

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.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

October 25, 2009

No. 43

“The Unity of the Spirit”

Eris A. Ritchie

In John 17:20,21 we have this language: “Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me.” This Scripture, along with many others, teaches us the attitude of Christ toward unity. The apostle Paul labored eighteen months to establish the church at Corinth. After he had been gone for only a short time, division crept into the church, and several different parties sprang up. The first four chapters of First Corinthians are devoted to the sin of division. Paul condemned the Corinthians in no uncertain terms, saying, “Let there be no divisions among you.”

Jesus Taught Unity

While Jesus was in the world his chief enemies were the religious people. At that time the religious world was divided into different sects. As Jesus saw these different bodies and learned that they cared more for their traditions than for the true word of God, He set about to correct their teachings. In trying to be their friend and to lead them in the right way He made enemies of them, leading finally to His crucifixion.

Jesus was the world’s greatest character and greatest teacher. His magnitude was tested when He lived as well as taught his convictions. He came not to do His own will, but rather the will of His Father, and that He did until the last spark of His life went out. Some of the last of Jesus’ words are in His prayer recorded in John 17. At that time He knew that it would be only a few hours until He would be killed; so we can be assured that His whole soul was wrapped up in the prayer, and that it came from the very center of His heart. He prayed fervently that we all might be only as He and the Father were one. Not for my life would I do or teach anything that would prohibit the answering of that prayer. Rather I want to do all that is in my power to bring about an answer to it. For that reason I am writing this article.

Unity Needed

I have read from the pens of a number of outstanding men of the

various denominations on the subject of unity. All of them believed and taught that unless we can be united in some way, the religious world is doomed. Because of this belief, union conferences have been held. Giant minds are studying this problem. In many parts of the United States different religious bodies cooperate in holding union meetings. In many cases most of the denominations in a town have union services for the Sunday evening assembly. These various union meetings are admissions of the need of unity.

There is no place in all of God's word that teaches for his people to be divided today, but there are many Scriptures that teach the need of unity. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, besought them to speak the same things to eliminate divisions, and to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment. He admonished the Ephesians to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." He exhorted the Colossians to remain knit together in love, warned the Galatians not to bite and devour one another, lest they be consumed one of another, and wrote to the Romans for them all to be like-minded. Timothy and Titus were especially warned against schism and divisions. In the above statements we have the mind of inspiration on unity. The outstanding men of the religious world are of the same mind, though they be divided in opinions and in fellowship.

Can We See Alike?

How can this much-needed and much-wanted unity be brought about today? Some justify division by saying that it is impossible for everybody to see alike. Why all this teaching in unity in the word of God if it is impossible for people to be united? Would a just God command unity and provide no way for His commandment to be obeyed? Surely the divided condition of the religious world today is no fault of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit.

Unity cannot be brought about by looking into the future for some imaginary unity. It must be brought about by looking back to the time when God's people were one, and by modeling after them. When that model is followed, unity will result, and the instructions of God will be followed. For the first few hundred years after Christ there was only one church, and that was the church that Jesus Christ came into the world to establish. That church started on the first Pentecost after the resurrection, and it grew by leaps and bounds.

People were added to it by the thousands. In Acts 4:32 we have: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul." This is the exact unity for which Jesus prayed. The religious world today can be of one heart and one soul by following the instructions that made that early church of one heart and one soul, and those instructions are found in God's Holy Word.

Our Lord prayed that we might be one, as He and His Father are one. We can bring about the answer to that prayer by speaking where the Scriptures speak and being silent where the Scriptures are silent. As Jesus sits at the right hand of God today, He frowns upon the existing religious conditions, or else He is inconsistent with His own teaching that He left for our guidance.

-via *Gospel Advocate*; Vol. 78 No. 24; June 11, 1936

Editor's Note: The preceding article was written by brother *Eris A. Ritchie* who labored with the church here from 1934 through 1936. This article was written and appeared in the *Gospel Advocate* during the time that brother Ritchie was living in Athens. The article teaches the truth and is it upon the truth of God's word that souls will be saved. It is sad to say that many in Athens today would not agree with what is taught in this article and the truth it upholds. May God help us to strive for the unity that He desires.

(D.A.C.)



"The Church of God" and the Diety of Christ

Mark W. White

The church of which all Christians are to be a part is God's church. Although many so-called Christians claim to be members of the church that God established nearly 2,000 years ago, they often wear names that indicate ownership by, or allegiance to, men (or offices of men). Some call themselves the "Lutheran Church" (after Martin Luther). Others call themselves after the designated local leaders of the church, e.g., Episcopalians (from the Greek word for bishop) and Presbyterians (from the Greek word for elder). The Scriptures, however, make clear that the church to which all of God's children

are to belong is not a church begun by man, owned by man, or called after man (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10-17). Christians must accept the fact that the church of the New Testament is God's church, not man's.

Several times in the New Testament, the term "church" (Greek ekklesia) is linked together with the Greek term theos (God). Paul wrote "to the church of God which is at Corinth" (1 Corinthians 1,2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; emp. added), and later commanded the Corinthians to "(give no offense...to the church of God" (1 Corinthians 10:32-33, emp. added). Paul also wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, reminding them how they "became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea" (2 Thessalonians 2:14, emp. added), and even boasted of them "among the churches of God" for their endurance through persecution (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, emp. added). One must not miss the point that the church of the New Testament is God's church. It is of divine origin and established according to Deity's "eternal purpose" (Ephesians 3:11).

Interestingly, Bible writers often refer to the "church of God" as the body or church of Christ. Near the end of his letter to the Christians in Rome, Paul wrote. "All the churches of Christ greet you" (Romans 16:16; NASB. emp. added). He taught the Corinthian Christians how they were "members individually" of "the body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:27, emp. added). Since Paul informed the churches at Ephesus and Colosse that "the church" is Christ's "body" (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18,24), the body of Christ is equivalent to the church of Christ (cf. Ephesians 4:11-12). Simply put, it is Jesus' church. He promised to build it saying, "I will build My church" - Matthew 16:18, emp. added), and later purchased it "with His own blood" (Acts 20:28; cf. Ephesians 1:7, 14; Hebrews 9:14).

These verses not only inform Christians of the names by which they should identify themselves, they also indicate something significant about the nature of Christ. Although some alleged Bible believers (e.g., Jehovah's Witnesses) claim that Jesus is not divine, the very fact that Bible writers equated "the church of God" with "the body/church of Christ" is one of the many proofs that Jesus is Divine. Paul consistently used these phrases interchangeably throughout his epistles. Thus, to say the church is Christ's is to say the church is God's, because Christ is God (John 1:1-3; 20:28). He is the head, Savior, redeemer, and owner of the church

(Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18). We must put ourselves under the subjection of Christ as God (Ephesians 5:24), and wear only scriptural names such as "church of God" or "church of Christ." In the words of the apostle Paul to the Ephesian elder: "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28, emp. added).

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

James Craig; Athens-Limestone, rm. 203

Heather Adams; St. Jude - Memphis, Tenn.

Marie Welden; UAB Hospital, ICU

Bayless Romine; Valley View Rehab., rm 79B

At Home:

Martin Casteel

Raymond Brown

Lola Colwell

Jerry Gilbert

Polly Davis

Wayne Garner

Molly Weeks

Tim Dean

Tony Corsbie

Matt Poff

Henrietta Word

Jeff Waddell

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Bobbie Adcock, rm. 118

Mary Smith, rm. 85

Lorene Bradford, rm.117

Rosella Pugh, rm. 83

Limestone Manor:

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.

Jimmy Killen, at home

Reba Adams, at home

Majorie Lambert, 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:

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

WORK GROUPS: Tonight is the night for Work Group 4 to meet. If this is your group, remember to meet tonight following our evening service.

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.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember there is a group that meets on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 to sing. The residents really enjoy this and I have had many express to me their appreciation for their family members that are and have been there.

WEBSITE: The church's website is undergoing a redesign and it will be complete this week. There will be a number of improvements made to the site. The *Market Street Messenger* will continue to be uploaded each week. The *Market Street Messenger* will also be archived online so you may look at back issues of the bulletin. The new design will allow us the ability to upload the sermons preached at Market Street weekly. The web address is:

MarketStreet-church .org

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Danville Road church* in Decatur is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Joe Greer* will be the speaker ... The *Westview church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday with services at 7:30. *Greg Chandler* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *New Georgia church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Gary Patton* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *College Place church* is in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Friday. *Sewell Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of October 18th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	126
	Morning Worship	154
	Evening Worship.....	104
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	92

Remember Our Study Periods

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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Rusty Brand
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Jack Cannon
Preaching	Warren Glass
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Larry Mitchell
Assisting	Wayne Vaughn
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl..... Tommy Burns
.....	Marion Pepper..... Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements	Rusty Brand
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Tyler Cox
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Stuart Wilson

Other Assignments for Sunday October 25th:

Usher	Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System	Danny Johnson

Wednesday, October 28th:

Song Leader	Marion Mitchell
Bible Reading.....	(Proverbs 23:12-21)
.....	Danny Johnson
Prayer	TLarry Mitchell
Invitation	Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, November 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Benton Ball
Assisting	Stuart Wilson
Serving	Nathaniel Adams... Marvin Putman
.....	Chris Sides..... David Terry
Closing Prayer	Rusty Brand

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Benton Ball
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday November 1st:

Usher	Bonnie Sutton
Work Sound System	Marty Adams