

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

November 8, 2009

No. 45

Dumbing Down of Christianity

Phil Robertson

Did you know that 10% of church goers in America believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife? That really should not surprise us, since less than 20% of "church goers" will attend Sunday school this week. A lack of biblical knowledge in churches seems to be a sign of the times.

Popular Christian researcher George Barna claims people are soft when it comes to committing to God. "Americans are willing to expend some energy in religious activities such as attending church and reading the Bible, and they are willing to throw some money in the offering basket. Because of such activities, they convince themselves that they are people of genuine faith. But when it comes time to truly establishing their priorities and making a tangible commitment to knowing and loving God, and to allowing Him to change their character and lifestyle, most people stop short. We want to be 'spiritual' and we want to have God's favor, but we're not sure we want Him taking control of our lives and messing with the image and outcomes we've worked so hard to produce." (www.barna.org - April 18, 2006).

As frustrating as this may be for church leaders, we need to ask ourselves, "Are we seeking ways to reverse this trend or are we contributing to the problem?" It seems churches have resorted to entertaining the masses instead of educating. You may be more likely to get a drama or extravaganza when you "go to church" than a Bible class or a sermon. In fact, a local news station recently ran a story on a church that had replaced all preaching with plays.

Jesus was faced with similar dilemma during His ministry. He knew people were not following Him for the right reasons. So, He refused to feed them. "Most assuredly I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for food which perishes, but for food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:26-27).

Instead of seeking to emulate theaters and concert halls, maybe

churches would have better attendance and more commitment if they looked and acted like a church. In its infancy, Christianity was grounded in teaching and preaching the gospel of Christ. Young evangelists were admonished to "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (1 Timothy 4:2). Why was there such an emphasis on education? Because the gospel, and only the gospel, "is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

In conclusion, this may be the most disturbing statistic. About one-third of Americans who describe themselves as "born again believe that if a person is good enough they can earn a place in heaven. That is scary! Many in churches do not understand the most fundamental biblical doctrine - grace. No one will ever be "good enough" to go heaven (Ephesians 2:4-9). The gospel is "good news" for this very reason. Jesus died in our place and then was raised from the dead (2 Timothy 2:8). We are saved by His blood not our own goodness (Romans 6:3-10).

However, if we do not preach it, people will not learn it. Biblical faith begins with the word of God (Romans 10:17). That is why the apostle Peter said, "Beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:17-18).

-via *Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.



Buy The Truth and Sell It Not

Bob Waldron

One of the most important attitudes one can have in striving to go to heaven is that of intense zeal for the truth of God. Too often, people settle on something far less than the truth. Remember, a counterfeit, though it may look relatively genuine, is nevertheless worthless. Likewise, we cannot enjoy the benefits of truth just by getting pretty close. We must take our position firmly

and foursquare on the truth. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

There are many among us who, like Pilate, would ask, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). Many do not believe in absolute truth. The Bible, however, is absolute, unchanging truth. "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalms 119:89). The belief that there is absolute truth is fundamental to one who desires to "buy the truth and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23).

One Can Be Wrong

It is a fact that anyone can mistakenly be wrong. Paul, when speaking of his past manner of life, before his conversion, said, "I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day" (Acts 23:1). Yet he was before a "persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious" (1 Timothy 1:13). How could he have lived in all good conscience when he had been so wrong? The answer is simple. He thought he was right. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25). The fact that we can be wrong means that it does not behoove us to close our minds to further investigation. Jeremiah said, "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16).

Faith vs. Opinion

Naturally, study brings us to certain conclusions. All of us live by certain principles. But upon what do our conclusions rest? All too often they rest upon mere opinion. Realize that if something is a matter of faith, then God must have said something about it. We cannot know the words of eternal life by opinions. One man's opinion is just as good as another man's; but no man's opinion is worthy to be compared to God's. You would not want to risk crossing the ice over a river merely because somebody thinks you can. Neither should we risk trying to go to heaven by the opinions of men. The difference between an opinion and conviction is that an opinion is usually a spur-of-the-moment conclusion someone comes up with based upon skimpy premises, if any. A conviction is a conclusion based upon evidence which has been thoroughly studied and meditated upon. God has given us a wonderful book. It furnishes man with doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, that he may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible is our evidence. It is the truth.

When believed, it becomes subjective faith. The Bible did not come from men, so there need be no question about its reliability. It was given unto men though, and designed so they could understand it when they read it (Ephesians 3:3-5). This is not to say that all the Bible is simple to understand. There are difficult portions of it that demand much study. The matters of conversion to God and everyday living are simple and easy to understand. What many find difficult about such matters is the application of that which may be so simple to understand.

Feelings - A Poor Standard

Do not base your conviction upon some peculiar feeling you might have. Feelings are a poor standard of truth. We have already mentioned Paul. We might mention Jacob also who believed with all his heart that his son Joseph was dead, but that did not make it true. Remember, God has given us revelation, facts. Our convictions must rest upon these facts or else we will find ourselves upon shifting sand.

Conscience - Not a Reliable Guide

Neither is conscience a reliable guide in determining whether your convictions are sound or not. The conscience is very pliable to begin with. Our conscience is usually formed at a tender age. At that time it may be trained to approve good or evil. When we reach maturity our conscience alters and becomes almost unchangeable. From then on it tells us only whether we have done as we learned to do or not. Changing the conscience then is a slow, difficult project. If your conscience were trained correctly, well and good. If it were trained incorrectly, then it will approve even when you do things that are really wrong, because it was taught that which was wrong. "Let your conscience be your guide" is therefore poor advise.

This brings us back again to the fact that we must ultimately make our stand upon the word of God. Everything is to be judged by it.

-via *Bible Study*; Hanceville, Alabama.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

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:

Yvonne Sherbert; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 626
Bayless Romine; Valley View Rehab. - Madison
Heather Adams; St. Jude - Memphis, Tenn.

At Home:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Katherine Stoffregen | Bernice Thomas |
| Rachel Grubbs | Gladys Johnson |
| Benton Ball | Lola Colwell |
| Jerry Gilbert | Polly Davis |
| Marie Welden | James Craig |
| Molly Weeks | Matt Poff |
| Jeff Waddell | Henrietta Word |

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:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Limestone Lodge:

Ruth Owens, rm. 12

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Jimmy Killen, at home
Reba Adams, at home
Marjorie 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 is the night for Work Group 2 to meet. If this is your group, remember to meet with your group 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.

OUT OF TOWN: We have missed several who have been out of town. *Nancy Abernathy* in Arkansas; *The Noblitts: Frank and Ava* in Auburn.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent Center on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

WEBSITE: The church's website is undergoing a redesign and it will be completed and up very soon. The improvements made to the site will allow us the ability to upload the sermons preached at Market Street weekly. The *Market Street Messenger* will be posted weekly and archived. There will be a history of the Market Street church and other things planned to assist those wanting to learn more about God's will for them. The web address is:

MarketStreet-church .org

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *West Rogersville church* in Rogersville is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Jeremiah McElyea* will be the speaker ... The *Westview church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday. *Phil Robertson* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of November 1st
Sunday:

- Bible Classes..... 128
- Morning Worship 151
- Evening Worship..... 113

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes..... 96

Remember our Service This Evening 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 8th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Dwain Allfrey
- Song Leader Frank Noblitt
- Prayer Joel Hamm
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Benton Ball
- Assisting Stuart Wilson
- Serving Nathaniel Adams... Marvin Putman
- Chris Sides David Terry
- Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

- Announcements Dwain Allfrey
- Song Leader Frank Noblitt
- Prayer Rusty Brand
- Preaching Warren Glass
- Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
- Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday November 8th:

- Usher Danny Johnson
- Work Sound System Tim Craig

Wednesday, November 11th:

- Song Leader Hunter Cox
- Bible Reading (Proverbs 24:1-10)
- Russ Wulfekuhl
- Prayer Landon Adams
- Invitation Kenneth Smith
- Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Sunday, November 15th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
- Song Leader Tommy Burns
- Prayer Bonnie Sutton
- Preaching Warren Glass
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Marty Adams
- Assisting Marion Mitchell
- Serving David Terry Marvin Putman
- Landon Adams Cory Nelson
- Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

- Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
- Song Leader Tommy Burns
- Prayer Nathaniel Adams
- Preaching Rusty Brand
- Lord's Supper Marty Adams
- Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday November 15th:

- Usher Delmer Carter
- Work Sound System Danny Johnson