

# 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) 233-6086

### 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

April 19, 2009

No. 16

## *Gossip: A Heart Disease*

**David Hartsell**

What is gossip? It is negative, unflattering words that when spread hurt the reputation of others. Sometimes gossip is made up out of thin air. Other times the bare facts related, might be true, but many significant factors are left out, thus leaving the wrong impression. Some gossip can be true but can serve no good purpose to pass it on to others. How does the Bible describe gossip? God's Word often uses words like whisperers, backbiters, and evil speaking (Romans 1:29-32, 2 Corinthians 12:20, & 1 Peter 1:1).

Why is whispering so detrimental? What are its fruits? First, whispering often causes strong friendships to dissolve (Proverbs 16:28). Can you imagine how this would interrupt spiritual unity and progress in a congregation if the conflicting friends were brethren? We must carefully measure everything we say for the consequences can be powerfully negative. Also backbiting can feel like the "piercing of a sword" (Proverbs 12:18). Has unfair, critical talk about you gotten back to you? It hurts so deeply! This is not what Jesus taught us to do. He commands us to treat others in the way we would like to be treated (Matthew 7:12). Loose speech not only damages the reputation of others, but it diminishes the usefulness of the gossip. The only one who wins in this scenario is Satan.

Since God's Word offers such serious warnings against whispering, why do people do it? There are many reasons people participate in loose talk. Let's just look at a few of them. Some pass on negative information either because they are unaware of the truth or unconcerned about its veracity. Paul said that he was slandered when people reported he taught it was alright to do wrong as long as good was accomplished. (Romans 3:8) That concept is not true. He did not teach it. And it, no doubt, hurt his influence with some. Envy is another reason people will gossip. Some at Corinth were jealous of Paul's authority and influence over the brethren there. Therefore, they strongly criticized his right and ability to lead God's people (2 Corinthians 10:10-11). Paul warned those backbiters that he would deal with them when he came back to Corinth.

Finally, some people just like meddling in other people's affairs. It's exciting to them. Peter strongly cautions disciples not to be busybodies (1 Peter 4:15). He puts this sin in the same category as being a thief, an evil doer, or a murderer. God disapproves of careless speech.

How can I refrain from gossiping? The simplest answer is to love God. We show our love for Him best by "keeping His commandments" (1 John 5:3). And when we love Him we love each other. Jesus once said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for another" (John 13:35). That love will not just refrain from evil speech but it will uplift and encourage others (Ephesians 4:29). Are we faithful, wise Christians that can listen to sensitive things and give sound advice while keeping quiet about the matter? Or are we a verbal sieve through which everything we are told flows. God has shown us what is good. Let's not forget it!

-via *Sandlin Road Church Bulletin*; Elkmont, Alabama



## *"The Right Words"*

**Harold V. Comer**

What are the right words with which to criticize a king that is in a position to kill you for what you say? The prophet Nathan found the right words to help David the king, to clearly see himself. His words reversed David's spiritual decline. Nathan's word picture of a rich man taking a poor man's pet lamb was powerful and touching indeed. They were the right words at the right time.

How do you immediately get a Bible study with a powerful foreign official? Philip chose words with punch and yet enough courtesy to propel him from the desert roadside into the treasurer's chariot and a powerful, life-changing study of the words of Isaiah 53. The right words open doors. The wrong words close doors.

When an angry, powerful man is coming to kill your husband, what do you do? Do you run and hide, stay and cry, or ponder your words for just the right statement to sway him to reason and insight? Abigail

chose the right words and her speech cooled David's anger while it warmed his admiration for her. It is valuable indeed to choose the right words for the occasion at hand.

When Jonathan's best friend David was threatened with death or at least exile, the young prince's speeches were an example to all friends in lending support and encouragement with choice words!

God said to "Consider": The right words are often needed in Christianity today. We are commanded to give consideration to our efforts of provoking or stimulating our brethren to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). That means we are to ponder the needs and personalities of our weak brethren and are to work at choosing the right words with which to strengthen them. We are to exhort - but the real command of that passage is the simple verb "consider" to provoke one another to love and good works. God commands the thinking, searching, and agonizing necessary to find the right words.

Finding The Right Words: - We can find what will help if we try. Nathan, Abigail, Nathan, Jonathan, and Philip did. We must keep building our ability to say the things that minister grace to those who need us (Ephesians 4:29). Here are some things we can do to find the right words that will help others:

**We can decide we are obligated to improve our ability to say what's best on any given occasion.** Too many say, "I don't know what to say" and try to shed the responsibility to find the right thing to say. Others speak but their tongue becomes a butcher knife cast into the heart of those they are trying to "help." In addition to Hebrews 10:24, Colossians 4:5-6 and Ephesians 5:15 command us to develop wisdom in helping others. Second Timothy 2:24 commands us to improve our teaching skills.

**We can study the Bible to find things that work!** When Jesus picked just the right words to stimulate the Samaritan woman to spiritual curiosity and self-honesty, He taught us a lot about one group of choice words which arouse another's interest. It is possible to find things that work by perceptibly looking at Biblical role models.

**We find the right words with empathy!** Too often, well meaning spiritual people bull their way into another's life. They tell them exactly what they

should do without any awareness of the other's emotional condition or mood. They not only fail in their effort to help, they come through as insensitive, pushy bores and they close doors for later help. God commanded a spirit of empathy in Romans 12:15 and 1 Corinthians 12:26. Wise men don't sing songs to the heavy-hearted (Proverbs 25:20). Identify their mood. Be sympathetic. Then speak gentle words to help find receptive ears.

**Tone is important to the right words!** - Often the right words can end up sounding different from what is literally expressed. The words are good but the tone is altered by anger at something else, excessive tension, or just plain exhaustion. Proverbs 15:1 teaches that tone is important for really changing the angry man. A portion of people who need help respond more to a tone than they do the specific words that are used. Watch your words and watch your tone!

**Visual words work faster!** - Nathan used a concrete, visual situation with David. There was a quick response. Christ often taught by painting a visual picture. When Abigail cooled the angry David, she painted a vivid picture of him as king. Paint a picture with words. Hunt for a visual or concrete word. The meaning will be clearer than a long speech loaded with abstractions.

**Words of support are valuable!** - When David was threatened by the jealousy and javelins of Saul, Jonathan was there to offer words of endorsement and support. Words of support are needed by Bible class teachers, elders, deacons, parents and weak, troubled Christians today. They are not a waste of time. Rather, they are great and valuable motivators.

God expects you to care about the end result. Words, forced into sounds are just particles of bouncing air until they move the brain of another in a valuable and powerful way. Hunt for better words.

-via *Needmore Bulletin*; Haleyville, Alabama.

### *Remember Our Study Periods*

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

# Radio Program

## Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN - 770AM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00

Market Street church of Christ  
514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Jimmy Killen*; Athens - Limestone Hosp. - 206

*Peggy Taylor*; Athens - Limestone Hospital - ICU

*Kathryn Roberts*; Athens - Limestone Hosp. - ICU

Carolyn Dean's aunt

*Glen Keenon*; HealthSouth Rehab Huntsville

#### *At Home:*

Fay Ferguson

June Dawson

Brandon Craig

David Rice

Polly Davis

Janet Berryhill

Benton Hardy

Mary Davis

Jeff Waddell

Kennedy Pepper

Matt Poff

Tim Melson

Jamie Harbin

Angela Green

#### *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 Halbbrook, 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 serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

- Cody Brown; Iraq
- Brandy Lawrence; Afghanistan
- Joel Smith; Iraq

**TEACHERS MEETING:** There will be a teachers meeting next Sunday afternoon, April 26th, at 4:30 in the small auditorium on the westside of the building. I hope all of our teachers will be able to be present at this meeting.

**CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL:** We are meeting this afternoon at 4:30 for the children's Bible drill. I hope that all of our children will be present.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *David Rice and all the family* in the passing of David's aunt, *Bessie Burnett*, this past week in Charleston, Mississippi... We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Martha Giardina and all the family* in the passing of Martha's husband, *Joe Giardina*. His funeral was Saturday in Birmingham.

**SINGING:** The *Brookhill church* in Killen will have a singing on Friday, April 24th, at 7:00 p.m.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Hays Mill church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Buc Chumbley* will be the speaker ... The *Chapmans Acres church* in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. *Jeff Henderson* will be the speaker.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance – Week of April 12th

<b>Sunday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	133
	Morning Worship .....	165
	Evening Worship.....	122
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	88

## Vacation Bible School

June 8 -11, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ  
 514 West Market Street  
 Athens, Alabama

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### Sunday, April 19th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader .....	Joel Hamm
Prayer .....	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Kenneth Smith
Assisting .....	Dwaine Allfrey
Serving .....	Marion Pepper .....
.....	Tim Craig
.....	Tyler Cox .....
.....	Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer .....	Curtis Glass

#### Evening Worship

Announcements .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader .....	Joel Hamm
Prayer .....	Marion Mitchell
Preaching .....	Marty Adams
Lord's Supper .....	Albert Bowers
Closing Prayer .....	Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday April 19th:

Usher .....	Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System .....	Cory Nelson

### Wednesday, April 22nd:

Song Leader .....	Stuart Wilson
Bible Reading.....	(Proverbs 12:1-14)
.....	Jack Cannon
Prayer .....	Nathaniel Adams
Invitation .....	Warren Glass
Closing Prayer .....	Landon Adams

### Sunday, April 26th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements .....	Frank Noblitt
Song Leader .....	Stuart Wilson
Prayer .....	Rusty Brand
Preaching .....	Warren Glass
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Kenneth Smith
Assisting .....	Dwaine Allfrey
Serving .....	Marion Pepper .....
.....	Tim Craig
.....	Tyler Cox .....
.....	Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer .....	Tommy Burns

#### Evening Worship

Announcements .....	Frank Noblitt
Song Leader .....	Joel Hamm
Prayer .....	Marty Adams
Preaching .....	Song Service
Lord's Supper .....	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer .....	Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday April 26th:

Usher .....	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System .....	Frank Noblitt