

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

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

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume II

October 17, 2010

No. 42

The Authority of God's Silence

Dan Richardson

“The Bible doesn’t say not to have instrumental music in church,” the young man responded as he and I discussed our differences on the subject. His statement reveals a view which many have toward the teachings of Scripture. It in effect, says that we have to have a “thou shalt not” recorded in the Bible before we should reject something as unscriptural. Was my young friend above correct? Let’s see what the Bible says.

Jesus promised His apostles another “Comforter,” the Holy Spirit, who would teach them “all things” (John 14:26), and guide them in “all truth” (John 16:13). This promise was fulfilled, beginning on the day of Pentecost, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles as recorded in Acts 2. When inspired by the Holy Spirit, the apostles began their work of preaching the gospel, as Jesus had commanded them (Mark 16:15-16); Acts 1:8).

“All truth” (referenced above), has now been revealed in its entirety— “the faith once for all delivered” (Jude 3). It is all-sufficient to do all that God purposed for it to do (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4), and, therefore, we must never be guilty of adding to it, taking from it, or perverting it in any way (Revelation 22:18; Galatians 1:6-9). That which the scriptures are silent about (has not been revealed) belong to “the secret things of God” (Deuteronomy 29:29). Many, however, like my young friend above, are not content to abide by what God has specified, and are willing rather to take extreme liberties that go beyond that which is written (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:6), breaking the divine boundary of silence with human assumption.

What God’s word teaches about this is impressive. Several scriptures address the reverence that should be had toward God’s silence. To disregard it is to close one’s eyes to what the Bible teaches: “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9). To “transgress” would include the carelessness with which many treat God’s silence, being considered no less rebellious than

other who fail to do what God requires.

In Revelation 22:18 we read: “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.” Here, the whole of what constitutes disobedience is realized, not only in the “taking away” of truth revealed, but also in the “adding to” of that which God has not revealed. Man’s ways and God’s way are not the same (Isaiah 55:8-9), and the former must never be substituted for the latter.

Let’s consider two Bible examples which illustrate this point. First in Leviticus 10:1-3, there were the two sons of Aaron, priests of God, each qualified to serve at God’s altar and instructed by God’s law regarding the manner of their service to Him. Rather than obey what God’s word said, they used “strange fire” in their offering: “strange” because it was not commanded. The consequence of their disobedience was to perish in fire sent down from God. What’s the lesson for us? When God has specified something, man is not a liberty to add other things which are unspecified. God didn’t have to list all the wrong ways they were not to sacrifice, in addition to the right way, before these priests could understand. If they had been spared long enough to say, “Lord, you didn’t say not to offer strange fire,” what would have been the difference in their reasoning with that of my young friend above who sought to add instrumental music in worship when the scriptures specify that we are to “sing” (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)? Absolutely none! The same is true, also, for any other addition of human wisdom in place of God’s specified word (i.e., sprinkling for baptism, denominationalism, church sponsored recreation, church supported human institutions, etc.).

Consider another verse, equally impressive with respect to God’s silence: “For it is evident that our Lord hath sprung out of Judah; as to which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priest” (Hebrews 7:14). The subject considered is the priesthood of Jesus Christ, and the inspired author of this epistle shows that with the change of priesthood (from the Aaronic priesthood of the Old Testament to that of Jesus), there must also be a change of law. Why? Because Jesus could not have been a priest on earth, for the law of Moses specified only the tribe of Levi to be priests. Jesus was from Judah, the wrong tribe! Our point is, this conclusion is

reached without God’s law having to state all the tribes that God didn’t want to be priests. By specifying the tribe of Levi, all the others were excluded. If God’s silence is authoritative and prohibitive here, it most surely is for all that He has commanded us. May we be challenged to investigate our beliefs in the light of divine truth.

~via *Search*; Sikeston, Missouri.

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Building Bigger Barns

Hal Hammons

Too often we try to put Jesus in the position of padding our already-comfortable lifestyles—like the man in Luke 12:13 who wanted Jesus to convince his brother to “divide the family inheritance.” As Jesus noted, He was not the proper forum for such a request. The man surely knew that, which makes it likely that (rather than getting his brother to give him something) he wanted his brother to give him more that he already had given. The Law of Moses provided that the eldest son receive a double portion of the estate; perhaps this man thought he could get a more “equitable” split in Jesus’ kingdom.

Is this what we have reduced the Lord to? A clearinghouse for carnal possessions? Too many of us, like the farmer in the parable that follows this encounter, are on a quest to build bigger and bigger barns. Shame on us.

This attitude shows a lack of appreciation for the blessings already in hand. Nowhere in the parable is any indication given that the farmer is grateful to the ultimate source of his goods. Rather, he claims all the credit for himself (Note the repeated use of “I” in his thoughts). The contentment of Philippians 4:11-12 is nowhere to be found. And what is our thanksgiving/request ration in our prayer life lately? In our efforts to find new and better ways to pat ourselves on the back, do we remember to give thanks?

Also in the rich farmer we see the attitude of pride.

He assumes that he has total (or at least adequate) control over his circumstances. Yet he would have been powerless to avoid droughts, floods and other natural disasters. He does not think of loss by way of fire, pestilence and infestation. Nor does he contemplate the situation the Lord paints for him--his own premature demise. We are but a vapor, James 4:14 tells us. The world does not revolve around us nearly as much as we would like to think.

We should not overlook the element of greed in this parable. Empty or half-full barns, no doubt were all over the surrounding area. Yet no thought was given to placing his goods in the warehouses of others. In fact, great pains were about to be taken to make that unnecessary. And how much better are we? Do unexpected windfalls bring thoughts of charity or luxury? Do we think the Lord blesses us just so we'll be blessed?

But the primary problem with the rich farmer, and those who share his outlook on life, is a completely earthy focus. Work, the thinking goes, is only to accomplish a physical end---security in this life. Once that end is accomplished, the work immediately ceases---“take your ease, eat, drink and be merry” (vs.19). No thought is given to pursuing more noble goals with all his excess time and energy. No thought is given to continuing his successful efforts for the benefit of others. Certainly no thought is given to God.

Retirement can be a tricky thing. We can get so caught up in the new opportunities for indulgence (travel, hobbies, relaxation, etc.), that we ignore a more important opportunity--increased dedication to the Lord. Of course, if we are as carnally minded as the farmer, we're unlikely to change at retirement. But far too many faithful Christians leave the work just when they can be the most effective.

Jesus had better things in mind than this for His people. He wants us to build barns in Heaven. We must devote ourselves to providing for our spiritual future with the fervor that so many exert in the carnal realm. If we do so, the barns cannot be built to adequately house the blessings our Father will shower down upon us.

-via *Bethel Bulletin*; Bethel, Tennessee.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

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:

Jane Meredith; Huntsville Hospital; rm. 668

French Barksdale; Huntsville Hospital; rm. 388

Mark Hargrave; Huntsville Hospital; rm. 757

Phil Pressnell; Vanderbilt Hospital; MICU rm. 8646

Eva Felker; UAB Hospital;

Mary Bates; HealthSouth Rehab; rm. 210

At Home:

David Gardner

Mary Ruth Gardner

Yvonne Pressnell

Hazel Toone

Vernell Guevarra

The Stuart Wilson Family

Keena Adams

Scott Adams

Jeff Mitchell

Emma Clark

Jeff Waddell

Bernice Martin

Una King Currier

Jim Currier

Randy Graviett

Jesse Carter

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 Hallbrook, 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.

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

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

MARVIN TUCKER 1927-2010: It is with sadness that we report the passing of *Marvin Tucker*. Marvin passed away suddenly in his sleep on Sunday night. Marvin had only been here for a short time, but it was a joy to have been able to know him. We express our deepest sympathy to Virginia and all the family in his passing. His funeral was Wednesday afternoon.

OUT OF TOWN: The Cleeks: Don and Linda have been out of town visiting family... **The Hamms:** Joel, Sharma, Clayton and Ragen are back home after being away last weekend... **Ida Nell Griffin** will be returning home this afternoon from Kentucky... **The Carters:** Delmer and Margaret were away last weekend visiting in Tennessee... **Will Chumbley** is in Auburn today.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meetng today and it will continue through Friday with *Frank Richey* preaching... The *Jackson Drive church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Johnie Edwards* preaching

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of October 10th
Sunday:

- Bible Classes..... 129
- Morning Worship 158
- Evening Worship..... 118

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes..... 99

Remember Our Study Periods

- Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.
- Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 17th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Rusty Brand
- Song Leader Joel Hamm
- Prayer Marion Mitchell
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Stuart Wilson
- Assisting Kenneth Smith
- Serving Marvin Putman..... Landon Adams
- Raymond Brown..... Bonnie Sutton
- Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

- Announcements Rusty Brand
- Song Leader Joel Hamm
- Prayer Nathaniel Adams
- Preaching Rusty Brand
- Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
- Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 17th:

- Usher Danny Johnson
- Work Sound System Stuart Wilson

Wednesday, October 20th:

- Song Leader Hunter Cox
- Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 5:8-17)
- Marty Adams
- Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
- Invitation David Cox
- Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Sunday, October 24th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
- Song Leader Tyler Cox
- Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
- Preaching Warren Glass
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Stuart Wilson
- Assisting Kenneth Smith
- Serving Marvin Putman..... Landon Adams
- Raymond Brown..... Bonnie Sutton
- Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Evening Worship

- Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
- Song Leader Tyler Cox
- Prayer Marty Adams
- Preaching Song Service
- Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
- Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 24th:

- Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
- Work Sound System Marty Adams