

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

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.com

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

December 20, 2009

No. 51

Let Your Light Shine

Eddie J. Caskey

Great things are expected of you, as a Christian. “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16). Each day is a decision to arise and show forth a lifestyle that extols the virtues of our God. We are to be good examples, worthy of imitation. How sad it is, then, when followers of Jesus Christ allow things to hide that light! Let’s examine a few of the things.

Living a life of conformity is one obvious example of how we can be guilty of hiding our light. How can one stand out and be noticeable, if his or her life looks just like everyone else’s? Many years ago, marketers of Coca-Cola were looking for distinctiveness in their product that would set it apart. One solution was the patented shape of their glass bottles. People used to reach down into a cooler when they would select a soft drink and from that angle, most all bottles would look the same. Coca-Cola’s stated goal was to so shape their bottle so that patrons could tell it apart from all others, even in the dark. The approach worked.

As mortals, we may appear similar to just about every other person, but as Christians, our lives are to be so distinct, that others cannot help but see the difference. Paul said, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And to not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2). Our lights are hidden, and God’s will is not proven, when we live worldly lives.

Our lights are also hidden when we lack knowledge of God’s word. Disciples are exhorted to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). But, when Christians cannot be

relied upon to utilize the word of God in distinguishing the difference between right and wrong, darkness abounds and destruction is at the door (Hosea 4:6; Hebrews 5:12-14). The word of God is the sword of the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:17). Therefore, it is a weapon of our spiritual warfare. Do not allow that weapon to grow dull and rusty due to neglect. Rather, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Is your light hidden? If so, then resolve today to study God’s word diligently, that you might learn to live a life of distinction. Let your light shine!

-via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas.



It Is What It Is

T. Doy Moyer

A friend of mine, wise and astute beyond his years (so he tells me), has shared his newly discovered motto with me: “it is what it is.” Ok, so I have thought that a few times before, but it is one of those simple statements that forces us back to reality at times when we may feel overcome by our circumstances and disappointments of life. When things aren’t exactly as you would desire them, you can become focused on reality by telling yourself, “it is what it is.”

Circumstances are what they are. There are some things we can change, and some things we can’t (we are getting more profound as we go). Our problem is that we often expend more worry and energy on the things we can’t change; and this, in turn, can become a stumbling block to our spiritual growth and joy. “And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?” (Matthew 6:27). Paul’s own circumstances were often less than ideal, and beyond his control, yet his attitude remained stable: “I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philip-

pian 4:13). If I may venture a loose paraphrase: It is what it is, I have learned to deal with “it” through God’s help.

“Moses My servant is dead.” So spoke the Lord to Joshua (Joshua 1:2). Joshua knew this already; they had been mourning for days. But sometimes we need a reminder of the simple truth about reality. Essentially, God was telling Joshua, “Moses is gone, and you can’t change that now or have him back. Now it’s time to get up and go take the land of promise.” In other words, “It is what it is, and you have to work with ‘it’ the way it is.”

The only other option is not to accept reality. People do sometimes go through phases of “denial.” They do not feel mentally able to accept what “is.” It hurts too much perhaps. But if we will ever “arise and cross the Jordan” in our lives, we must learn to accept the facts and circumstances of life. It takes courage. It takes resolve. But, it must be done.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). God gives us the tools to be able to deal with all of our circumstances, including the painful ones. He wants us to cast our cares on Him, pray about them, and then let Him grant us peace in our hearts.

The solution to problems is not denial. We should learn to admit reality, then work with it as it is. When there are matters we can change for the better, let’s work to change them. When the circumstances don’t meet our concept of ideal, and we can’t change them, let’s learn to accept them and resolve to move forward with the strength God supplies. In all matters, we must “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). Because, as another one of my favorite “profound” questions reminds us, a hundred years from now, what will “it” matter? We worry about things that will pass into oblivion, and sometimes ignore those matters that have eternal consequences. A hundred years from now, it won’t matter that my car has a few scratches, or my water heater went out. What will matter is whether or not I have devoted myself to God and His will.

It is what it is.

-via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana.

Why Am I Here?

Edwin L. Crozier

Walk into a doctor's office and look around. Why is everyone there? Because they're sick and they need a physician to get better. Walk into a Toastmasters club and look around you. Why is everyone there? Because they want to get better at speaking in front of people and they need help. Walk into an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting and look around you? Why is everyone there? Because they are struggling with alcohol and they need help overcoming.

Here is what is interesting about the above organizations. No one tries to hide their sickness in a doctor's office. No one tries to hide their fear of public speaking in Toastmasters. No one tries to hide their struggles in an A.A. meeting. Why? Because in these settings they all know everyone is there for the same reason and they are all too desperate for help to hide it.

Now, walk into a church's assembly and look around you? Why is everyone there? The reality is everyone is there because they are all sinners and need a Savior (Romans 3:23-24). They are all there because they've learned without God they can't make it and they need Him to help them win the victory over sin in their lives (Romans 7:14-25).

This is where we start having trouble. Even though that is where every single one of us is. When we come into a church's assembly, we often perceive something different. Instead of seeing a group of people who are struggling with sin and have gathered to get some help, most of us see ourselves as struggling with sin but see everyone else as really good people who are just coming together because they are so spiritual. When we're at a doctor's office, we don't care if everyone knows we're sick, but when we're "at church" we try to cover up any spiritual sickness we have going on. We don't want others to see. We're afraid they'll look down on us.

Sadly, some Christians are like that. Some are like Simon the Pharisee in Luke 7:36-50 who actually don't realize how sick they are. If asked why they are there, they really might say, "Because I'm so spiritual," while in their mind adding, "Too bad everyone is not as spiritual as I am." Having met too many of these Christians, many of the rest of us put a lid on our real

struggles and try to fight them alone until they become too big to hide. Sadly, in those situations some folks just give up the spiritual fight entirely.

In this situation is the ones who should really be ashamed are not the ones who have continued struggles. Rather, the ones who should be ashamed are the ones who think they've got their lives under control on their own and aren't being honest about how sinful they really are, how much they need a Savior, and how humble they really ought to be as their dealing with people whose sins are different. Remember, in the parable of the prodigal son, it wasn't the prodigal son who was the bad guy. It was the older brother who was too good to go in and celebrate with the returning prodigal and the father.

Please, take a good long look at yourself. Why are you here?

-via *Franklin Church Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee.

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:

Lola Colwell; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 670

Mark Hargrove; Huntsville Hospital, ICU

Glen Keenon; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 711

At Home:

Harold Hays

Bernice Thomas

Gladys Johnson

Polly Davis

Yvonne Sherbert

Mary Davis

Bobbie Adcock

Durrell Allfrey

Elmer Mitchell

Bayless Romine

Henrietta Word

Molly Weeks

Nancy Pierce Jeff Waddell
 Wayne Garner Tommy Gatlin
 Thomas Lovell Marie Welden

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
 Katherine Stoffregen, rm. 98 Mary Smith, rm. 85
 Lorene Bradford, rm.117 Rosella Pugh, rm. 83
 Irene Daniel, rm. 67

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Limestone Lodge:

Ruth Owens, rm. 12W

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
 Reba Adams, at home
 Majorie Lambert, at daughter's 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:

- Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan
- Joel Smith; Iraq
- Whitney Smith; Japan

WORK GROUPS: Tonight Work Group 2 will meet. If this is your group, remember to meet tonight following our evening service.

SYMPATHY: we want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Ronnie Locke* and all the family in the passing of his brother-in-law, *Reeder Barnett*. He was buried last Sunday in Anderson.

CD'S OF SERMONS: There are CD's available of all the sermons preached here at Market Street. If you would like a copy or know someone that would like one or more of them, please let us know.

NURSERIES AVAILABLE: There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other in the east wing.

THE RECORD: Attendance— Week of December 13th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 126
 Morning Worship 153
 Evening Worship..... 125

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 88

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Frank Noblitt
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Preaching, David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Bonnie Sutton
 Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
 Serving Delmer Carter..... Wayne Vaughn
 Ronnie Locke..... Russ Wulfekuhl
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Frank Noblitt
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching Stuart Wilson
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday December 20th:

Usher David Terry
 Work Sound System Tim Craig

Wednesday, December 23rd:

Song Leader Marty Adams
 Bible Reading..... (Proverbs 26:13-28)
 Marion Mitchell
 Prayer Wayne Vaughn
 Invitation Rusty Brand
 Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Sunday, December 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching, Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Rusty Brand
 Serving Chris Sides..... Nathaniel Adams
 Joel Hamm Tommy Burns
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday December 27th:

Usher Tyler Cox
 Work Sound System Tim Craig