

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

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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

Volume II

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No. 39

Gospel Versus Doctrine – Is There A Difference?

Philip A. Owens

“Doctrinal Matters” are a source of perpetual conflict and division, as some people view them, while they view “Gospel” as something on which people can be united. Such artificial separation of the information given us in the New Testament is both unwarranted and erroneous. The concept that “Gospel” is more important than “Doctrine” is without Scriptural foundation. Please consider carefully the following:

Gospel: (God-story or good story, glad tidings) is a term used for the message of salvation in Christ (Romans 1:1-17; Acts 20:24). It contains facts to believe (1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Colossians 1:3-5, 23). It also contains commands to obey (Romans 10:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 1 Peter 4:17). It covers the questions of doctrine such as circumcision (Galatians 2:3-5), Paul's authority as an apostle of Christ (1 Corinthians 9:18), the hope of Christians (Colossians 1:23), and the work of exhortation (1 Thessalonians 2:1-13). The Gospel is the Word of God preached by the apostles (2 Peter 1:22-25). In it is revealed, the righteousness of God (Romans 1:17), and it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

Doctrine: is teaching. It is the message taught. Sound doctrine contains the first principles of the Gospel including teaching concerning repentance, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment (Hebrews 6:1-2). It is of God and thus is authoritative (John 7:16). It is of Christ and thus is authoritative (2 John 9). Doctrine is contained in the Gospel (1 Timothy 1:8-11). Sound doctrine effects salvation through faithful obedience to its instruction (1 Timothy 4:16; Romans 6:16-18). It convicts sinners (Titus 1:9; Acts 2:37; Titus 2:1-15) and thus leads people to repentance. Sound doctrine is recognizable and distinctive and those who teach a different doctrine must be noted and avoided (Romans 6:17; 1 Timothy 6:1-5).

Dear brethren and friends, if you teach people anything relating to spiritual things, you are presenting doctrine over which there is division, whether the subject is faith in God, Jesus Christ, the plan of salvation,

or the organization and work of the church. The all-important question is: are you teaching sound doctrine according to the Gospel, or are you teaching things contrary to the truth and without the authority of the Gospel of Christ?

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



Don't Be Surprised

Zack Lee

Life is filled with surprises, some good and some bad. There is one surprise that I hope we will never experience. I am referring to the surprise of standing before the judgment seat of Christ, having been a Christian for many years, only to be rejected by Him. Many would be surprised to find out that such a surprise is even possible, yet Jesus says that it is. As Jesus finishes up His sermon on the Mount, He says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and cast out demons in your name and do many mighty works in your name?' And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness" (Matthew 7:21-23).

This warning should concern everyone who is a Christian. Jesus is not speaking of atheists or agnostics. Neither is He speaking of those in religions who deny His authority and deity. He is speaking of us, those who call Him, "Lord," people who consider themselves among the faithful and in a right relationship with Him. Yet, to the surprise of many, they are shocked to hear Jesus say, "I never knew you, depart from me; you workers of lawlessness."

Notice the profession of the people in this passage. Jesus refers to people who call Him, "Lord." These are very religious people. Not only do they call Him, "Lord, Lord," but they also recognize the power of His name. They claim to prophesy, cast out demons, and do many mighty works in the name of Jesus. These are people who openly profess Christ. Yet Jesus says their profession is not proof that they are on their way

to heaven. Why? Their profession did not match up with their practice.

The people Jesus refers to have deceived themselves into thinking that they are on the right path, but their true condition before God is a disaster. Their profession of Christ is empty because they do not live by the demands of His Lordship. According to Jesus these people do not "do the will of my Father" and are "workers of lawlessness." In Luke 6:46, Jesus asked, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" This is the same problem with the people in Matthew 7. They act and sound religious. They may attend worship service and be involved in the church, but when it comes right down to it they refuse to do the will of God. There are many people who claim to be Christians yet do not live in submission to Christ. There is a huge gap between their profession and their practice.

While this should be clear to us, according to Jesus it isn't. Let's look at a few examples of how this might play out:

- * If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and engage in adultery and fornication.
- * If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and hate your brother or sister in Christ (or anyone else for that matter).
- * If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and never forgive someone of wronging you.
- * If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and serve two masters.
- * If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and lie, cheat, and steal.
- * If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and engage in continued, willful sin.

If you think you can you are just as deceived as the people that Jesus refers to and you are in for a big surprise come judgment day. Many people will try to argue with Christ on the Day of Judgment and list all of their religious involvement only to be shocked that they were not doing the will of God.

Can you imagine how terrible it would be to hear Jesus say, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness?" The worst thing that could ever happen is to be banished from the presence of God for all eternity (2 Thess. 1:9). There will be no more opportunities for

redemption, repentance, or confession.

I pray that none of us will be surprised on the Day of Judgment. So what can we do to avoid such a surprise? Let me suggest two things:

Examine Yourself Regularly

Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the danger of deceiving ourselves. "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5). We should examine ourselves daily as we go through life. This is one reason for observing the Lord's Supper. When observed, according to the teaching of the New Testament, the Lord's Supper includes a time of self-examination. "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28). Paul went on to say that a number of Christians in Corinth were "weak and ill, and some have died" because they did not examine themselves (1 Corinthians 11:30).

Allow the Word of God to expose your sin

Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Self deception can be buried deep within our minds. God's word is able to penetrate those deep, dark places and dig out the fraud that is found there if we allow it. When you read or listen to the word of God and something hits close to home, do you pay attention to the words or do you ignore them?

Do not be surprised on the Day of Judgment. Let's be sure that our profession matches up with our practice.

-via *The Manslick Road Speaker*; Louisville, Kentucky

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Trying Perfectly

Dennis Carrow

I recently heard an expression regarding our Christian way of life, "Trying perfectly." There are several phrases or expressions we use to motivate us to do our very best, "Give it all you got, give a 110%, try as hard as you can, etc." We are reminded that life is filled with endeavors that require our full attention and maximum

effort. No effort is more important than our spiritual endeavor to overcome sin.

On several occasions the children of Israel wanted to give up when the journey became difficult. There were times that they thought they would have been better off left in Egyptian bondage. God told them to "Go forward" (Exodus 14:15).

Though our way can become difficult, and we do fall short and commit sin, we must continue in our walk of faith. We must realize the problem originates with our failure to humble ourselves before God. We must remember God provides the way of escape (1 John 1:8; 1 Corinthians 10:13). Yes, we sometimes fail to see the provisions God has made for us, but they are there.

The result of being overtaken in a fault is we feel the foolishness of failure. A common response to failure is to quit trying. We must never allow this to happen. Regardless of the struggle we must never, never give up! We can never allow the difficulty of the circumstance to cause us to think for one moment we would be better off in the bondage of sin. We would not!

While we strive for perfection we must struggle against sin. As we run the race we must be prepared for those times when we might want to give up. We must give it all we've got, a 100%, we must "try perfectly."

-via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Mary Bates; Huntsville Hospital; rm. 263

At Home:

Nicholas Sandlin	Yvonne Pressnell
Jonathan Keenon	Hazel Toone
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Bobbie Adcock	Keena Adams
Jeff Mitchell	Emma Clark
Una King Currier	Jim Currier
Jeff Waddell	Eva Felker
Bernice Martin	Billy Joe Legg
Randy Graviett	Jesse Carter
Jess Shores	Scott Adams

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
Lola Colwell, at home
Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

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.

CONGRATULATIONS: This past Monday afternoon **Marvin Tucker and Virginia Miller** were united in marriage. We wish for them many years together as husband and wife.

CONFESSION: Last Sunday morning, **Jane Meredith** came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness and strength. We rejoice over her good heart and the desire to please God. May we all be an encouragement to Jane as she is an encouragement to us in our lives as children of God.

SOMERVILLE MEETING: It was my pleasure to be the speaker in the meeting at the **Somerville church** the first part of this past week. On Sunday morning, I preached for the **Desoto church** in Mentone, Alabama. On Sunday afternoon, I began the meeting at Somerville. It was good to be with church there and to be associated with **George Harris**, who is the preacher there.

GOSPEL MEETING: The **Mt. Zion church** is beginning a meeting today with **Daniel DeGarmo** preaching. The meeting will continue through Wednesday evening... The **Ephesus church**, north of Athens, is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening with **Sewell Hall** preaching... The **Anderson church** in Anderson is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday evening with different speakers as follows: Sunday – **Drew Edwards**; Monday – **Derek Chancellor**; Tuesday – **Steve Klein**; Wednesday – **George Harris**; Thursday – **Kevin Clark**... The **College View church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening with **Mark McCrary** preaching.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Wayne Vaughn
Assisting Bonnie Sutton
Serving Keenon Currier Tyler Cox
..... Delmer Carter Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 26th:

Usher Marion Mirchell
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, September 29th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
Bible Reading (Isaiah 3:18-26)
..... Larry Mitchell
Prayer Jonathan Keenon
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, October 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jonathan Keenon
Assisting Joel Hamm
Serving Hunter Cox Will Chumbley
..... Danny Johnson Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 3rd:

Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Danny Johnson