

# 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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Athens, Alabama 35612  
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume XV

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No. 35

### *Learning To Control Our Anger*

**David A. Cox**

#### 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..... 6:30 p.m.

#### Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843  
Tommy Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312  
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

#### 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  
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**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*

*"So then, my beloved brothers: let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." — (James 1:19-20)*

It does not take long for anyone to learn that we live in a world filled with anger or wrath. We see it constantly in the news, full of beatings, shootings, and violence perpetrated on others. What we observe is the result of many in the world who are not controlling their anger. Indeed, anger can be very destructive in many ways. Many may think, "I may get angry, but I control it." James admonishes us to be extremely careful about allowing anger to enter our hearts. We must understand that James is cautioning us about anger because it is very destructive. Let's take a look at anger and come to understand its power.

#### Anger Is Seen In Three Ways.

When we look at these three ways anger can be expressed, we can see how all of them are offensive to God.

1. *It irritates one, causing them to be irritable and upset.* The irritation causes embitterment. The anger is silent but still very destructive.
2. *It is stewing, brewing with silent indignation.* On the inside, one is boiling, thinking about how to get back or even. The one who is angry may begin to share thoughts with others.
3. *It is explosive and blowing up.* It is evident that anger, in this case, has control. In such a rage, one will lash out, never considering the results or the effects it will bring to pass.

**Is Anger Always Wrong?** The answer to this is simple: it is sometimes wrong. Paul told the Ephesians, "Be angry, and sin not" (Ephesians 4:26). James said, "Be slow to wrath." Some things should make us angry. In Mark 3:1-5, we see Jesus entered the synagogue and was approached by a man with a withered hand. The Jewish leaders watched Jesus closely, and He asked them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or kill?" But they kept silent" (Mark 3:4). The text says that Jesus "looked around at them with anger" (Mark 3:5). There is no

question that anger is not a sin, Jesus did not sin. Jesus' anger was at their hearts' hardness and lack of devotion to God's will. Again, in John 2:13-16, we see Jesus enter the temple and make a whip of cords, driving out the sellers of sheep and oxen and driving out the "moneychangers" and overturning the tables. We would say that again, Jesus was angry, but it was an anger about sinful attitudes and sin. Sinful, immoral activity and sinful attitudes ought to make godly people angry.

### **What Can We Do To Control Our Anger?**

1. *Accept Ownership of Our Anger.* Consider what the cause of the anger is. We may be wrong and need to correct things we are unwilling to. It may be selfishness in our hearts or pressures and circumstances in life. Take time to look deeper into why we are angry and accept ownership of the things we need to change.
2. *Ask God to Help with Our Anger.* When we find ourselves struggling with irritation, anger, wrath, fury, or rage, we should talk to God about it. He wants to help us with our troubles (Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7). Let Him!
3. *Focus Our Minds on the Right Things.* When we are angry and going through all the processes of anger, we are prone to not thinking about things as we should. Paul told the Philippians, "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things pure, whatever things lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8). As we set our minds on things that are just, honest, pure, lovely, etc., we are not likely to lose control of our emotions of anger. But if our minds focus on doubt, pessimism, lies, dishonesty, etc., our focus will not be on the right things, and we will not control our anger.
4. *Finally, remember that Christ died for us so we can put away the old life and its old attitudes to become new.* Putting away the old attitudes will allow us to admit our mistakes and not to dig ourselves in. We will put away the irritation, anger, wrath, fury, or rage as it comes and will not sin in our anger. The new man will be alive, and the Lord and His will will control our lives.

We all would have to admit that we get angry, and living in this world as godly people, there should be plenty of things to make us angry, but we must not let it consume us.

## ***Promises God Never Made***

**Devan Harber**

Christian, stop making promises for God.

I know I'm not the only one who has heard this statement, and ones very similar, "It's all going to work out / God's going to take care of that / God's going to heal you..." How interesting, you know what God is going to do... I don't. Maybe they are better in tune with the Divine, or perhaps more presumptuous.

I think we must be careful making promises for God that He never said He would fulfill. Without question there are promises God has made that He will keep! Promises of salvation, deliverance, help, etc. — But, we must ask, "from what?" Sin. The promises God made are spiritual in implication and application. God promised to save you from your sin (Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved"). God promised to deliver you from your sin (like Paul, 2 Timothy 4:18, delivered "from every evil work," ultimately through the resurrection). God promised to help you in dealing with your weaknesses towards sin (1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you... But God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it"). You see God has made specific spiritual promises.

There have been many people lose their faith over a misunderstanding of this issue. Some caring Christian wrote them a check of faith, and when God didn't cash it, it devastated them. This is a danger in the health and wealth gospel. "You just serve the Lord and He is going to make you healthy and wealthy and your life will be on top of the clouds from now on!" How does that harmonize with Paul's own life, much less his teachings (see 2 Corinthians 11:22-33: suffering for Christ; 12:7-10: the "thorn in the flesh"; all of 2 Timothy 2-3 where Paul speaks of "enduring" (3x), and "suffering" — and yes, Paul says he "was delivered out of them all," (3:11), but he then acknowledges "all who desire to live godly... will suffer persecution." Yet, he trusted he would be delivered eternally and spiritually). What happens to this person who has shallow faith, when they are not "miraculously" healed from their cancer? They lose all confidence in God; their faith is made shipwreck. But,

God never promised to heal you from cancer, or heart disease, or bad eye-sight for that matter. He promised to heal you of your sin.

Where faith must enter this discussion is in the understanding, I believe God is fully capable of making this situation right; if not temporally, here and now, certainly eternally, there and then. The example of Paul would suffice for this point. God allowed him to endure and suffer hardship — but Paul knew God could make it good, and had complete confidence that God would make it good (see Philippians 1:20-26: “To live is Christ, to die is gain”; Romans 8:31-39: “Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ...”; 2 Timothy 1:8-12, especially v. 12, “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day”).

The next time you are going through some horrible circumstance, don't let a well-meaning Christian persuade you to believe a promise God never made. There is a very real sense in which it may not be okay physically (despite the repeated motto, “It will all be okay”); it may not be, but physically it was never promised to be. We live in a broken world and sometimes the brokenness follows us from birth to the grave. But... there is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son. He has promised to buy us out of the sin-sick suffering and take us home to be with Him. One day, it will truly be okay — that's the promise God made.

~via *Northwest Bulletin*; Beaumont, Texas.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Duane Thomas	Harvey Nixon
Barbara Ash	Betty Lovell
Jeanette Weir	Steve Stringer
Pat Nixon	Dan Lovell
Shirley Miller	Doris Lovell
Stephen Smith	Larsen Plyler
Amy Gill	

### Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Priscilla Tucker	Sharon Nave
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Harvey Nixon	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Anita Wheeler
Nikki Ogles	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Lloyd Adams	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Wynell Romine
Anthony Sutton	Jerry Lawrence
Henry Fusch	Liz Fusch
Kimberly Pressnell	Tim McGuire
Wynell Romine	Monica Nelson

### Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Judy Brown, rm. 120	Mildred Lambert, rm. 15
Margaret Carter, rm. 102	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Auteen Campbell, rm. 96
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Connie Brock, rm. 62

### Limestone Health Facility:

Ann Bush, rm. 75	Marie Nave, rm. 84a
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### Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home  
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
 Barbara Carter; Goldton at Athens  
 Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville  
 Irene Inman; at home  
 Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee  
 Stan Stanford; Goldton at Athens  
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison  
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

### In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

### Updates:

**Paul Adcock** learned this week that he will undergo a series of 45 treatments ... **Duane Thomas** is at home and is declining rapidly. Hospice is helping with him and they are managing his medications... **Barbara Ash** is taking her therapy and is making gradual improvements... **Sharon Nave** is waiting on the doctor to call her after they review the images from her CAT scan... **Rita Smith's son, Stephen Smith**, is home from the hospital taking antibiotics intravenously ... **Larsen Plyler** is scheduled to go to M.D. Anderson in Houston, Texas on September 8<sup>th</sup> to meet with the doctors there... Remember our expecting mother, **Lynsey Adams**, in your prayers.

**TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS:** The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30. They are studying *“Preparing To Teach My Neighbor.”*

**CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL:** Remember the Children's Bible Drill this afternoon at 4:45 before our

evening service. I hope all our children can come and participate in this time of instruction and learning.

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS TO BEGIN:** A Ladies' Bible class beginning in September. The class will meet in the evening at 6:00. The first class will be on **Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of **Sheila Holt**. That will be a good opportunity for our ladies to get together to study and share some time together. If you have any questions, see **Marcella Coblentz** or **Sheila Holt**.

**THE FLOWER FUND:** There is a flower fund maintained by the members of the Market Street church for the sending of flowers and plants to families during periods of bereavement. If you would like to participate in this work, please contribute your money to **Ida Nell Griffin**, who looks after this fund.

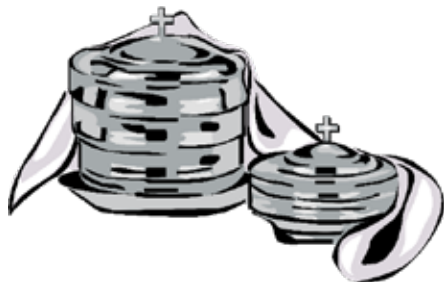
**PLACED MEMBERSHIP:** We rejoice that ... **Larry & Courtney Farris** have let it be known that they desire to be members of the Market Street church. Larry and Courtney moved to Athens from Nashville, Tennessee and have been attending with us. Let us all give them a very warm welcome to our family.

**CARD WRITING:** There is a card writing group that meets regularly to write and mail cards to people for appreciation and encouragement. The group will meet next Monday morning, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30. If you would like to participate, join them next Monday morning.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **Doris Fisher & Brenda Haraway** have been in Olney, Illinois for the memorial for **Kenneth Fisher**, Doris' son and Brenda's brother... **Theresa Tucker** is in Kansas City, Missouri.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance the week of August 20<sup>th</sup>:

Sunday:	Bible Classes .....	118
	Morning Worship .....	142
	Evening Worship .....	127
Wednesday:	Bible Classes .....	110



**Communion Preparation for August**

Communion Bread — Wanda Baker  
 Communion Cups — Larry Mitchell

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

*Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....	Stephen Lynn
Song Leader .....	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Tucker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Jerry Baker
Assisting .....	Albert Haraway
Serving .....	Sam Gregory .....
	Matthew Usery
	Charles Vaughn .....
	Luke Vaughn
Closing Prayer .....	Clayton Hamm

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....	Stephen Lynn
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Harold Ash
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper .....	Jerry Baker
Closing Prayer .....	Harvey Nixon
Other Assignments for the week of August 27 <sup>th</sup> :	
Usher .....	Danny Johnson/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

*Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>:*

Song Leader .....	Bob Broadus
Bible Reading.....	Tony Thomas
	(Acts 15:6-21)
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer .....	Roger Hammonds

*Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>:*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader .....	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting .....	Keith Hinkle
Serving .....	Harold Davis .....
	Matthew Vaughn
	Matthew Usery.....
	Christian Usery
Closing Prayer .....	Wayne Vaughn

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper .....	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer .....	Marcus Morris
Other Assignments for the week of September 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	
Usher .....	Hayden Pierce/ Marvyn Putman
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt