

# MARKET STREET



*"And this 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

### 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

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847  
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050  
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

#### Deacons

Marty Adams .....(256) 233-5147  
Rusty Brand .....(256) 233-7343  
Tim Craig .....(256) 233-4597  
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223  
Bobby McGuire .....(256) 232-7887  
Frank Noblitt .....(256) 777-0725  
Stuart Wilson .....(256) 233-6291

#### Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910  
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net  
Warren Glass.....(256) 232-6086

#### Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.org

### 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*

Volume I

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No. 4

## Getting Off The Ropes

Steven Cuffle

Sometimes it seems like life comes at you going seven hundred miles per hour. It's hard to keep up, it's hard to keep balanced and it's hard to keep going. That's exactly the way that Satan would have things. If life were a boxing match, Satan would want us on the ropes struggling to keep our footing. Like a prize fighter, he would keep throwing punches, looking for weaknesses in our defense and waiting for our guard to falter. He would push us to the precipice of failure and keep pushing till we were ready to give up. That's exactly where he wants us, on the ropes.

Just like boxing, if we never get off the ropes, we don't have a hope in the world of victory. When's the last time you heard of someone winning a fight by backing up the whole time? If we are to defeat the devil, we must find our footing in life by grabbing onto the things that are really important and letting go of things that aren't.

That's part of Paul's message in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. If we are going to run the race, then we are going to have to give some things up. In the Corinthian games, athletes went through strenuous ten month training programs where every aspect of their lives was monitored. They were not allowed to eat certain foods, go certain places or partake in a number of every day events. Why? Because they were preparing themselves to compete, and even the preparation for these games had rules.

Someone once said that this life is preparation for eternity in heaven with God. We have entered into a strenuous training program, so we should expect to give some things up, too. If we are going to live a life that glorifies God through Christ, then we must focus on and grab onto spiritual things while letting physical things go. I'm not talking about giving up things that all know are wrong; I'm talking about "regular stuff" like the athletes in Corinth were expected to give up. If we are ever going to get off the ropes in our battle with Satan and sin, then we are going to have to slow down our lives.

For instance, how many activities should we allow our children to participate in? One? Two? Three? That doesn't seem like too much

until you consider practice three times a week. Then there are recitals and games and pictures. Then there are extra competitions and exhibitions. Now multiply that by three activities and then again by the number of children you have. That's why there's never enough time in the day. How many hours a week do our children spend in extra activities? Compare that to how many hours we spend studying the Bible with them. Which is greater? Which ought to be greater? Which is "extra" and which is "necessary"?

What about our own lives? We can never be the spiritual leaders and guides we need to be for our families if we don't make time to first grow spiritually ourselves. We must make prayer and meditation an important part of our daily lives if we want to be godly people who raise up godly children. Spiritual families aren't an accident, they are meticulously sought after, and they are diligently planned.

How many hours a day do we spend watching television? How many hours a day do we spend on the Internet? Compare that to how many hours we spend speaking about the commandments of the Lord to our children when they rise up, when they walk along the way, when they sit down, and when they lie down to rest. Which is greater? Which is extra? Which can be gotten rid of?

There is nothing inherently wrong with children's activities, watching TV or surfing the web (Some of my greatest childhood memories revolve around little league baseball). However, we have to consider what we spend most of our time doing. Are we training for this life or are we training for eternity?

We cannot be the kind of people that God wants us to be if we are not willing to give up things that are unimportant. When we allow ourselves to get caught up in every day events, we are like an athlete running aimlessly across a track; we are like a boxer furiously beating the air. Eventually, we will find ourselves against the ropes being pummeled and beaten by Satan. We have two choices: we can put away those things which are unimportant and focus on being spiritual people who raise up godly children or we can box the air, run aimlessly and go down for the count.

~via *The Stonegate Standard*, Port Arthur, Texas.

**Remember our Service This Evening 5:00.**

## *Timeless Advice*

**Drew Jones**

The more things change, the more they stay the same, as the old saying goes. Precious little has changed since man was first created, and since he first transgressed. The Lord promised "enmity" between Satan and the human race after the adversary beguiled Eve in the garden so many thousands of years ago; true to God's word, we still have a daily war to wage with "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9).

However, the rest of God's proclamation in Genesis 3 came to pass just as certainly – the Seed of woman, realized in Jesus Christ, and would deliver a crushing blow to the head of the deceiver, winning a great victory over him even at cost to Himself. Because Jesus was willing to lower Himself to the earth, because He was willing to offer His own life, we need not ever let Satan win a complete victory – we are equipped to resist the father of lies and, failing that, to claim forgiveness through Christ.

Even before the Word became flesh and displayed the attributes of God on earth – His holiness, perfection, faithfulness, goodness – man received instruction concerning "sin prevention". Wise is the man who applies that old saying, "We began with the Scriptures; the words found within your Bible are as useful to you today as they have been to anyone else." How do we have hope of withstanding Satan and his wicked devices? "Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man" (Proverbs 3:3). The proverb echoes the sentiment of Psalm 119 – nearness to truth, to the word of God, is one of our most powerful allies in the daily battle. Do not leave it, and do not let it leave you. In others words, "Keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble" (Proverbs 3:19).

We could reproduce any number of proverbs and biblical passages which say much the same thing, but they are all meaningless if we do not first make the determination to take them to heart. Do we treat these

ancient Scriptures as some dusty old volume, a hopelessly outdated collection of advice that doesn't quite stack up anymore? Woe to us if we do. When you keep sound wisdom and discretion by discerning the word of God, you are wielding a sword which is living and powerful, razor-sharp and never-dulling.

Of course, we need look no further than at Jesus Himself, a point which we often mention (to our credit). Jesus was tempted as any other man – more so than any other man, if we are honest – yet He experienced triumph in His encounters with the evil one. What example did He leave in besting Satan? Jesus used the Scriptures; in fact, He used an extremely small portion of the word we have available today. Though the whole “Old Testament” was at His disposal, Christ was able to find useful wisdom within two chapters of the book of Deuteronomy. Clearly, He had not let truth forsake Him, and instead had used it as the capable weapon it is.

Yet even when we fall, when we fail, we are promised beyond doubt that “in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7). The world has changed much since Paul wrote those words, but the power of Christ's blood has stayed exactly the same. Let us all join as one household, strengthening our brothers and sisters so that they may have the wisdom to overcome and reaching those who are still alienated from God, that they may obey the Lord and are found in Christ, accepting redemption. “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:10).

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

### *Remember Our Study Periods*

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

*Come and Join Us As We Study Together*

## *The Whole Counsel of God*

**Johnny Richardson**

Truth must have no addition or subtraction according to the scripture. The perfection of truth demands this. The scriptures themselves declared, “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8). “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18-19).

Perhaps the most deceptive tool of Satan is to cause men to believe partial truth is sufficient. An example: Saul said, “I have performed the commandment of the Lord (1 Samuel 15:13). Samuel responded, “What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? (verse 14). Saul was reprov'd and rejected for this transgression. Partial obedience is not obedience, and to lead men to believe that a little truth is better than no truth is destructive.

-via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 26 No. 10

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Mary Norton*; Huntsville Hospital, Huntsville  
*Lifford Abernathy*; Hillside Hospital, Pulaski, Tenn.  
*Mike Sherbert, son of Wendell & Yvonne*; UAB

#### *At Home:*

Wendell Sherbert	Margaret Vaughn
Jerry Gilbert	Hazel Toone
Carl Hargrave	Gladys Johnson
Martin Casteel	Peggy Taylor
Jeff Waddell	Kennedy Pepper
Uyles Reed	Lucy Clanton
Doris Reed	Janet Goosen
Angela Green	

**Limestone Health Facility:**

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 108 Jerry Tucker rm. 99  
Rosella Pugh, rm. 33 Mary Smith, rm 85  
J.D. Clanton, 11E

**Athens Convalescent Center:**

Betty Bates, rm. 17  
Mae Alesi, rm. 35

**Limestone Manor:**

Ruth Owens , rm. 80

**Shut-In:**

Sarah Halbhook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.  
Jimmy Killen, at home  
Clara Lewis, at home  
Reba Adams, at home  
Mauvis Phillips, at home  
Majorie Lambert, at home  
Fred Varnell, at home  
Ellis Dunnivant, at home

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Remember all those that away serving in the military for our country. Those among us that are serving away from home:

Cody Brown; Iraq

**THE WEBSITE:** Remember the website is up and running. Visit the site and let us know what you think. There will be many changes as the site continues to be developed.

**JESUS' TREVINO:** This past Wednesday night, brother *Jesus' Trevino* and his wife, *Susana* were with us. It was good to have them here and to hear brother Trevino's report of the work he is doing in Lake Jackson, Texas and other places as well. It is good that we are able to have a part in the work he is doing. Brother Trevino was one of the preachers that first came to Athens when the Spanish speaking work started here. May the Lord bless him and the work. Let us remember him and the other 23 men that we help to support away from the church at Market Street.

**DUTY ROSTERS:** The duty rosters have been placed on the tables in the foyers as you come into the building. Be sure to get a duty roster and fill it out and turn it in to **Rusty Brand** or **Joel Hamm**.

**THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of January 18th**

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 118  
Morning Worship ..... 134  
Evening Worship..... 126

**Wednesday:**  
Bible Classes..... 101

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, January 25th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith  
Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox  
Prayer ..... Steve Bradley  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Albert Bowers  
Assisting ..... Bonnie Sutton  
Serving ..... Delmer Carter..... Larry Mitchell  
..... Marvin Putman..... Tommy Burns  
Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith  
Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox  
Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
Lord's Supper ..... Albert Bowers  
Closing Prayer ..... Tim Craig

Other Assignments for Sunday January 25th:

Usher ..... David Terry  
Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson

**Wednesday, January 28th:**

Song Leader ..... Marion Mitchell  
Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 5:15-23)  
..... Marty Adams  
Prayer ..... Wilton Pepper  
Invitation ..... TBA  
Closing Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell

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**Sunday, February 1st:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Stuart Wilson  
Song Leader ..... Frank Noblitt  
Prayer ..... Rusty Brand  
Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Albert Bowers  
Assisting ..... Bonnie Sutton  
Serving ..... Delmer Carter..... Larry Mitchell  
..... Marvin Putman..... Tommy Burns  
Closing Prayer ..... Landon Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Stuart Wilson  
Song Leader ..... Frank Noblitt  
Prayer ..... Joel Hamm  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Albert Bowers  
Closing Prayer ..... Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday February 1st:

Usher ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Work Sound System ..... Tim Craig