

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

Volume VI

January 19, 2014

No. 3

The War Against Lust

Paul Earnhart

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

*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

“Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery” (Matthew 5:28). These are radical words and even kingdom citizens must struggle not to resist. Their severe probing of the heart brings pain as the Son of God touches the raw nerves of our moral diseases. Jesus, having dealt with the problem of hate and malice, now addresses the problem of lust. The Pharisees had certainly treated the issue of adultery, but only superficially. Their concern was to avoid a capital offence (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22). One can almost hear the way they said, “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14). Jesus, in contrast, tracks the sin of adultery to its lair (Matthew 15:19). As the hatred of the heart is murder, so is the unbridled lust of heart adultery.

This principle was not an obscure part of the Mosaic covenant. The tenth commandment pointedly said, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife” (Exodus 20:17). Paul, while still a stranger to the gospel, and a Pharisee, had been severely penetrated by this command (Romans 7:7). Even Job, a man who apparently lived before the law, understood this ethical truth. “I have made a covenant with my eyes,” he said, “Why then should I look upon a young woman?” (Job 31:1).

Though some extended application might be made from this passage to the raw and unprincipled carnal desire which some single person might harbor for someone similarly unattached, Jesus’ use of the word “adultery” makes clear that His present concern is with that illicit desire which violates the very spirit of the marriage covenant (2 Corinthians 11:2-3). The Lord’s concern in this whole section is with our duty to love others. No married person can do justice to his mate while given over to unrestrained desire for another. Though yet a matter of the mind, it is called what it is – sin.

The Lord is not dealing here with the mere momentary passing of desire through the mind; otherwise there would be no distinction between temptation and sin. (We should not be aghast at the suggestion that the

lust of the flesh might have made its approach to the mind of our Savior while He remained sinless, (Hebrews 4:15.) The words, “looks at a woman to lust for her,” help us to understand the exact nature of the transgression. This is not a fleeting thought but the gathering up of one’s mind for the purpose of lusting. The Greek text describes a person who directs his thoughts or turns his mind to a thing; in this case, lusting after a woman (or a man). Obviously, we do not look at everything we see. The eye takes in a vast panorama and it is left for the mind to focus the attention. David’s sin was not in seeing the unclothed Bathsheba but in looking upon her, setting his mind and ultimately his unbridled lust upon her (2 Samuel 11:2-5). David wanted the opportunity to possess Bathsheba, and found it. His violation of Exodus 20:17 would have been no less had that opportunity never presented itself.

Although the English word “lust” accurately connotes the sensual overtones of the Greek verb (*epithumeo*), it may lack the attendant thought of possession which is inherent in it (Guelich, *The Sermon on the Mount*, p. 194). The sin being described by Jesus is the calculated cultivation of the desire to possess one to whom you have no right. If this sin is to be escaped, the very first approach of such thoughts must be decisively rejected, before they can take possession of the mind and will. In the language of an old proverb: “You cannot keep the birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.” If we find difficulty in distinguishing between the temptation and the sin in this case it is far wiser to err on the side of caution than on the side of recklessness.

The war of the kingdom citizen with lust in these items is destined to be severe and hard-fought. We are not going to easily escape the miasma of lasciviousness, fornication and adultery that has descended on this generation. Let no disciple be smug (1 Corinthians 10:12). There are no societal restraints to lean on. Our strength and defense must reside wholly in our own deep and unshakable resolve to keep ourselves pure for the Lord’s sake. In the final analysis that is where the issue of our faithfulness in the kingdom has always been decided. “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).

-via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama.

Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 4:00.

Third Annual Singing

Friday, February 28, 2014 — 7:00 p.m.

Songleaders:

David Deason, Joe Greer & Steve Klein

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Moderation In Doctrinal Stability

Bill Hall

People who are useful in the Lord’s service are balanced in their thinking. They maintain moderation of the mind. They know what they believe and why they believe it, and are not given to radical fluctuations of thought.

A Study in Contrasts

Two men are teachers of God’s word. Both are conscientious men who love truth. The first man, however, is easily swayed by whatever he reads and hears. He frequently changes positions on doctrinal issues. Wanting to be independent in his thinking, he is quick to reject traditional “Church of Christ” thinking. He adopts into his thinking anything that, on the surface, sounds reasonable to him. He loves to come across some new, exciting “gem” that will set his teaching apart from the old, stale teaching that people have heard for years. Above all, he wants his teaching to be thought provoking and challenging, different and exciting, new and fresh in its approach.

The second man wants his teaching to be challenging and thought provoking, too, but he recognizes that one does not have to reject that which is tried and proven in order to be challenging and independent. He is not surprised to find that his convictions are similar to those of others who have labored to separate error from truth,

traditionalism from the pure word of God, sectarianism from the unity found in Christ. After all, he shares the same goals and studies the same book. He sees no virtue in being different from them. He has come to solid conclusions based on his study of the finds truth challenging because it is truth.

The first man tends to be “tossed” to and fro, and “carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians 4:14). His hearers never know what to expect from him next. One thing they can be sure of: whatever “kick” he is on at the time will come out in his lessons, for every new concept seems to become an obsession.

The second man has his heart “established with grace” (Hebrews 13:9); he is “grounded and settled” (Colossians 1:23). He questions positions he has held, and is forced by his own personal honesty and integrity to change positions occasionally, but he acts very slowly and cautiously in doing so. He keeps many questions that arise in his mind to himself, for he recognizes that they are not vital to his own salvation or to the salvation of others.

The first man unnecessarily disturbs others with his teaching, leaving them with more questions than answers. Some of his conclusions are dangerous. And though he later recognizes their danger and discards them, he has already, in his haste, planted seeds of error in the hearts of his hearers. His influence is hurt because brethren are afraid of him — justifiably afraid. His usefulness in the kingdom is greatly affected.

Questions To Be Considered

We would suggest to our first man that before he creates trouble among God’s people and hurts his own influence, he might ask the following questions.

1. Am I sure of the conclusions I have reached? Is it possible that I have overlooked some pertinent scripture or argument that would negate my conclusions?
2. Am I sure that my conclusions have not been tainted by prejudice, disillusionment, bitterness, jealousy, emotional considerations, or some other factor that can adversely affect one's thinking?
3. Even if I am sure of my conclusions, is the point I am stressing vital, of sufficient importance to justify problems?
4. Have I allowed these conclusions to become an obsession? Do I find myself talking about

them frequently – in Bible classes? In sermons? In private discussions? Do I find my reading of the Scriptures somewhat “colored” by these new concepts?

5. Is it possible that in my teaching I am glorying in new and deep and fresh approaches rather than in the simple message of the gospel and the Christ who is the center of that message?

We are not encouraging compromise; nor are we suggesting that one must gain brotherhood approval for his conclusions before teaching them. We are saying, however, that caution dictates that one go slowly in adopting new concepts and be even more cautious in teaching them. “Let your moderation be known to all.”

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Leon Brooks	French Barksdale
Jennifer Threet	Fay Ferguson
Gwen Bullock	Joyce & Crutcher Harbin
Gilbert Hardy	Lisa Swafford
Carol Locke	Eli Williams
Ava Brooke Campbell	Brittney Murrell
Jerry Taylor	Una King Carrier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Charles Burns	Abby Gilbert

In The Hospital:

Billy Abernathy; Memphis Hosp.

Mark Hargrove, Athens-Limestone Hosp.; rm. 211

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100 Mattye Murray, rm. 60

Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Gayle Mills, rm. 15

Mable Crafts, rm. 63

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Jack Cannon, rm. 111A

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Mary Ruth Gardner, r. 107

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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Buddy Pepper** and all the family, in the passing of Buddy's sister-in-law, **Virginia Pepper**. She was a former member here at Market Street. She passed away on Wednesday and her funeral was Friday afternoon at McConnell Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

ACTIVITY FORMS: There are activity forms at each entrance/exit for each member to fill out for the work they would like to do. Please pick up a form, mark it and place it in the baskets where the forms are. Please do this as soon as possible.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Jan. 12th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	130
	Morning Worship	180
	Evening Worship.....	129
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	101



**The Market Street
church of Christ Website at:
MarketStreet-church.com**

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Tommy Coblenz
 Serving Marvin Putman Heath Dollar
 Larry Mitchell Jonathan Keenon
 Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Norman Brown

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 19th:

Usher Delmar Carter
 Work Sound System Terry Andrews

Wednesday, January 22nd:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading..... Mark 10:35-45
 Marion Mitchell
 Prayer Landon Adams
 Invitation Dan Reed
 Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Sunday, January 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblenz
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Paul Hasting David Terry
 Keenon Carrier Dan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblenz
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
 Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 26th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System Marty Adams