

# 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

May 24, 2009

No. 21

## *Two Ways To Keep Members Faithful*

**Bill Hall**

There are two ways to keep members of the church "Faithful." The first way is to be sure everyone is involved. Have a project for each member, and make sure that he feels important in his role. Praise him for the good job he is doing. Make him feel needed; make him feel that the wellbeing of the whole congregation rests firmly on his shoulders. That will keep him "faithful."

There are two problems with this method. In the first place, it encourages the creation of projects that are not remotely related to the work of the local church. One member plays on the church ball team; another member leads the Boy Scout troop; another is an active member of the "Dorcas Society"; another plans the program for the men's luncheon. Everybody is busy all right, but in activities that are not authorized in the New Testament.

In the second place, members are often given roles for which they are not qualified. A lady is chosen to teach a class not because she is qualified, but because she needs to be involved. A man is appointed a deacon to help him to be "faithful." Another man is appointed to serve the Lord's Supper for a month in order to encourage him to be present each Sunday that month. This method thus places "the cart before the horse," for no one should ever be assigned any work in the Lord's service who is not already faithful and qualified.

The second way to keep people faithful is to develop within them a genuine love for the Lord. When people love the Lord, they will be faithful, and it won't take some kind of "special project to keep them faithful. They will also be involved: in worship, in study, in godly living, in sharing the gospel with a friend, in helping the needy. I have known literally hundreds of Christians who have never in their lives been appointed to any special work, but whose love for the Lord alone keeps the faithful. There is no superficial faithfulness on the part of these; theirs is a faithfulness that is real.

Special responsibilities are fine for those who are qualified, but the

man who requires some special duty to be faithful has never learned what true faithfulness is.

-via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.



## *Selective Memory*

**Drew Jones**

Since it is our privilege to live during the 2000's, we, as a race, can look back at the thousands of years of human history, and learn from others' discoveries, breakthroughs, and moments of inspiration, rather than relying on our own. Many things still in use today can be traced back centuries: Women who wear eyeliner can thank the Egyptians, who began using cosmetic eye paint 6000 years ago. If you're finding the length of one side of a right triangle,  $a^2 + b^2$  has equaled  $c^2$  since about 400 BC. The ancient Chinese produced gunpowder, fireworks, the magnetic compass, ice cream, paper, and printing when other cultures were still emerging from the Dark Ages.

However, for all of the useful inventions we've inherited, it's also very easy to track some of humanity's most persistent follies all the way to the archaic roots of the great family tree. In Genesis 3, we find an account of the very first woman on earth erring in a way that seems all too familiar to us today, Eve's mistake is still our mistake (and importantly, this particular error occurs before the first sin).

In Genesis 2:16-17, we read Jehovah's instructions to Adam and, by extension, Eve, the tenders of His garden. "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely, but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.'"

Though these instructions seem simple enough, straightforward and easily memorable, Eve apparently had trouble with them. Not only did she end up breaking the one negative command from God, but her remembrance of the Lord's instructions is interesting. As Satan questions her in Genesis 3:2-3, Eve gives her version of Eden's laws. "The woman said to the

serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

Did you notice the difference? Now, it could be that we simply weren't privy to all of the Lord's instructions to the original couple, maybe at some point He stated things as Eve put them in chapter 3. However, it is interesting that the Spirit chose to preserve the two statements of God's law (as spoken by God and the by Eve) in rather different language. Eve conveniently alters the Lord's command by omitting His wish that from "Any" other tree they may eat "Freely", while adding in her own personal innovation, claiming that she and Adam were unable to even "Touch" the forbidden tree.

How familiar this seemingly minor but potentially disastrous mistake is. The grace, the goodness, the open-handed generosity of the Lord is down played; meanwhile, the stringent requirements He has placed upon such faithful, load-bearing souls as ourselves is trumped up, making the burden seem heavy indeed. God had created a bountiful paradise for His crowning achievement, man, to live in and enjoy-man, in his characteristically self-centered and arrogant way, chose to view such a haven as a merely adequate living space with a deadly hazard at its very center. As Eve's sons and daughters would continue to do for the rest of our race's existence (up to and including today), she chose not to focus on what was freely given, but was instead hung up on what she couldn't touch.

I certainly see quite a bit of myself in this case of selective memory. I recognize the half-pouting manner that I picture Eve assuming as she reveals to the serpent how difficult life in the garden is. I recognize the callous indifference evident as she quickly glosses over the inexhaustible material blessings on hand. And I recognize the ease with which such substitutions are made, how deftly one can choose to look at things through man's eyes rather than God's because it better serves a particular selfish purpose.

What is your view of the Lord's instructions for you? Do you obsess over what you aren't permitted to do? Do you ever set aside some time to take spiritual, mental, and physical inventory, and feel exhilaration over the countless blessings God has granted you? "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 John 5: 3-4). Consider the triumph we are promised, and the ease with which it may be obtained. Eve’s mistake may be an ancient one, but it is not one worth making.

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



## *Where Do You Stand?*

**H. L. Bruce**

Some argue that it is not right for error to be condemned by uninspired men. We are told that the examples in the Bible are cases of Christ and inspired men reproving the errorist, and that since we are uninspired we are not qualified to criticize them. The idea seems to be that error needs to be tolerated, ignored or embraced without any kind of uninspired opposition.

The above reasoning is just as faulty as can be and places only error to advantage. The person who so reasons obviously has objectives other than a propagation and defense of the truth.

If we asked, “Did not Christ condemn error?” We are immediately reminded that “He was perfect and we are not!” If we mention the practice of Paul in rebuking and reproving false teachers, we are told that “he was inspired and we are not.” Obviously our respondent would tie our hands and give error free course to be advocated without any kind of answer. The direction that one lends his influence, who so reasons, is not to the advantage of the truth.

We agree that Christ was flawless and reproved sin, wickedness error and corruption. The Bible so teaches (Matthew 23; Hebrews 7:26). The apostle Paul, through the utility of inspiration, also put false teachers to rout (Galatians 2:4-5; Acts 17:22,31). Christ and Paul had this disposition in common: Christ withstood them — so did Paul! If Christ withstood false teachers and apostle Paul imitated Him, what recourse does this leave us, in view of the fact that Paul said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1)?

—via *Gospel Truths*, Vol 15 No. 4; April 2004.

# News & Notes

## **THE SICK:**

### *In The Hospital:*

*Peggy Taylor*; Athens - Limestone Hospital – rm. 301

*Reba Byram*; HealthSouth Huntsville

*Danielle Moses*; Tuscaloosa Hospital

### *At Home:*

Christine McGuire

Tina Brown

Molly Wilson

Polly Davis

June Dawson

Evelyn Hays

Delmar Carter

Gilbert Hardy

Norman Brown

Tim Melson

Angela Green

Jeff Waddell

Matt Poff

Benton Hardy

Becky Munoz

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 Mary Smith, rm 85

Rosella Pugh, rm. 33 J.D. Clanton, 11E

Lorene Bradford, rm.117

### *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Pauline Lovell,

### *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

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

Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan

Joel Smith; Iraq

**HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDY:** We will be conducting a HighSchool/College Age study on four Saturday evenings during the next few months. We will begin the first study on Saturday, May 30th, and will study, *The Power of God*. If you know of some people in these age groups, please invite them to join us. The

gathering place has been reserved for the young people to gather after the study for refreshments and visiting.

**VBS INVITATIONS:** It is just two short weeks until the beginning of our Vacation Bible School. There will be classes for all ages, from babies through adult. In the adult class we will have different speakers as follows: *Monday – Jeff May; Tuesday – Bill Hall; Wednesday – Buc Chumbley and Thursday – John Gibson.* Remember there are invitations on the table at the entrances of the building for you to pick-up and send or give to those that you invite. Let's be busy working, inviting and praying for the VBS.

**VBS PREPARATIONS:** As our Vacation Bible School draws near, there is much preparation on-going in view of it. The teachers are working diligently preparing for the classes. There was a good number who came yesterday to help in getting things cut out, doors decorated, and bulletin boards done. In planning for the VBS there are a number of things that we are needing. It may be that you may have or know where we can get the things we will need. The things we need help set our theme are as follows:

1. Two pallets
2. Twelve Concrete blocks.
3. Rope
4. Fishing Hats
5. Two Log Posts – Approximately 3.5 Feet Long
6. Fishing Nets
7. Fishing Lures
8. Fishing Hooks
9. Tackle Box
10. Two Cane Poles
11. Some Ficus Trees

If you can help getting these items, please see *Beth Brand* or *Kerry Cox*.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS:** Beginning this Wednesday night we will begin a new class for several weeks on "*Every Joint Supplieth*". The work and growth of every church is dependent upon each person. We will be looking at Paul's instruction to the Ephesians and making applications for us. I am looking forward to the new study and I hope that everyone will be able to join us.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance – Week of May 17th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 121  
 Morning Worship ..... 150  
 Evening Worship..... 100

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 90

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

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, May 24th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Song Leader ..... Frank Noblitt  
 Prayer ..... Joel Hamm  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Wayne Vaughn  
 Assisting ..... Bonnie Sutton  
 Serving ..... Curtis Glass..... Tommy Burns  
 ..... Raymond Brown..... Delmer Carter  
 Closing Prayer ..... Tyler Cox

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Song Leader ..... Frank Noblitt  
 Prayer ..... Jack Cannon  
 Preaching ..... Song Service  
 Lord's Supper ..... Bonnie Sutton  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday May 24th:

Usher ..... Marty Adams  
 Work Sound System ..... Cory Nelson

**Wednesday, May 27th:**

Song Leader ..... Marion Mitchell  
 Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 14:13-23)  
 ..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
 Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Invitation ..... Warren Glass  
 Closing Prayer ..... Albert Bowers

**Sunday, May 31st:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
 Song Leader ..... Jack Cannon  
 Prayer ..... Marty Adams  
 Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Assisting ..... Benton Ball  
 Serving ..... Hunter Cox..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
 ..... Dan Lovell ..... Nathaniel Adams  
 Closing Prayer ..... Tommy Burns

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
 Song Leader ..... Jack Cannon  
 Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Closing Prayer ..... Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday May 31st:

Usher ..... Tim Craig  
 Work Sound System ..... Frank Noblitt