

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

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Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume I

August 9, 2009

No. 32

Gods of This World: Self

Ethan R. Longhenry

Human beings have either idolized or demonized themselves throughout history. These days it seems that the pendulum has swung firmly toward the "idolized" side. Optimism about human capabilities has led to people making a god out of themselves!

This idolization has taken on many forms. Many people today accept a more relativistic view of life, believing that "what is right for you is right for you and what is right for me is right for me." According to this perspective, right and wrong is entirely dependent on individual belief and choice, placing the individual in the position of God. Others place their confidence in the dictates of government or science, which are themselves institutions or structures of men.

This trend is also prevalent in religious beliefs, especially in America. Since "secular" and "sacred" have been separated, according to society, and Americans are all about "choice," how one views the "sacred" is now entirely up to them. People are encouraged to "join the church of your choice." To believe that only one belief system is true is considered narrow-minded and elitist; instead, people are encouraged to develop a "cafeteria-style" belief system, choosing for themselves elements of various religions to accept while discarding whatever does not suit them. In all of these ideals, the main "chooser" is the self. It is all about what one believes or wants to believe!

This tendency can even manifest itself in people who profess the Bible as their spiritual standard in life. They are more than willing to follow what the Bible says in matters with which they are in agreement, but if a given Bible passage contradicts their belief system, or asks them to do something they do not want to do, they will either ignore the passage, attempt to declare the passage irrelevant to the present day, or distort and pervert the passage in an attempt to justify their perspective.

These all represent a form of idolatry, condemned as a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). Granted, people who believe these various ideas

about the self are not falling down before a statue, but it remains clear who really is “in charge” in their lives. The self is the one making the decisions. The self, in the end, is the final judge and arbiter. Whether one is a relativist, a follower of the general tendencies of society, or a selective interpreter of the Scriptures, self is placed in the position of God, and the One True God and what He teaches is secondary at best. And it is this very thing that the One True God condemns as idolatry-- when man puts anything in front of God and serves it instead!

As in all of these discussions, we must recognize that human beings and their capabilities are not all bad. After all, God made mankind in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). Of all the creation, God endowed man alone with the capability of reason and discernment, and He certainly expects mankind to use it (Romans 1:18-20, Acts 17:24-29)! Furthermore, God does not coerce or compel people; instead, He does exhort mankind to choose (Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Timothy 2:4).

Nevertheless, any time man takes a good thing and turns it into the ultimate, he commits idolatry. God has given mankind the faculty of choice, but the choice is not whatever the self wants it to be. Instead, the choice is between serving God or serving unrighteousness (Romans 6:16-23). While man does have reason, he is not capable of rendering proper judgment on every occasion-- as Jeremiah says, it is not within man to direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23). Solomon clearly establishes that there is a way that seems right to a man-- but its way is not life, but death (Proverbs 14:12)!

It is clear that God made man to think and reason, and that God has endowed mankind with free will to decide whether to serve Him or not. These abilities and freedoms were not given so that man would exalt himself and his abilities to a divine level. Instead, man is to recognize that he is limited, finite, and quite prone to sin (Isaiah 55:8-9, Romans 3:9-23). Humans are to recognize that there is a God who is greater than they are, and that they should look to Him for guidance and instruction (Acts 17:24-29, Proverbs 3:5-8). That guidance and instruction is now found in the Scriptures that God gave to man to equip him for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible should be consulted in order to learn what God would have us to do and not as a pretext to justify whatever it is that we desire (cf. 2 Peter 3:15-16, Jude 1:10). In all things, we must

remember that we are the creation and God the Creator-- He is the Potter, we are the clay (Romans 9:20-21). Let us not turn ourselves into gods; instead, let us serve the One True God!

~via *Good News For Norwalk* ; Norwalk, Ohio.



The Family Together

Dee Bowman

Family. There's something warm and inviting about the word. It floods the mind with thoughts of home and hearth, of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, grandma and grandpa. It conjures memories--memories of togetherness, of commonality, of all being in one place at the same time. It calls to mind picnics, ball games, holidays spent with loved ones. Family. It just says something special. And the thing it most especially says is “together.”

Together. There is no such thing as family without together. No matter how the word is used-- whether in regard to biology, or mathematics, linguistics, or physics--family always suggests something held together by a common bond.

The church is the family of God (Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19). God is the Father, saints are His children. We are referred to as “sons of God” (Galatians 5:5-7).

There are things that bind families together--things like common goals, common interests, even common struggles. The church is the same. All these things are both recommended and common in the family of God.

Worship brings the family of God closer to the Father. Worship is filial (fatherly) devotion, an attitude of reverential respect, of love and high regard for the one who has given us life. When we direct our love toward our common Father, we become stronger in both our devotion to Him and our devotion to one another. We are told to “worship Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). While this may refer to the attitude we are to have when we worship Him, I believe there is more to

it than that. I believe He means we should reach down to the very depth of who we are and accord to Him the most reverent feelings of that inner being. In the ultimate reality, worship is the adoring reverence of the creature for the Creator, and that means our most fundamental feelings of love and devotion must be extended to Him. When that is the case, it is axiomatic that we also come closer to one another.

Being together as a family brings us closer to the Father. He is the focal point of our assembling. When we sing together, we bring honor to His name. "I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding also" (1 Corinthians 14:15) carries the same responsibility as the worship to which we earlier alluded—there must be a reaching down to the essence of who we are when we sing praises to Him. Colossians 3:16-17 begins with "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," a sure indication of the need for the deepest respect we can muster before we even begin to sing praises to Him. Also, as we are told to teach and admonish "one another" in songs, hymns, and spiritual songs, the command closes with the enjoiner that we sing "with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Worshipful prayers brings us closer to God. As we each come closer to Him in our personal prayers and supplication, we come to be closer to one another, praying to the same Father, seeking the same blessings, extolling the same Savior. The Lord's Supper, served in the assembly of the saints, brings us together so that we can "consider one another to provoke unto love and good works" (Hebrews 10:23-25). Worshiping together promotes an intimate relationship with the family.

Family love is never better or more to be desired than in the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Love is the divine mucilage, it binds us all together in Him (Colossians 3:14). That love originated in Him, and is radiated to us; we ought therefore to radiate it to one another. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7). There's togetherness in that. Nothing brings us closer to Him than love for one another, born of love for Him. It makes peace possible. It solidifies unity. It emboldens hope. It gives security to a proper direction. It makes motive high and noble. Furthermore, to love the brethren is to be like the Father. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently"

(1 Peter 1:22). We be brethren. We each belong to God our Father. Brethren love brethren.

The family together is a beautiful sight. Think about the pictures you have seen of families together—paintings, portraits, photographs—they all speak to togetherness, to a common love, and to a common devotion to a common father. The family together is what the church of our Lord is all about. Let us be careful that we don't diminish its beauty by being derelict and neglecting the family together.

I love my family, don't you?

—via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

Gospel Meeting

September 13-17, 2009

Jeff McCrary, Speaking

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Elvin Stoffregen—Scheduled surgery on Tuesday morning at Athen-Limestone.

At Home:

JoAnn Gilbert	Lola Colwell
Polly Davis	Angela Green
Tony Corsbie	Jeff Waddell
James Craig	Mary Davis
Matt Poff	

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Mary Smith, rm. 85
Crutcher Harbin, rm. 100	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Lorene Bradford, rm. 117	Rosella Pugh, rm. 33

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Jimmy Killen, at home
Reba Adams, at home
Jerry Gilbert; at home
Majorie Lambert, at home
Albert & Mary Norton, 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
Whitney Smith; Japan

LOUISE CHRISTINE McGUIRE (1931-2009): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister Christine McGuire. She passed away Friday morning at Limestone Health. We have missed Christine's presence here at Market Street over the last few months. She was faithful in her attendance until she entered the nursing home. We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Bobby, the children and all the family* in her passing. Her funeral will be this afternoon at Limestone Chapel at 2:00. She will be buried in New Salem cemetery.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are glad to announce that the **Greer Family:** James, Edwina, Levi and Laura Kate have made it known that they desire to be a part of the work here at Market Street. We are glad to have the Greers with us and look forward to them working with us and us with them in the work God has given us to do.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group 2 will meet tonight in the small auditorium in the west wing following our evening service. If your last name starts with Cle – Ho you are in group 2.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of August 2nd

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 119
Morning Worship 173
Evening Worship..... 125
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 95

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Jack Cannon
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Wayne Vaughn
Assisting Kenneth Smith
Serving Tommy Burns Nathaniel Adams
..... Curtis Glass Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Jack Cannon
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday August 9th:

Usher David Terry
Work Sound System Frank Noblitt

Wednesday, August 12th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
Bible Reading (Proverbs 19:11-20)
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Albert Bowers

Sunday, August 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Frank Noblitt
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Wayne Vaughn
Assisting Kenneth Smith
Serving Tommy Burns Nathaniel Adams
..... Curtis Glass Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Frank Noblitt
Prayer Tim Craig
Preaching Marty Adams
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday August 16th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Marty Adams