

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 15, 2009

No. 46

The Church That Jesus Built

David A. Cox

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." In reading this statement that Christ made, one is made to wonder why there are so many different denominations that claim to be following Christ, but are teaching conflicting doctrines. The point is that Jesus did not build many churches, but just one.

Unity Is A Must

The church is the saved body of believers (Ephesians 5:25; Acts 2:47). This body of believers are a part of Christ's church and are to be united. It is not reasonable for us to think for a moment that the members of this saved body can teach and practice different and conflicting things. In John 17 Jesus prayed, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). Paul writing to the church at Corinth said, "that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). This unity is not based on what a group decides its articles of unity will be, but is based on what the word of God teaches. The disciples of Christ are to be a people of faith (2 Corinthians 5:7) and that faith comes from the word of God (Romans 10:17).

Christ Is The Head

The church that Jesus built will have Christ as the head (Ephesians 1:22-23). Many denominations today will claim that the head or founder is someone other than Christ. The headquarters will be at a particular location. All of this is evidence that these groups are not of the church that Jesus built, but are groups bound together by a creed, organization, etc.; not on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Speaking The Oracles of God

The church that Jesus built will simply use the inspired word of God

as its rule of faith with regard to its practices. Jesus taught the importance of following the word of God when He speaking of the Jews said, “in vain they do worship me teaching for doctrine the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9). Paul stressed this as well to the church of Galatia, “though we, or angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8). Those that are a part of the church that Jesus built will abide in the pure gospel and will “speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11).

The church that Jesus built and the one he died for and established will follow the word of God, in all that it practices. It can be identified from what the Bible teaches about the worship, work and organization of the church found in the New Testament.

No doubt there is much confusion today about the church that Jesus built, but rest assured that this confusion comes from men and not from God. Let's all determine to search diligently the word of God; practicing and holding to only those things which are right.



The Value of Doubt

Larry Rouse

Late in his ministry John the Baptist sent two disciples to Jesus with this startling question: “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” (Luke 7:19-20). To the careful Bible student this question makes no sense when you first consider it. John appears to have doubt about a matter that he had earlier expressed great confidence in. Jesus described John as being the greatest of the prophets (Luke 7:28). How can this happen with such man of faith?

Consider the earlier experiences and statements of John the Baptist. He had witnessed the Holy Spirit come down upon Jesus as a dove and had heard the voice of God from heaven proclaim: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). Shortly after these events, John boldly proclaimed this eyewitness account to his own disciples. It is from these very men that Jesus would later choose His twelve disciples.

Listen to the bold, confident proclamation from John as to the identity of Jesus Christ: “And John bore witness, saying, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him, I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, Upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.’ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God!’” (John 1:32-26).

Possible Causes of John's Doubt

The bulk of John's ministry consisted of his strong preaching to the multitudes in the wilderness. He was an outdoors man described as being clothed in camel hair, and eating wild locusts and honey (Matthew 3:4). He was arrested and imprisoned for boldly and accurately teaching the will of God. His stand of faith was exactly the stand God wanted him to make. But now he is isolated and soon would be killed. This sudden change of lifestyle would cause any man great pain. It is at this time that a man of faith would step forward and review the very foundations of his faith.

Another possible cause of doubt would be John's lack of knowledge of the details and timetable of the execution of God's plan. He preached boldly of the power of the Messiah and how He would purge Israel of the chaff of unbelievers (Matthew 3:7-12). John was like every prophet that came before him in that he was given a specific, accurate message to deliver, but he was not given all the details. We are told of how both the prophets that spoke of Christ and even the angels from heaven desired to know “the rest of the story” but were not allowed (1 Peter 1:10-12). Did John have a mistaken view of the kingdom as Jesus' own disciples did? Was he expecting a physical earthly kingdom? From the outlook of the fleshly eye, the ministry of Christ would appear to be going nowhere.

Is Doubt a Threat to Faith?

Whatever the cause of John's doubt, we see in his request to Jesus the exact response that a man of faith would have in a moment of doubt - he brought his doubt to the Lord! Doubt, by itself, is not a threat, but instead, it is an opportunity! The man of faith has learned that when doubt comes, a man is to seek out answers. These answers are not often easily found and will require great energy and suffering. When one runs

from his doubts and tries to bury his doubts he is in reality running from a stronger faith. Jesus taught in such a way to make men think, struggle and doubt in order that they might reach the truth of God. When Jesus challenged a man to believe in His ability to free his child from demon possession, the man honestly and tearfully said, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:23-24).

Jesus' Response to John's Doubt

Jesus gave John the very evidence he needed to erase his doubt. "And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me'" (Luke 7:21-23).

Can you imagine John hearing the eyewitness testimony of his disciples about the miracles and teaching of Jesus? John knew the prophecies of Christ, given both to the Old Testament prophets and also to him. Can you see him as he reviews again this evidence and, as a result, saying: "Yes, Jesus is the Coming One"?

Did Jesus rebuke and show disappointment in John because of his doubt? No, rather in this very setting Jesus gave John the highest praise. "When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John... This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who will prepare Your way before You. For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he'" (Luke 7:24-28).

What About Your Doubt?

What questions about God's will do you have? Do you have a reasonable foundation to know that Jesus is the Son of God and the Bible is His complete revelation? (1 Peter 3:15). Are you running from doubts about the application of God's will in the local church where you are a member? Sadly, many churches have taught their members to run from their doubts and to run from an honest examination of the evidence found in the word of God on a multitude of possible questions one may have. This approach will not lead to a stronger faith. I will never forget the reactions that I received as I studied

my way out of denominationalism and later out of a local church that had made some serious compromises. Men threatened me, others ridiculed me, and others gave me "easy answers" thinking that I would swallow them and end my struggle. None of these men helped me to find what I found after a lengthy, painful struggle - a faith upon which I could stand and defend to myself and to others.

From my experience, I have found some who have the weakest faith are the very ones who try to project the greatest confidence. From the Pharisee who scoffed at how anyone could disagree with him, to the one who loudly proclaims God's grace but lives in sin, these have one thing in common - they will not open their hearts and test the doubts that actually exist in their hearts with an open Bible. They will, however, try to silence those whom they may disagree by using their tongues to attack or other forms of intimidation. My prayer for you is that you begin this struggle for a stronger faith and that you will not abandon the struggle. Do not let men enslave you in fear and doubt. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

-via *New Living*; Brownsburg, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Bayless Romine; Valley View Rehab. - Madison
Heather Adams; St. Jude - Memphis, Tenn.

At Home:

Benton Ball	Raymond Brown
Virginia Miller	Rachel Grubbs
Janet Berryhill	Bernice Thomas
Margie Dunnavant	Jerry Gilbert
Delmer Carter	Yvonne Sherbert
Jo Dunnavant	Gladys Johnson
Polly Davis	Lola Colwell
Henrietta Word	Tim Dean
James Craig	Marie Welden
Matt Poff	Thomas Lovell
Molly Weeks	Jeff Waddell
Wayne Garner	

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. 12W

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Jimmy Killen, at home
Reba Adams, at home
Majorie 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 3 to meet. If this is your group, remember to meet tonight following our evening service.

OUT OF TOWN: We have missed several who have been out of town. *Nancy Abernathy* in Arkansas; *The Coxes: David and Tyler* are in Washington, DC. and New York this week.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember this afternoon at 4:30 will be the time for our children's Bible drill. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present.

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.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Bethel church* in Bethel, Tennessee is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Tuesday. *Jonathan Reeder* will be the speaker ... The *Kelly Spring Road church* is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Tuesday. *Tommy Porach* will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of November 8th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 131
Morning Worship 158
Evening Worship..... 100
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 84

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Wayne Vaughn
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Tommy Burns
..... Marion Pepper Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Larry Mitchell
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

Wednesday, November 18th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading..... (Proverbs 24:11-22)
..... Kenneth Smith
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Invitation Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Sunday, November 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Frank Noblitt
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving David Terry Marvin Putman
..... Landon Adams Cory Nelson
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday November 22nd:

Usher Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System Marty Adams