

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

December 6, 2009

No. 49

Do Your Own Thinking?

Bob Buchanon

Not many of us think for ourselves when it comes to matters in religion. Most of us are what we are religiously because of the way our parents reared us and have never questioned whether we were right or wrong. We prefer to leave religious subjects and Bible issues to those supposedly trained and skilled in this field - the priest, theologians, pastors and preachers. Sometimes we even get the idea that the Bible cannot be understood by common people. Some of the religious leaders even teach and encourage this view.

Does the Bible say anything about the ability and responsibility of the average person to understand its message? Most certainly it does. To the Christians in Ephesus, Paul wrote, “Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17). Surely God does not require of man that which is beyond his ability. Paul had said earlier: “...as I wrote before in a few words, whereby when you read, you may understand my knowledge in mystery of Christ” (Ephesians 3:3-4).

The Jews of Berea were commended in the New Testament as “more noble than those in Thessalonica because they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). These people were not famous, nor were they rich or powerful. In fact, they were somewhat obscure. Their excellency was in their readiness to receive and investigate, to study and search for themselves whether the new teaching was or was not in accordance with the will of God. Certainly the Bereans could not be called professional theologians. They were simply people of honest hearts and open minds - moreover, a people with a profound respect for the authority of the sacred scriptures. Unfortunately, this attitude of the Bereans - the spirit of independent, personal investigation - does not prevail among religious people in the twenty-first century. Man is in a pitiable state when he does not possess the spiritual interest to study the Word of God for himself.

It is shocking to discover how many "religious" people have never read the Bible. It is the duty of every man to test all new doctrines by the teaching of the Divine Word. We are, as the Bereans, to search the Scriptures whether these things are so or not. There is no excuse for failing to do this. God has placed His Word well within reach of us all. It is printed in our language (no book has been put into more translations than the Bible) and can be purchased for a small sum. God has so formed us and so written His Book that it is to the level of our understanding. He has given us the necessary mental faculties to comprehend it, and He has made the substance of it so simple and plain that the wayfaring man can read and understand it. It is not the mystical utterance which some writings are.

The New Testament abounds with evidence that harmonizes with the attitude of the noble Bereans. The apostle Peter insisted that Christians should know what they believe and why they believe it, "ready always to give an answer to every man who asks you for a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). The apostle John places the responsibility directly upon every Christian to follow the pattern of the Bereans and prove every teaching to be sure it is from God "because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1John 4:1).

It is not only our right but our duty to listen to all and to try all: to judge for ourselves what is right (Luke 12:57). It is God's plain will that we should all bring what we hear to the standard of His own revealed will in His Word.

Members of God's family today are simply trying to reproduce faithfully the church of our Lord as it existed in the first century - the same in doctrine, worship, name, organization, service, life and work. The Bible clearly teaches that the seed of the gospel - the Word of God - will produce after its kind, pure and undenominational Christianity. The first century church as founded upon the basis of the Word; it follows that the same Word must serve as the blueprint for the twenty-first century church.

-via *The Eastside Edifier*, Scottsboro, Alabama.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Let's Be Honest

Norm Webb, Jr.

Let's be honest, most people don't enjoy lying. Dishonesty is not typically a valued characteristic. I have never heard of anyone who wanted to be known as a liar. Let's be honest about something else, we have all done it, lie that is, and as we did it, we knew it was wrong. Being consistently honest is a challenge, because lying is so convenient, so undetected, so seemingly rewarding. It can help us advance with minimal effort and escape trouble with a flip of the tongue. Omit information, blur the facts, exaggerate the truth, add some spin and you gain the crowd, protect yourself, please a friend, get what you want. After a while, dishonesty can become second nature. We still don't like it, so we adjust our conscience to go off only when lying is really harmful to ourselves or someone else. Little lies are unfiltered because they seem harmless. Before long, you are what you hate (because NO ONE likes to be lied to), but you don't really recognize that.

How does someone be consistently honest? When opportunity to fudge, blur, omit, or spin, knocks, how do you lock the door?

First, to develop honesty, consider values, not just rules. Don't misunderstand, God has rules about dishonesty that He expects us to obey: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:13); "Do not lie to one another, since you have laid aside the old self with its evil practices" (Colossians 3:9). God loathes the liar and the lying tongue and sets such a person in the same category as one who murders (Proverbs 6:16-19). However, instead of asking, "What rules did I break with my dishonesty," we should ask, "What kind of person do I want to be?" "When I am dishonest in any way, am I being like Christ? Am I emulating my heavenly Father?" When we do this, we become more concerned about our character than just following the rules. When we just follow the rules, we may attempt to break them if we don't think we will get caught. When you are concerned about your character, you will want to do right even when no one else is looking.

Second, recognize that dishonesty has vertical and not just horizontal effects. While we often may think that dishonesty only impacts our relationship with others, if they find out, we must realize that it significantly

effects our relationship with God. When God gave Israel their law, He connected their treatment of one another to their treatment of Him. "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'When a person sins and acts unfaithfully against the LORD, and deceives his companion...he sins and becomes guilty'" (Leviticus 6:1-f). God labels dishonesty as an abomination (Proverbs 11:1) and clearly states that the liar will have no place in His presence, but is doomed to a life of torment (Revelation 21:8). God doesn't want to be around liars. Only the one who "walks with integrity...and speaks truth in his heart" may dwell in God's tent and on His holy hill (Psalm 15:2). So when we treat one another with dishonesty, God takes it personally.

Third, realize how much of your life honesty encompasses. Honesty includes not padding your work hours, not exaggerating tax deductions, not cheating on a test, speaking up when lies or half-truths are being circulated, giving back excess change and returning borrowed items (Psalm 37:21). Allowing someone to think that something is true, when you are fully aware if its falsity, is dishonest. I was surprised to notice how many times God condemns false weights and measurements in the Old Testament, "Differing weights and differing measures, both of them are abominable to the Lord" (Proverbs 20:10). God even conditions Israel's continuation in the promised land to the honest of weight and measurement standards (Deuteronomy 25:13-16; see also Leviticus 19:35-36; Proverbs 11:1). This is one reason Jesus was so angry with the merchants in the Temple. It has become a "robbers' den" (Matthew 21:13), where exchange rates and standards had been tampered with. Jesus condemned the Pharisees and scribes for assigning conditions to the completion of their vows on the alleged significance of an item (Matthew 23:16-22).

They had priced their honesty and put it on sale. Honest is involved in so many aspects of our lives and we need to own up to that.

Fourth, think about who dishonesty affects. Dishonest affects more than just those with whom you are dishonest. The ripples spread out much further. In a 2008 summary by the Josephson Institute, it states that 83% of high school students have lied to their parents about something significant. 64% said they cheated on a test. The irony is that 26% of the students admitted that they lied on the survey. The clincher,

93% of the students said they were satisfied with their personal ethics and character. Frightening, right? Guess who sets the bar for these kids. Grown ups, parents, grandparents, teachers, etc. Your dishonesty has huge fall outs. You want the next generation to be honest, then you be honest.

Finally, own up and repent. When you are dishonest, be honest with yourself (1 John 1:9). Set it straight with the person with whom you were dishonest (Deuteronomy 25:13-16). Then reflect on the situation and determine how it will be handled differently next time. Vow to be different and lock the door on dishonesty. Remember, you are not just trying to go by the rules, you are developing a character that will determine your eternity.

-via *Friendly Visitor*; Athens, Alabama.

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:

Bill Green; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 672

Glen Keenon; HealthSouth Rehab.

At Home:

Ann Locke

Molly Wilson

Bernice Thomas

Gladys Johnson

Elvin Stoffregen

Polly Davis

Lola Colwell

Yvonne Sherbert

Marie Welden

Henrietta Word

Molly Weeks

Kathy Kerstiens

Jeff Waddell

Wayne Garner

Tommy Gatlin

Thomas Lovell

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Irene Daniel, rm. 67 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.
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 Group 1 will meet. If this is your group, remember to meet tonight following our evening service.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: This afternoon at 4:30 will be the time for our Children's Bible drill in the little auditorium on the west wing. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present at that time.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Weatherly Heights church* in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. *John Kilgore* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Jordan Park church* in Huntsville is beginning a meeting and it will continue through Wednesday with *Lowell Sallee* preaching.

NEW BABY: We rejoice with *Marjorie Dunnivant* on the birth of her great-granddaughter, *Hayden Maddux Dunnivant* this past Thursday in Huntsville.

SINGING: There will be a singing this afternoon at the *Cartwright church* beginning at 2:30.

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 29th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 138
Morning Worship 158
Evening Worship..... 101
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 77

Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Lifford 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

Wednesday, December 9th:

Song Leader Marion Mitchell
Bible Reading..... (Proverbs 25:15-28)
..... Hunter Cox
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Invitation Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Sunday, December 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching, David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Bonnie Sutton
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Delmer Carter..... Wayne Vaughn
..... Ronnie Locke..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Frank Noblitt

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday December 13th:

Usher Stuart Wilson
Work Sound System Marty Adams