

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
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No. 43

What Does God Want From Me?

Paul Earnhart

In his little book, *Jesus Rediscovered*, Malcolm Muggeridge confided that his earliest memory was of walking down the road wearing someone else's hat and wondering who he was. In a real sense, the whole of humanity is walking down that same road, tormented by the same question. The question is built in; the answer is not.

In order to be whole we need to know who we are and what is expected of us, but only God knows that. Human beings, being creatures, cannot answer such questions. American poet Theodore Roethke expresses in haunting words this profound human yearning:

"I close my eyes to see,
I bleed my bones their marrow to bestow
Upon that God who knows what I would know."

Denying the existence of God not only solves nothing but reduces us to utter meaninglessness. Accepting by faith that God exists and wants us to seek Him (Hebrews 11:6), and that God has spoken to us in His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2) opens up all kinds of blessed possibilities. It is wisdom to listen reverently and learn our duty well.

It is evident from the Bible's beginning that man, created in the image of God, was expected to honor his Creator with due reverence and worship Him in a divinely prescribed way. Cain could tell you about that (Genesis 4:3-5). Not everything goes. The foundation of worship had to be faith and the proper expression of faith was obedience (Hebrews 11:4). King Saul learned that lesson when he presumed to worship God in a way that violated His will. Samuel's rebuke tells the story: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice..." (1 Samuel 15:22).

The Old Testament prophets speak to our question often. When Israel sought to placate God with the multitude of their sacrifices, Micah told them straight out that God wanted more - "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:6-8). To the hypocritical shallowness of their

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

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblenz.....(256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Joel Hamm(256) 278-1977
Danny Holt(256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell.....(256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris.....(256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl.....(256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

worship Isaiah and Amos and Jeremiah say the same (Isa. 1:10-17; Amos 5:21-24; Jeremiah 7:21-23). Jesus echoes the prophets by His frequent quoting of Hosea: "For I desire mercy and not sacrifice and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6; Matt. 9:13; 12:7). What Jesus and the prophets were saying was not that the sacrificial offerings of the law (Leviticus) were unnecessary but that God's desire was for far more than that.

What is the lesson here? Do not try to turn God away from getting what He wants from us by offering the part for the whole — even actions that God has clearly required — frequent attendance at church assemblies (Hebrews 10:24,25), regular eating of the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 2:42), communal prayers and spiritual singing (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 5:19,20) et. al. All these are to lead to a higher purpose — our transformation into the image of God's Son (Romans 8:29). What God wants is you and me, that which is expressed in the first and greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:28-29). In short, God wants all there is of us, given gladly and freely in the same measure that He has poured Himself out on us.

~via *The Reminder*; Bellaire, Texas



Sending The Sluggard

Justin Dobbs

All this time I had thought the sluggard was named for the slug. It turns out the truth is just the opposite. The little shell-less snail began to be called a "slug" in the English language in the early 18th century because only a lazy man—a "slug"—moves so slowly.

The sluggard lies there, attached to his bed like a door to its hinges (Proverbs 26:14). The sluggard rests from work he's not done (6:9). He is filled with longing but empty of effort to achieve his desire (13:4). He rests before his work is done but never starts again (20:4). He's practiced in making excuses sound reasonable in order to

keep from doing necessary work (Proverbs 22:13; 26:13).

Proverbs 10:26 says this: "Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him." Vinegar breaks down calcium, causing teeth to weaken and the mouth to pucker. Anyone who's sat around a campfire knows the feeling of smoke burning the eyes when the wind changes direction. Vinegar and smoke are both irritating, as is entrusting a task to someone who fails to do it. Being slow to obey is disobeying. The Septuagint (LXX) translation even says "law-breaker" instead of "sluggard."

When our children were very little, we dressed them, brushed their teeth, fastened them into their carseats, and did many of these things for them. But then we showed them how button-holes work, taught them the complicated skill of matching the shape of the shoe to the appropriate foot, and demonstrated again and again how seatbelts buckle. So now when we say to our little ones, "Okay! Everyone please get your shoes, coats, and get in the car!" we expect to find our children completely clothed and buckled-in to their seats within a few minutes. And then there are the times a little girl has gotten distracted tucking in her baby dolls or a little boy has forgotten to locate his shoes when the Legos on the floor are calling to him. It's smoke to the eyes, which is why we work to train our children that "Obedience is first time, right away, all the way, with a happy heart."

And then God says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people" (Romans 10:21). God keeps calling, instructing, and warning, and what does He get? When we're told, "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving," are we sluggish about it (Ephesians 5:4)? Or when we're told to be wise and make "the best use of the time, because the days are evil" (v. 16)? Or when Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to preparing for the wedding feast or to the master entrusting his servants with portions of treasure (Matthew 25)? Isn't Jesus warning us against sluggishness? Just as poverty came like a robber on the sluggard whose field was barren and fruitless in Proverbs 24:30-34, Jesus promises his coming will be like a thief in the night to those who have been slow to prepare for his return (Matthew 24:43; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10). Will He find we've been sluggish to obey Him? Will He find us fruitless?

The sluggard will find that serving God gets harder

and harder the longer he puts off obedience. Like a hedge of thorns obstructing his path, laziness makes his way of life more and more difficult (Proverbs 15:19). We call it procrastinating; wisdom calls it senseless (Proverbs 24:30). May we obey the first time, right away, all the way, with a happy heart. May we not be smoke in the eyes of the Lord, He who has sent us as messengers to proclaim His excellencies (1 Peter 2:9).

~via *Grace To Those Who Hear*, New Castle, Indiana.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Bobbie Adcock	Larry Mitchell
Albert Haraway	Minnie Carter
David Terry	JoAnn Gilbert
Loretta Warner	Alvis McLemore
Doris Lovell	Yvonne Strickland
Ann Bush	Lloyd Adams

Andrew Harbin

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Gene Carpenter
Brittany Bates Carter	Denny Smith

Carrie Warner

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Arvid McGuire, rm. 90	Mattie Murray, rm. 2
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Brenda Wilson, rm. 73	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Johnnie Leigiber, rm. 93
Connie Brock, rm. 62	

Limestone Health Facility:

Robert Beasley, rm. 110	Mot Beasley, rm. 110
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Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Bettye Harrison, Traditions
 Irene Inman, at home
 Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Helen Blankenship has been to the heart center this week and has been given a heart monitor to wear for 30 days. She is to return to the doctor on November 8th... *Albert Haraway* is at home from the hospital and continuing to take an IV through today... *Larry Mitchell* had quadruple by-pass surgery on Monday in Huntsville Hospital. He is now at home... *Bobbie Adcock* passed out at home and fell this week and spent a few days in the Athens-Limestone Hospital... *Robert Beasley* spent a few days in the hospital, but is back at Limestone Health with hospice and is very low... *Judy Vaughn's brother, Rickey Felker*, had a heart attack this past Thursday and had a stent inserted in the artery and is now at home... *Kim Rogers niece, Carrie Warner*, began her treatments for cervical cancer this past week. The treatments are scheduled for the next three weeks.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* next meeting will be Monday, November 18th. We will be studying "*Change or Accept*"

PICTURES: We are needing to finish the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. If you have not had your picture made yet or have not updated it please do so this week or next. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing.

TUESDAYMORNING LADIES' CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning began meeting again this past Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium. They will be studying "*Angels*".

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Harvest church* is scheduled to begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Zack Lee*... The *Somerville church* in Somerville is

scheduled to begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Michael Green*.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Alvis McLemore and all the family* in the passing of Alvis's sister, *Majorie Reece*, last Friday. Her visitation was Wednesday night and the funeral service was Thursday at Spry Funeral Home Chapel. She was laid to rest in the Limestone Memorial Gardens... Also, we want to express our sympathy to *Dan Lovell, Doris Lovell and Jeanette Weir* in the passing of their aunt, *Mattie Estelle Tucker*. She passed away last Sunday. There was a graveside service on Wednesday morning at the Lentzville Cemetery in Lentzville, where she was laid to rest. May the Lord bless all these families at this time.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college:
Kenneth Adams, University of Alabama - Huntsville
Keenon Currier, Auburn University
Clayton Hamm, University of North Alabama
Griffin Holt, University of Alabama
Elizabeth Usery, Mississippi State University
Matthew Usery, University of North Alabama

OUT OF TOWN: *Tena Wells* spent a few days in Nashville, Tennessee this week... *The Ashes: Harold and Barb* will be leaving this week for their trip to Gulf Shores... *Steve & Christian Usery* have left to drive to California where Christian will be doing his next nursing assignment. Steve will be flying back the latter part of this week.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of October 20th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	149
	Morning Worship	180
	Evening Worship	123
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	96



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Bob Broadus
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Hunter Cox
Assisting	Mike Ogles
Serving	David Terry
	Matthew Vaughn
	Landon Adams.....
	Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for the week of October 27th:

Ushers.....	Danny Holt/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Will Chumbley

Wednesday, October 30th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading	Terry Andrews
	Hebrews 3:1-6
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Invitation	Tim Griswold
Closing Prayer	Albert Haraway

Sunday, November 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	Ashley Goosen
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Kenneth Adams.....
	Harold Davis
	Clayton Hamm
	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Preaching	Ashley Goosen
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for the week of November 3rd:

Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Marty Adams