot of people!

How was it that the sower made sure to sow seed into the good soil? Surprisingly, it was by refusing to judge any of the soil. He did not rely on his own judgment. He saw himself as a seedsower, not as a soil-judger. There is a lesson there. Judging hearts is beyond our ability, but teaching is not. How are we going to be sure to teach everyone who will obey the gospel? Only

by teaching everyone!

How did the sower keep from getting overly discouraged about all his sowing that seemed like wasted effort? He realized that as long as he was sowing, the problem was not with the sower but with the soil. He was doing what a sower is supposed to do. Should we be overwhelmed with discouragement due to the refusal of some to obey the truth, if we are living and serving as the Lord saved us to do? NO!

Brethren, let’s teach. Let’s teach alot. Let’s teach at every opportunity (and not turn from opportunities by judging that certain people would not obey anyway). Let us rejoice with heaven over every soul saved, and show our thankfulness to God by continuing to teach.

-via *The Seeker*, Marshall, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Kathleen Wales	Marie Nave
Bonnie Morris	Fay Ferguson
Buddy Pepper	Joyce & Crutcher Harbin
Irene Mitchell	Robert & Mot Beasley
Gilbert Hardy	Gwen Bullock
Joanna Coblentz	Ava Brooke Campbell
Una King Currier	Morgan Barksdale
Elizabeth Kate Miller	Jerry Taylor
Charles Burns	Mark Hargrove
Abby Gilbert	Lisa Swafford
Phillip Harwell	

In The Hospital:

Brittany Murrell; Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Mattye Murray, rm. 60
Mable Crafts, rm. 63	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

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

Wynell Casteel, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Mary Ruth Gardner, at home

Betty Hasting, at home

David Rice, Mobile, Alabama

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

SERVICE TIME CHANGE: Remember that we have changed the service time for our Sunday evening service to 4:00 p.m. This new time goes into effect this afternoon. The children's Bible drill will begin at 3:40. I hope that everyone will make their plans to be present this afternoon.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Remember *Tommy and Marcella Coblentz'* son and daughter-in-law, *Daniel and Joanna Coblentz.* They are expecting a little girl soon and from all medical tests the baby has physical problems that will be difficult to overcome. Pray for little Collins, Joanna and Daniel as well as the whole family as they face the days ahead.

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 two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: *Average Attendance for November*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 132
Morning Worship 180
Evening Worship..... 116

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 104

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Keith Hinkle
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving Delmer Carter Mot Dollar
..... Marvin Putman Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 1st:

Usher Heath Dollar
Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, December 4th:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading Mark 8:27-38
..... Keenon Currier
Prayer Kenneth Adams
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Sunday, December 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting Tommy Coblentz
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Norman Brown
..... Landon Adams .. Brandon Griswold
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 8th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams