

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.com

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

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No. 2

"What Is Truth?"

David A. Cox

Pilate asked the question in the trial of Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 18:38) and it is a question that has been asked many times. Many would have one believe that truth is relative – meaning that truth is determined by the individual and what they believe truth to be. Is this how truth is determined or is there an objective source of truth?

The Matter of Relative Truth

As we consider the idea of relative truth or truth determined by what an individual thinks, let us consider what the scriptures teach. First, the scriptures warn us saying, "There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Again we are warned, "It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23b). It is certain that all would agree that these wise and inspired men were not giving warnings to which there was no real danger. All will surely admit that there have been times in their lives or in the lives of friends that have seemed good, but in the end they were not right, but wrong.

Jacob provides us with a good example of this from the scriptures as we think of truth being determined by what we think or how we feel about what is true and right. Genesis 37 records the story of Joseph and his brothers. Joseph's brethren were very jealous of him and hated him greatly. Their hatred for Joseph got to the point that his brothers wanted to kill him. But instead of killing him they plotted together to sell Joseph as a slave to a band of Ishmaelites who were passing by on their way to Egypt (Genesis 37:12-28). In their plotting, they decided to take a coat of many colors that Jacob had given Joseph and dip it in blood and show it to their father. In Genesis 37:31-33 we read, "And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; And they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father, and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or not. And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces." The plot of the brothers

worked; Jacob believed Joseph was dead. Jacob made an honest assessment of the information he had. He was honest, but he was wrong. Jacob could not have believed anything to be truer than what he believe to be true about Joseph. Was Jacob's conclusion right just because he believed it with intensity or that it seemed to be the correct assessment of the situation? No, he was wrong. Truth is never changed because of how convinced one may be that something it is true.

How Can We Determine What Is True?

Look To The Right Source. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth" (John 17:17). This means that we must take our Bible, the word of God and study it openly, honestly and carefully. We must examine what we believe to be true with what the Bible says and if they do not match we must understand that "God is true" and we must accept what is taught.

Look For The Truth. A good example of this type of people who were looking, longing, and searching for the truth were the Bereans. "And these (the Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). We must belike the Bereans in searching and looking for the truth, not just accepting it because good ol' brother so-and-so said it. Let us be seekers of the truth and then we can know what truth is.

Love The Truth. To really know the truth and to profit from it we must love it. Paul, writing to the Thessalonians, spoke of those that were deceived who thought they were right because "they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10)." Many are pictured here by Paul that simply did not love the truth enough to accept it and obey it.

Live The Truth. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). Let us then desire to ever live as God's Word directs and we shall know the truth. This means applying the principles of truth found in the scriptures and walking in them.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

God's People Need Shepherds

Eddie J. Caskey

God is not only the divine architect of all creation, but He also designed the church. Great multitudes of people were "added to the church daily" (Acts 2:47) as they responded in obedience to the saving gospel preached by the apostles of our Lord. As the church spread from Jerusalem outward, it became necessary that others take up the mantle of evangelizing the lost. In Acts 8:3, we see that those scattered to the four winds by persecution "went everywhere preaching the word." So many disciples - but who was going to look after them?

Like sheep, these disciples needed tending and guidance, lest they become weary and scattered. Jesus had been moved with compassion as He noted the cruelty inflicted upon His people (the children of Israel) when they had no shepherds (Matthew 9:36). But His church, the : "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15), was going to be different! "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28) is the Lord's invitation to all those wandering aimlessly without spiritually adequate food or cool water. "And the spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' and let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). His church is a haven from the cruel thieves of the world that would rob the sheep of their salvation. It is a shelter from the harsh storms of life. It provides security from the savagery of wild animals intent upon ripping the sheep asunder. But how can the sheep find such comforts when there are no shepherds?

As the number of disciples multiplied in the first century, we see that they "appointed elders in EVERY church" (Acts 14:23; emphasis mine, EJC). The appointment of elders is not about assigning titles, but rather, it is about duty. The Lord's people need shepherds. The sheep have been scattered by various doctrines and lack of nourishment. Shepherds are needed to "leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it" (Luke 15:4). God's faithful are intent upon ensuring no other sheep are lost. They seek to train men, women, and children to fulfill their God-given roles.

Let us start early in preparing our young men to be future elders (shepherds), deacons (servants), and evangelists. Let us train our young women to be suitable helpmeets. Let us, as a congregation, endeavor to “obey those who rule over you, and be submissive” (Hebrews 13:17). Mostly, let us fall to our knees and thank God for His wisdom in providing His church with this system of leadership. Be sure to thank God daily for our elders. Ask God to bless and guide them in their noble work. And please pray that God’s people will always have shepherds!

-via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas.



Attitudes Toward The Weak

Bill Hall

The Messiah’s attitude toward the spiritually weak is pictured by Isaiah in the following words: “A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench” (Isaiah 42:3).

In our zeal for purity and strength in the church, we may be guilty of doing the very thing that our Lord does not want done. We create a mental image of what the ideal church ought to be, and then go about to establish one. Every member is going to attend every service. Every member will be “sound” in his convictions. Worldliness will not be tolerated. This church is not going to have the weaknesses that characterize other churches we know of. This is going to be a strong church, a model church.

A new convert is made, and immediately he is indoctrinated in what this church is, and the contribution he is expected to make to the maintaining of this ideal. Each newcomer is viewed as a potential threat. If he’s not going to “line up,” we don’t want him. Weaker members are handled with a “shape up or ship out” attitude. People soon recognize that there is far more concern for the image of the church as an organization than for them as struggling and weak children of God. While the Messiah is tenderly and delicately nursing

the “bruised reeds” back to health, we may be there crushing them. While He cups His hand around these fluttering, dimly burning flames to protect what fire is left, we may be there quenching them.

We are not suggesting that unrepentant false teachers and immoral members ought to be tolerated. They must be warned, marked, and withdrawn from. Nor are we suggesting that the weak ought to be left alone in their weakness. They must be taught, encouraged, reproved, rebuked, and exhorted, but with all longsuffering, and with a view toward strengthening them. “Admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all” (1 Thessalonians 5:14). Ask not what they can do for the church but what the church can do for them.

As long as there is a little life in that “bruised reed,” there is hope. Don’t crush it! As long as there is a little fire left, it might be fanned to burn more brightly. Don’t extinguish it!

-via *The Auburn Beacon*, Auburn, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Robert Tinnon; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm 218

Mark Hargrove; Huntsville Hospital, ICU

At Home:

Lola Colwell

Yvonne Sherbert

Harold Hays

David Gardner

Gladys Johnson

Polly Davis

Bobbie Adcock

Elmer Mitchell

Bayless Romine

Henrietta Word

Molly Weeks

Nancy Pierce

Jeff Waddell

Wayne Garner

Thomas Lovell

Marie Welden

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Katherine Stoffregen, rm. 98 Mary Smith, rm. 85

Irene Daniel, rm. 67 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 2 will meet. If this is your group, remember to meet tonight following our evening service.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Brenda Jones* in the passing of her cousin, *Thomas (Sam) Johnson*. He passed away on Friday and his funeral will be this afternoon at 1:30 at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home.

NEW GRANDBABY: We rejoice with *Robert and Mot Beasley* this week in the birth of their new grandson, *Mason Carter Beasley*. He weighed 7lbs. and 11ozs. and is at home doing well with his parents in North Carolina.

BIBLE CLASSES: This past week we began our new quarter in our Bible classes. The Ladies Class has resumed and they are studying **Putting On A Gentle and Quiet Spirit** taught by *Virginia Miller*. On Wednesday night, *Joel Hamm* is teaching an adult class on **Hebrews**, in the small auditorium on the west wing. In the auditorium, Sunday mornings, *Warren Glass* is teaching **1st - 2nd Peter** and on Wednesday nights I am teaching the **Book of Acts**. If you are not attending these classes, now would be a great time to join us.

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 January 3rd

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	116
	Morning Worship	156
	Evening Worship.....	110
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	82

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Stuart Wilson
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Rusty Brand
Preaching,	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Larry Mitchell
Assisting	Wayne Vaughn
Serving	Marion Mitchell..... Marion Pepper
.....	Tyler Cox..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Gilbert Hardy

Evening Worship

Announcements	Stuart Wilson
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Nathaniel Adams
Preaching	Warren Glass
Lord's Supper	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 10th:

Usher	Rusty Brand
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, January 13th:

Song Leader	Marty Adams
Bible Reading.....	(Proverbs 28:1-14)
.....	Jack Cannon
Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey
Invitation	Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer	Rusty Brand

Sunday, January 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Frank Noblitt
Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching,	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Larry Mitchell
Assisting	Wayne Vaughn
Serving	Marion Mitchell..... Marion Pepper
.....	Tyler Cox..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Frank Noblitt
Prayer	Landon Adams
Preaching	Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper	Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 17th:

Usher	Jerry McGlocklin
Work Sound System	Tim Craig