

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

Volume II

September 5, 2010

No. 36

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

*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Spread The News About Our

Gospel Meeting

September 12-16

(Sunday – Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday – 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist – Bill Hall

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

The Cost of Influence and Reputation

Bill Hall

There are people in this world who are possessed with natural ability to lead and command respect of others. Call it charm, charisma, magnetism, or whatever, such people wield a powerful influence on those who look up to them as the embodiment of all they would like to become themselves.

Peter apparently possessed such qualities among the apostles; and there were David, Deborah, Nehemiah, and others. We have known such people in our day and have been influenced by them. Each reader can probably think of some “hero” of faith that he or she has looked up to through the years.

The opportunities for good that such people possess are tremendous; **but so are the responsibilities**. It is true that sin is sin, whoever commits it; that sin will separate one from God just as quickly as it will another. But the adverse consequences of one’s sins increase dramatically with the increase of the influence and reputation he enjoys among others. The confidence of others is a trust that must be carefully protected. Once that trust is in place, the person to whom it is committed has responsibilities that others of more normal influence and reputation do not have; and the more people involved in the trust, the greater the responsibility.

Those of reputation must be prepared for greater public scandal when they sin. Nathan told David that because of his adultery he had “*given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme*” (2 Samuel 12:14). Others had committed adultery in Israel, and their adultery had gone unnoticed by the enemies of God. But this was David! It was inevitable that the sin of this one man of influence and reputation would result in greater scandal than the sins of a multitude of people of lesser influence and reputation.

Those of reputation must be prepared for sterner rebuke when they sin than those of lesser reputation. Paul speaks of withstanding Peter “*to his face*” when Peter withdrew from eating with the Gentiles (Galatians 2:11-13). Paul’s rebuke of Peter was “*before them all*”. Peter was hardly the first Jewish Christian to refuse to eat with Gentile Christians, but Paul obviously recognized the seriousness of Peter’s actions because of his greater reputation and influence. Others were following his lead

on this occasion, including Barnabas. Peter could not enjoy the luxury of a private meeting with Paul; Peter had to face the sting of immediate and open rebuke. Peter had betrayed a trust. Nothing less than open rebuke could counteract the harm that was resulting. Sterner rebuke is simply a cost - an inevitable cost - of influence and reputation.

Those of reputation must live more cautiously than others if they would maintain their influence and good name. Every Christian is warned not to place a stumbling block in his brother’s way (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9), but one who is known and admired by thousands of brethren in many places obviously will have to be more cautious than one who is known and admired by only a few brethren locally. Paul would have to give up far more to be “all things to all men” than would some Christian who had never been outside his home community. That’s just the cost of influence and reputation. If one is not willing to pay that cost - if he is determined to be unbending in his conduct “no matter what others might think” - he needs to come to a greater appreciation of the value of a good name (Proverbs 22:1).

Those of reputation must be especially careful to build upon Jesus Christ, the true foundation, rather than upon themselves. The words, “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord,” must become their motto (2 Corinthians 4:5). Those who place their loyalty in men of name and reputation are in error. Their faith is not what it ought to be. But those who deliberately use charisma and flattery to attract a following are also in error (1 Thessalonians 2:1-13). The more natural charisma one is blessed with, the more cautious he must be.

When “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, a star Chicago White Sox outfielder, we involved in the “Blackstocking” scandal of the 1920’s and was on his way to trial, a small boy, hurt, disappointed, with tears in his eyes, was heard to cry, “Say it ain’t so, Joe; say it ain’t so.” Each reader is likely somebody’s hero. Other readers are men and women of widespread influence. Let each one, when he is tempted, and *before he yields*, look ahead to the tears, and hurt and disillusionment that he is about to

bring to those who look up to him; let him hear their potential cries of "Say it ain't so, Joe" and, motivated by their confidence and his own love for the Lord, let him "*resist the devil*". For, if he betrays the trust that has been committed to him, he can be saved eternally through repentance and forgiveness - For this we are so grateful! - but he likely will never recover the confidence he has lost. Right or wrong, that's reality. It is the cost - the inevitable cost - of influence and reputation.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama



Do We Lay It To Heart?

Robert F. Turner

Every parent knows the difference in "Do I have to go?" and "Do I get to go?" "Do I have to go to bed?" means the child wants to stay up. "Do I get to go to the show?" means the child wouldn't miss it for anything.

Isn't it strange that some of us will wave those same clear signals with reference to the Lord's services, and not see that we are being just as transparent as our children? "Do we have to go to Bible study?" says the same thing about our desires as it does when voiced by our child. When one asks, "How much must I give?," he is clearly saying, "I do not want to give anything, and would like to know how little will pay the bill." Either that, or he has failed to grasp the most fundamental and essential element in the spirit of acceptable service unto God.

There can be no coming to Christ except we deny or give up self (Matthew 16:24). Translated into context of "doing" this means we must first want to do all possible (100% committed) to serve the Lord. The proper spirit must motivate the doing, or it is shallow and empty - may even be an abomination in His sight (Hosea 6:6). God told the priest of Judaism, "If ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name...then will I send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessing; yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart" (Malachi 2:2).

Lay it to heart! That means truly respect God; take Him seriously. The priests had offered polluted bread on

the altar (Malachi 1:7); offered blind and lame animals as sacrifice (Malachi 1:8). They said of worship, "What a weariness it is" (Malachi 1:13-14). To make this current, they said, "Do we have to do or give?" "Do it any old way, just get it over with; we want to go home to the TV," And to top it off, when rebuked, they acted so innocent and said, "When did we ever do that?"

"Oh, that there were one among you that would shut the doors, that ye might not kindle fire on mine altar in vain" (Malachi 1:10). Better to close up shop - call it off - than to play at worship, and not "lay it to heart."

-via *The Northwood Messenger*; Northport, Alabama

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN - 770AM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Billy Joe Legg; Huntsville Hospital; rm. 653

Scott Adams; Cancer Center of America - Chicago

At Home:

Nancy Hardison

Janet Berryhill

Mary Ruth Gardner

Bobbie Adcock

Jim Currier

Molly Weeks

Jeff Waddell

Bernice Martin

Jesse Carter

Yvonne Pressnell

David Gardner

Lola Colwell

Emma Clark

Una King Currier

Jeff Mitchell

Randy Graviett

Jess Shores

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 Mitchells:* Larry and Peggy are out of town this weekend... *The Wulfekuhls:* Russ, Lisa and Alison are returning from China and will be in late tonight... *Nancy Abernathy* will be returning to Arkansas this week. We pray for all to safe travels and look forward to their return.

GROUP MEETING: Remember tonight will be the time for group one to meet. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group this evening.

OUR MEETING: Our Gospel Meeting with *Bill Hall* preaching will begin a week from today, 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.

THE RECORD: Attendance— Week of August 29th *Sunday:*

Bible Classes..... 129
Morning Worship 167
Evening Worship..... 120

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 106

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving David Terry Marion Pepper
..... Nathaniel Adams Chris Sides
Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 5th:

Usher Raymond Brown
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, September 8th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
Bible Reading (Isaiah 2:10-22)
..... Kenneth Smith
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Sunday, September 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Tyler Cox
Preaching Bill Hall
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Marion Mitchell
Serving David Terry Marion Pepper
..... Nathaniel Adams Chris Sides
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching Bill Hall
Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 12th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Danny Johnson