

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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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Volume I

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No. 13

Strength To Say "No"

David A. Cox

Paul wrote, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12-14). In our day and age people have a real problem saying, "no." In the early 1980s Nancy Reagan, First Lady of the United States, learning the prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse launched a campaign called, "Just Say No." The problem of not saying "no" is perpetuated by parents when they raise their children and do not teach them what "No" means. The fact is and the scriptures teach that there are times when we must say "No". In "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts" (Titus 2:12), each of us must be able to say "no" in order to be pleasing to God.

Denying Ungodliness and Worldly Lusts

It is a foolish person who gives his life over to the things of the world and its lusts. God's grace will save man, but it will only do so if we learn to say "no" to sin. In Romans 6:1 Paul asks, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" He then answers his own question in verse 2, "God forbid." Paul stresses to the Romans that we must say no to sin. Paul writing to the Corinthians said, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor effeminate, nor abuses of themselves with mankind, nor thieves nor covetous nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Notice that the unrighteous (ungodly) will not be saved. Why? Because they failed to say "no" to the various sins that are listed by Paul. The grace of God brings salvation to all men, but only those that live according to the teaching of God's will and say "no" to evil.

How Can We Have Strength To Say "No"?

The strength to say "no" to the lusts of the world is found in the attitude of living "soberly, righteously and godly" (Titus 2:12). To live soberly means to live a self-controlled life. Righteously means to live upright which will cause our lives to be godly, focusing on the eternal things and not the temporary. Strength in our lives comes when we gives

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

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MarketStreet-church.org

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David A. Cox, Editor

ourselves to things that cause our faith to be strong: Reading, studying, and meditating upon the word of God. Praying for wisdom and strength to face the things of life is essential.

The grace of God has come to man that all can be saved, but do not think that means all will be saved. The rich man in Luke 12:16-21 lived his life for himself. We must understand that God gave His Son so that we might be saved and that we must give our lives to righteousness and godliness if we are to be saved. Therefore, let us live our lives recognizing that what we do and how we live will determine where we will spend our eternity.



“Call Home”

Dee Bowman

For many years, when my parents were still living, I called home every Saturday. For several years I traveled extensively, doing gospel meetings. I still called home every Saturday and very often took time to write a short note to my parents from each locale. When my mother died and we went through all her things, we found all those notes, neatly stacked and wrapped with rubber bands. It's good to call home.

Prayer is a vital part of the Christian's relationship with God. Along with allowing Him to speak to us through His word, it is the great privilege of the child of God to speak with his Father. It serves several useful purposes. For one thing, it keeps us in constant contact with the Father. That helps. A lot. It keeps you going straight and you're just less likely to get into trouble when your Father's on the line. How long since you called home?

The Father Is At Home. You never have to call back because He is always there. You never have to worry about whether or not you can “get through,” for He always listens to what you have to say. There is never a busy signal; the line is always open. “Let your manner of life be without covetousness”, He said, “and be content with such things as you have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). Read the great throne room chapter in Revela-

tion 4. God is on His throne. He is available. He will hear.

He Wants To Hear From You. Just as my parents were concerned about where I was and what I was doing, He is concerned about where you are and what you are doing. He wants to hear from you because it is an indication that you are on speaking terms with Him. “The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:15). If He doesn't hear, it is logical to assume that you are not including Him in your present plans. Prayer is an indication of faithfulness. Sin hinders prayer (1 Peter 3:7). People who are out of duty seldom pray.

You Can Call From Wherever You Are. What a blessed thought that you can stop whatever you are doing and say a little prayer (Philippians 4:6). What a blessing to be able to pray from any place at any time and know for sure that He is available and that He is eager to hear from you. He never wearies of your calls, never fails to hear no matter where you are. If you're doing well, He's glad to hear it. If you're having trouble, He's there to lend a listening ear. If you're sick, He cares. If you're going the wrong way, He surely wants you to contact Him then. “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers...” (1 Peter 3:12). It is indeed a joy to know that wherever you go, you can still reach Him. There is no place too far, no location too distant that He cannot be contacted.

You Can Call For Help. The 911 concept has saved many a life because at the other end of the line there is always someone who can help. God is that someone. He cares. You can call Him when you have an emergency. You can call Him when you need to be taken to a place of care. You can call Him at any time, day or night. He provides intensive care. You can call Him when you are exasperated from having failed again and again. He cares. You can call Him when you've fallen and can't get up by yourself. And He will help you. You can call Him when you've been rejected-even by those you thought loved you. He still loves you and He will give you aid. You can call Him when you're weary because of the long road you've traveled. He will give you rest.

You Can Trust Him. He is always at home. He never refuses to answer. The line is never down; there is never any static on it and you don't ever have to wait

on the line. And no matter how poorly you say it, He will interpret it well (Romans 8:26). He wants to hear from you because He wants to help. He will hear and He will answer. He is your Father. He wants what is best for you. Trust Him, “casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you” (1Peter 5:7).

Why not call home? Right now.

-via *The Needmore Bulletin*; Haleyville, Alabama.



“Reaching Forth”

Michael W. McLemore

When I was ten years of age my father undertook the restoration of the fields on our newly purchased farm. Interest in learning has always been my diversion, so I quickly showed interest in operating the tractor. To my surprise, Dad was quick to take me up on my request, showing me how to operate the tractor with its breaking-plow. Soon I was alone on the machine. Time and again my dad would stop me and point out the crooked row I had just completed. Finally, he said, “You can’t plow a straight row if you continuously look back. You must keep your eyes focused straight ahead.” I have never received better advice.

So it is in the child of God’s walk. Plowing our way toward heaven is powered by faith in Christ (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6). For that faith to stay the course – the straight and narrow way which leads to life – the Christian must forget the past and reach forward to those things that are before (Philippians 3:13). Focusing on the past, what lies behind, will prevent us from effectively pursuing our future. Establishing meaningful and specific goals will provide direction that we may focus our energies on what lies ahead.

As Christians we should regularly take time to evaluate our relationship with the Lord, and establish worthwhile and distinctive goals. Several areas of our lives should be considered in the process.

How is our relationship with the local church? Is the local church where I am a member stronger or weaker because of me? I can do something about that. A participatory spirit is developed behavior. Find one or two things which you can do. Do them well. Perhaps

there is an area which you feel is not being attended. Take that on yourself with the elders consent. Follow through and encourage another to join your effort.

Is the study of God’s word part of the daily routine? All Christians can allot a portion of their day to the study of the Word of God. We can rise thirty minutes earlier. One could study after dinner before watching television or reading the paper. Are we “giving diligence to present ourselves approved of God” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Are we personally involved in leading others to Christ? We should include within our personal goals the aspiration to aid at least one person in coming to Christ sometime in the near future. Whether it is through direct instruction, setting up a class, inviting someone to services, or taking time to point out specific truths at appropriate times during the coming days, weeks and months, every single Christian can do something. This simple approach will generate great opportunities in leading men to Christ wherever you may live and worship. Remember, the Lord said, “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35).

-via *The Eastside Edifier*; Scottsboro, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Jerry Tucker; Athens-Limestone Hospital – rm. 204
Peggy Taylor; Athens-Limestone Hospital – rm. ICU
Wendell Sherbert; Huntsville Hospital – rm. CCU
Delmer Carter; Crestwood Hospital – rm. 240

At Home:

Annie Mae Bragg	June Dawson
Martin Casteel	Yvonne Sherbert
Judy Brown	Kennedy Pepper
Benton Hardy	Jeff Waddell
Angela Green	Matt Poff
Tim Melson	

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Mary Smith, rm 85
Rosella Pugh, rm. 33	J.D. Clanton, 11E
Sarah (Jennie) Green	Lorene Bradford, rm.117

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Manor:
Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Shut-In:
Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Jimmy Killen, at home
Reba Adams, at home
Mauvis Phillips, at home
Majorie Lambert, at home
Fred Varnell, at home
Ellis Dunnavant, at home

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

BIBLE DRILL: This afternoon at 4:30 will be the time for our Children's Bible Drill. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present at this time.

SONG SERVICE: This evening at 5:00 will be time for our regular scheduled song service. I hope that everyone will be able to be present.

PICTURES OF THE BIBLE LANDS: The *Gathering Place* at New Haven on West Hobbs has been reserved for tonight following our evening service. *Al Burns* will be presenting slides of his recent trip to Israel. After the slides there will be finger foods to eat and a time to visit together.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Jones Road church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Jason Moore* is the speaker in this meeting... The *Harvest church* in Harvest is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Greg Chandler* preaching... The *Anderson church* in Anderson is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Gary Patton* preaching.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of March 22nd.

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 127
Morning Worship 151
Evening Worship..... 118
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 91

Vacation Bible School

June 8 -11, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Steven Bradley
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving Curtis Glass..... Dan Lovell
..... Marvin Putman..... Delmer Carter
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Frank Noblitt
Preaching
Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assingments for Sunday March 29th:
Usher Tyler Cox
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, April 1st:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 10:16-32)
..... Cory Nelson
Prayer Rusty Brand
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, April 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Jack Cannon
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Albert Bowers
Assisting Steven Bradley
Serving David Terry..... Tommy Burns
..... Landon Adams..... Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer Curtis Glass

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Jack Cannon
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Albert Bowers
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Other Assingments for Sunday April 5th:
Usher Marion Mitchell
Work Sound System Frank Noblitt