

# 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 29, 2009

No. 48

## *Do You Love The Lord?*

**David A. Cox**

If some people were asked the question, “Do you love the Lord?” most in our society would answer in the affirmative, “Yes!” Most people would claim to love the Lord and could recite reasons perhaps for their expressed love. Loving the Lord is good and right. It is not an option, it is a command. Jesus recalled the command, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Matthew 22:37). However, when one claims to love the Lord, what is meant? What is involved? What is expected?

### **What Is Meant?**

To many, love means to have an affection for, to admire, etc. But the command to love the Lord “with all thy heart”, does not mean just an affection or a tendency of goodwill toward another. Jesus is meaning by this that man is to love God with the total man, (the heart, soul and mind). A love that is the very best one has with the highest faculties of man’s ability. The affections and desires of man who loves with his all will be fixed on God and his will. This kind of love will cause one to have a greater loyalty to God over anything else. God is pleased when His wholehearted love toward man is returned in full.

### **What Is Involved?**

As already noted, more is involved in loving this way than just a mere warmth of gratitude. In 1 John 3, as John is writing about the need to love the brethren, the point is made that if you say you love your brother, but do not give him the things he needs, it is not love. John then says, “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). John points out that our love for our brethren ought to be shown and be evident. The same is just as true with our love for God. Many will say that they love God, but what do their lives show? Are they really doing the things God wants them to do in order to please Him? Remember God will only reward those that diligently seek to please Him (Hebrews 11:6).

### **What Is Expected?**

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus mentions a group of people that in their lives surely would have said they loved the Lord. “Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23). Notice this group had worked and done many things in the name of the Lord. Surely, this group of people claimed that they loved the Lord. But Jesus made it clear that regardless of how much they may have done or how much they may have claimed to love the Lord, it was not pleasing to God because they had not done what the Lord desired. In John 14, Jesus told His disciples, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Here is the expectation of the love the Lord desires; it is being faithful to Him and doing what He has told us to do in His word.

Let us learn that we must truly love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind. May we learn that this involves more than a good feeling and outwardly saying “I love the Lord.” Let us confess our love for Him daily in the lives we live and in the things we do; faithfully and diligently doing the will of God in all things.



## ***The Fields Are Whiter Than Ever***

**Edwin Crozier**

USA Today reports that most religious groups have lost ground, that is membership numbers, over the past 18 years. Basing their article on the recently released American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS), USA Today reports that, “The percentage of people who call themselves in some way Christian has dropped more than 11% in a generation.” This is despite the fact that there are 50 million more people in America than 18 years ago.

Sadly, many people are going to hear this and bemoan the losing of a Christian America. Regrettably, too many people are going to be so caught up in their political agendas that they miss what this means for real Christianity. Unfortunately, so many people are going to view this as Christians losing the fight for a Christian nation they will forget God never asked us to produce a Christian nation. He asked us to get the message of forgiveness and freedom to one more person.

With that in mind, this doesn't mean we're losing the battle. Rather, it means the fields are more white than they've been in a long time. There are more people who aren't religious. That means there are more people who are going to be recognizing something is missing, even if they aren't going to be completely up front about it.

I remember the story of two shoe salesmen who were sent into a tribal country to try to expand sales. The first called home and said, “I've got bad news. We've made a big mistake. Nobody here wears shoes. I'm coming home.” The second one called back and said, “I've got great news. Nobody here wears shoes. Everyone is a potential customer. Send more shoes.”

Which salesman are you? Do you read this article and think, “Well, what's the point? Nobody wants to hear.” Or do you think, “We've got work to do. We have more prospects than ever?”

Jesus said, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16). What we are learning here is this doesn't necessarily mean go to Africa, Asia, or India (though there is definitely need for that). For many of us who will never travel to those foreign lands, we need to learn this means go next door and teach the gospel.

Let's quit being sociological about why people are less religious and just get evangelistic with the good news Jesus offers. Some of those 50 million people are looking for something to give them forgiveness and freedom. Let's get out and give it to them.

### **A Generational Legacy**

One statement was made in the article that gave me pause and presented a concern. Kendall Harmon, theologian for the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, expressed one thought for why there is the drop. He

said, "I see kids today who have no vocabulary of faith, and neither do many of their parents." He presented an example of some parents who brought a yellow pad of their teenage son's religious questions. One question was, "What is that guy doing hanging up there on a plus sign?" That was a teenager.

Is that just a plight for Episcopalians? Or should we worry about that as well?

Sadly, this is not simply a religious concern. This a cultural concern. There was a time when most people in Western culture had the same background (this was true despite the divergent nationalities). Other than the completely uneducated, a reference could be made to something in Homer, Virgil, Milton, or the Bible and everyone would know what was being said. Probably some of you are wondering who Homer, Virgil, and Milton even are. There used to be a real, shared cultural background. People had read the classics. They had read the documents that formed our country. They knew and shared more than a language but shared a cultural background that made communicating ideas and even having a cross-generational conversation easier.

Today, we have lost that in our culture. Our shared culture is found on television. We can make references to Jack Bauer and Jack Shepherd and more people will know what we are talking about than if we speak of John Adams or John Hancock. Though John Adams had a recent miniseries on HBO which make him a little more familiar.

This is finding its way into religious culture as well. There was a time when we could talk about Joseph, David, Peter, Paul, Mary and everyone would know who and what we were talking about. That doesn't seem to be the case anymore. However, this is not for lack of these stories being taught in Bible class. Our children get a healthy dose of Bible stories in their classes. Yet, it seems that more and more forget what is told them in there.

What is the answer? We have to remember that it is not the local congregation's responsibility to get these stories into the hearts of our children. We parents need to do just that. We need to pass on a generational legacy of faith. We need to pass on a vocabulary of faith. The Bible stories, the foundational teachings, the great Biblical principles must be a part of our daily conversation with our children. I know it is an Old

Covenant teaching, but the principle remains true in the New as well.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

As Lois and Eunice passed on their faith to their grandson and son, we must pass on a generational legacy of faith to our children. We need to pass on that vocabulary of faith, which is more than just using the right words and having the correct definitions of often misused words. It means having a good, fundamental background in the Bible, its stories, and its teachings to be able to have good conversations about what it means for our lives.

By the way, do you know who Lois and Eunice are? If you do, great. If you don't, you see the point I'm making. Check out 2 Timothy 1:5.

The fields are truly white for harvest at home and out in the neighborhood. Let's not despair; let's get to work.

-via *Needmore Bulletin*; Haleyville, Alabama.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Tommy Gatlin*; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 670

*Glen Keenon*; Huntsville Hospital East, rm. 335

*Bayless Romine*; Valley View Rehab. - Madison

*Heather Adams*; St. Jude - Memphis, Tenn.

#### *At Home:*

Rachel Grubbs

Bernice Thomas

Polly Davis

Henrietta Word

Thomas Lovell

Jeff Waddell

Kathy Kerstiens

Yvonne Sherbert

Gladys Johnson

Lola Colwell

Marie Welden

Molly Weeks

Wayne Garner

Bill Green

*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  
Irene Daniel, rm. 67

*Limestone Manor:*

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

*Limestone Lodge:*

Ruth Owens, rm. 12W

*Shut-In:*

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.  
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 Work Groups 3 and 4 will meet. If these are your groups, remember to meet tonight following our evening service.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Craigs: Tim and Angela* are in Gatlinburg, Tennessee this weekend.

**JIMMY KILLEN (1931-2009):** It is with sadness that we mention the passing of brother Jimmy Killen. Brother Killen was a longtime member of the Market Street church and served as one the deacons for a number of years. Jimmy had been unable to attend for the last 2-3 years, but he still had a very keen interest in the Lord's work and the church here at Market Street. May the Lord bless Lona and their children at this time.

**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.

**THE RECORD:** *Attendance- Week of November 22nd*  
**Sunday:**

- Bible Classes..... 132
- Morning Worship ..... 152
- Evening Worship..... na

**Wednesday:**

- Bible Classes..... 94

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, November 29th:**

*Morning Worship*

- Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith
- Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson
- Prayer ..... Rusty Brand
- Preaching. .... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding ..... Frank Noblitt
- Assisting ..... Jerry McGlocklin
- Serving ..... Hunter Cox..... Danny Johnson
- ..... Cory Nelson..... Chris Sides
- Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

*Evening Worship*

- Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith
- Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson
- Prayer ..... Tyler Cox
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper ..... Frank Noblitt
- Closing Prayer ..... Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday November 29th:

- Usher ..... Bonnie Sutton
- Work Sound System ..... Tim Craigs

**Wednesday, December 2nd:**

- Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox
- Bible Reading ..... (Proverbs 25:1-28)
- ..... Landon Adams
- Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton
- Invitation ..... Frank Noblitt
- Closing Prayer ..... Tommy Burns

---

**Sunday, December 6th:**

*Morning Worship*

- Announcements ..... Rusty Brand
- Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm
- Prayer ..... Dwaine Allfrey
- Preaching. .... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding ..... Frank Noblitt
- Assisting ..... Jerry McGlocklin
- Serving ..... Hunter Cox..... Danny Johnson
- ..... Cory Nelson..... Chris Sides
- Closing Prayer ..... Liffird Smith

*Evening Worship*

- Announcements ..... Rusty Brand
- Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm
- Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper ..... Jerry McGlocklin
- Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday December 6th:

- Usher ..... Ronnie Locke
- Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson