

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 R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand.....(256) 233-7343
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

Volume II

August 29, 2010

No. 35

Who Made Up The Church Before The Restoration Movement?

T. Doy Moyer

Question: *The restoration movement began in the early 1800's. From that came the Church of Christ. Before that who made up the church? I am a devout member of the Church of Christ and I just want to know how to answer this question in line with the Word. Thank You.*

Response: First, I want to comment on the first couple of sentences in the question. "The restoration movement began in the early 1800's. From that came the Church of Christ." May I kindly say that this is not a correct way of stating the point; and once we understand something about the church of Christ, the answer to the question will be obvious.

To say, "from that came the 'Church of Christ'" is to put the church into the framework of a denomination. It is to imply that the church of Christ had its beginnings in the restoration movement. If one is looking at a denomination called the "Church of Christ" (and such does exist), then perhaps the point would be legitimate. However, if a denomination called the "Church of Christ" does now exist as a result of the restoration movement, then it is unscriptural and ought to cease to exist, for we can find no biblical support for the existence of a denomination, no matter what name it uses.

Biblically understood, the "church of Christ" is simply a group or body of people who belong to Christ. It is not a title, and the Bible nowhere uses it as such. Though "churches of Christ" is used (Romans 6:16), it is not used exclusively, and then is simply descriptive of congregations that belonged to Christ. Other descriptions are used also: church of God at Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:2); church of the Thessalonians (2 Thessalonians 1:1); church of the firstborn ones (Hebrews 12:23), etc. Clearly, there is no one single title given for all congregations. Therefore, to use the phrase "Church of Christ" as a denominational, exclusive title is without authority and should be abandoned. I cringe when I hear terminology such as "Church of Christ preacher" or "I'm a Church of

Christer,” etc. It is patently unbiblical and reveals a denominational mindset.

It should be noted that the efforts in the “restoration movement” were not intended to create a new denomination known as the “Church of Christ.” My understanding is that they were trying to get away from that kind of thing so they could just be Christians. This should be our goal always.

To the bottom-line question: Who made up the church before this? The same ones who have always made up the church: those who, by faith, have committed themselves to Christ through obedience to His will (Hebrews 5:9). Just because we do not have a historical record of Christians throughout the centuries does not mean they didn’t exist. I would like to think that there has always been a “remnant” of God’s people, even during the years that Catholicism had a strangle-hold on the populace.

The requirements for salvation did not change with the American restoration movement. Anyone, living at any given time this side of Christ, could have been or can be just Christians by going to the Scriptures to be and do what first century Christians did under the guidance and oversight of Jesus and the apostles. When one obeys the gospel, the Lord adds this person to His body of saved people who make up the “general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” (Hebrews 12:23). Then, God desires that we join ourselves to a local group of Christians as we carry out His will (cf. Hebrews 10:23-24). In doing this, we should make sure that such a group is practicing truth according to the Bible, working and worshiping in line with the scriptural guidelines. This is the way that we, as individuals, can worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

Just because a local group calls itself a “Church of Christ” does not guarantee its faithfulness, and this is demonstrable. So, that phrase is not some kind of biblical litmus test for soundness. I do not believe that a congregation that is committed to God’s word will call themselves something foreign to Scripture, or identify themselves with some peculiar man, denomination, or doctrine. But ultimately, a congregation is recognized as faithful by the Lord through her holding fast to Him and His will (cf. Revelation 2:8-11, 3:7-13).

Today, if we will hold fast to Christ and His will,

He will judge us as faithful. In the end, this is all that really matters.

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

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“God and Country”

Russ Bowman

I feel very blessed to have been born both in this place and in this time. I love my country (and my state even more, but that’s another thought) and am proud to sing our national anthem and pledge my allegiance to the United States of America. Those of us who are Christians enjoy what has been a rare privilege in history, for we have the opportunity to inject our perspectives and convictions into the great societal expression that shapes the policies and decisions of our government. And participation in that process is neither wrong, nor inappropriate. But what seems to be happening in recent years raises some concerns in my mind. Perhaps what I am seeing is merely a reflection of my own historical naivety. I’ve never been a real “political creature” in my life. Oh, I have opinions and I vote and have been involved ever since I reached eighteen. But such involvement has been minimal. Now, however, I’m sneaking up on 50, with three daughters to finish raising and educating. I give a bit more thought to the economy, health care and political issues.

There is a tremendous amount of political discussion among Christians these days. Casual conversations. Social networking sites. Town hall meetings and tea parties. Even Bible classes. What’s happening in our government is clearly on the minds of God’s people. And, I reiterate, this is not in itself wrong. But I would voice these concerns for all of those souls in turmoil over the present state of the United States.

Christians are citizens of the kingdom of heaven (Philippians 3:20; John 18:36). We are strangers, sojourners, resident aliens in the United States (1 Peter 2:11). And while my physical nativity permits me to throw in my “two cents worth” as I pass through, let us remember who we are and whose we are. Certainly we can involve ourselves in temporal government and

use such to our best advantage. The Lord respected such (Matthew 22:15) and Paul exercised his rights as a Roman citizen (Acts 16:37f; 25:10f). But the Lord is our King, regardless of what happens in this country. He reigns, and my focus is to be first and foremost upon His kingdom, no matter the form or nature of civil government under which I live. My affections, concerns and responsibilities as a citizen of the kingdom of heaven will not change with the uncertainties of temporal government.

Secondly, would that Christians would approach the promotion of the kingdom of heaven with as much passion, diligence, and interest as some exhibit in the promotion of their conservative political agenda. It's sad when we will show up at a town hall meeting, but not at a gospel meeting. It's detrimental to the cause of Christ when we will try boldly to convert a political opponent, but not a sinner. It's disconcerting that we spend more time listening to Fox News than studying the Good News. It's reprehensible when we worry more, talk more, work more for the United States than for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, it is a dangerous thing to see Christians dividing over political ideology. Politics is a convoluted arena. The admixture of economic issues, social concerns, civil rights, national defense, legal matters, benevolence, moral issues, and a host of other elements make political loyalty problematic for every child of God. Who does not face some kind of dilemma in his ideology? I do not know one Christian who is serious about his/her discipleship that does not struggle with such matters. But it is a grievous issue when we begin to form our loyalties on the basis of political activity rather than on the basis of our common faith. Paul told the Galatians (Galatians 3:28) and the Colossians (Colossians 3:11) that all temporal distinctions are to be discounted within the family of Christ - "you are all one in Christ." Heaven forbid that we include Democrat and Republican in those lists. Do we really believe that those aspects of society that separate various political views are more serious and divisive than were the differences between the Jew and the Gentile or between the slave and the free? How can we put politics before the brotherhood?

Finally, and perhaps this is at the root of all of the above, we need to remember that civil government is not the answer to the problems that we face in our society.

Can our government influence such? Without a doubt. But the moral deterioration that we see in our world is not going to be arrested and reversed by congressional legislation, Supreme Court verdicts, or presidential agendas. When individuals become more godly and influence those around them toward the respect and promotion of God Almighty, then and only then will our world change. And the government will change with it. Read the parable of the mustard seed and that of the leaven (Matthew 13:31-33). If we're going to be passionate about a government, then let's be passionate about God's government.

Did I mention that I love my country?

~via *Hueytown Church Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Scott Adams; Cancer Center of America – Chicago

At Home:

Janet Berryhill	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Lola Colwell
Bobbie Adcock	Emma Clark
Jim Currier	Una King Currier
Molly Weeks	Jeff Mitchell
Jeff Waddell	Randy Graviett
Bernice Martin	Jess Shores
Jesse Carter	

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	Mary Smith, rm. 85

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
Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

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

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: *The Brands:* Rusty, Beth, Anna and Walker have been away in Pennsacola, Florida... *Stuart Wilson* has been away in Memphis this week with his work... *The Wulfekuhls:* Russ, Lisa and Allison are away in China and will be returning next Sunday night... *Nancy Abernathy* has been in Arkansas for the last couple of weeks. We pray for all to have safe travels and look forward to their return.

CONFESSION: *James Adams* came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness and strength in his life. We rejoice over the good heart and desire to please God in his life. May we encourage James as he will encourage us in our life as the children of God.

OUR MEETING: Our Gospel Meeting with *Bill Hall* preaching will begin in just two weeks, the Lord willing. Invitation cards are at each exit for you to take and give to those that you invite. There are some invitations with an envelope for sending. We are going out to distribute invitations around town. If you would like to help with this effort, let me know.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Cartwright church* will be engaged in a gospel meeting this week beginning today and it will continue through Thursday. *R. J. Stevens of Kemp, Texas* is the speaker in the meeting... The *Kelly Spring Road church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday. *Lawrence Kelly* will be the speaker.

THE RECORD: Attendance— Week of August 22nd

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 129

Morning Worship 163

Evening Worship..... 116

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 98

Gospel Meeting

September 12-16, 2010
(Sunday through Thursday)

Bill Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith	
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson	
Prayer	Jack Cannon	
Preaching	David Cox	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin	
Assisting	Marty Adams	
Serving	Tyler Cox	Ronnie Locke
.....	Chris Sides	Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton	

Evening Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Nathaniel Adams
Preaching	Warren Glass
Lord's Supper	Marty Adams
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 29th:

Usher	Tyler Cox
Work Sound System	Stuart Wilson

Wednesday, September 1st:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading	(Isaiah 2:1-9)
.....	Nathaniel Adams
Prayer	Rusty Brand
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Sunday, September 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	TBA
Song Leader	TBA
Prayer	TBA
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	TBA
Assisting	TBA
Serving	TBA
.....	TBA
Closing Prayer	TBA

Evening Worship

Announcements	TBA
Song Leader	TBA
Prayer	TBA
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	TBA
Closing Prayer	TBA

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 5th:

Usher	TBA
Work Sound System	TBA