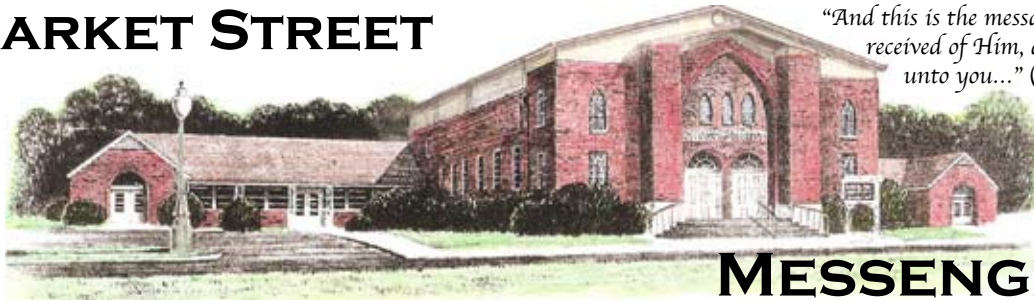


MARKET STREET



"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 31, 2010

No. 44

Delighting In God

Gary Henry

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. Never have I stood before its awesome vastness and its exquisite beauty without being moved spontaneously to say, however inadequately, how glorious it is. And I have never failed to hear others burst forth in words of wonder. Indeed, one would pity the person who either failed to delight in such grandeur or was incapable of sharing his delight.

C.S. Lewis has reminded us, in his inimitable way, that enjoyment not only overflows into praise, but that the praise is an important part of the enjoyment. Delight is incomplete until expressed, as any young lover knows. And the worthier the object, the more intense is the desire to enjoy and praise. Since God is the most worthy of all praiseworthy objects in the universe, we have here a clue to the joy of worship.

It may well be true that the chief end of man is "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." If so, God's command to glorify Him is actually an invitation to enjoy Him, since the glorifying is part of the joy. If the enjoyment of the Grand Canyon is somehow not complete unless we praise it, how much more is that true of Him who could make the Grand Canyon! Thomas Carlyle has said that "wonder is the basis of worship." He was right. And one would be pitiable indeed who either was not filled with wonder before God or did not experience joy in the expressing of that wonder through worship.

How exactly would we define "worship?" It is the expression of loving reverence and honor, the combination of adoration and veneration. As we have already hinted, it has very much to do with God's worth. Interestingly enough, our English word "worship" descends from the Old English word "weorthscipe" which literally meant "worth + ship." Practically speaking, worship is the expression of tribute to God's "worth" - His praiseworthy nature, attributes and works. The worshipper praises God, glorifies God, honors God.

The Bible is chock-full of worship to God. Consider just two examples. In Revelations 5:13, the innumerable hosts in heaven and earth

are pictured worshipping God in these words: “Blessings and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” And in 1 Timothy 1:17, there is one of Paul’s frequent doxologies (the Greek word *doxa* means “glory”): “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” In all such passages, the common denominator is the praise of God. A good many of the songs in our hymn books are songs of worship, and they are intended to be joyous songs in which we give expression to our delight in God. (Incidentally, a “hymn” is a song of praise, in distinction to other types of spiritual songs.) “Worthy Are Thou” is a good example of a human effort to “give to the Lord the glory due His name” (Psalm 96:9). The joy of singing such songs is the joy of the creature in the act of appreciating and expressing the worthiness and glory of his Creator. It is the most “natural” of the joys that can be experienced by a human being.

Now, it is undeniably true that the joy of worship must be kept within the bounds of God’s own pleasure. He has taught us that His thoughts are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9) and we ought not to think any expression of joyful reverence must be honoring to Him. Jesus was emphatic when He taught that those who truly worship do so “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24) When, however, a Christian does worship like that, he knows the joy that naturally flows from praising the Most Praiseworthy.

Now here is our point: this uplifting joy of worship is and ought to be a personal thing, a daily experience. The joy that Christians have together when they assemble as a congregation for worship is a very special treasure. (To minimize or neglect it may mean being lost.) But the child of God does not have to wait until he goes “to church” to experience the joy of worship. He can enjoy that every day he lives. He can joyously sing and pray, as did Paul and Silas even in prison in Acts 16:25. He can joyously meditate upon the praises of God and His word, as did the “blessed” man in Psalm 1:2.

When he makes personal worship a way of life, the Christian finds joy to be just one of several benefits: closer fellowship with God, spiritual strength and maturity, and more meaningful congregational worship. As he sets aside specific daily times of personal devotion and praise, and as he allows himself spontaneously to praise God throughout the day, the Christian discovers the

joyous goodness of fellowship with God. And when he does, he is getting but a foretaste of heaven, where the joy of worship will be complete and unending!

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

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Uno, Anyone

Morris D. Norman

UNO is a simple parlor game that can be played by anyone from age 7 up, and by any group up to 10 persons. It comes with a deck of 108 cards and a set of rules. In my early introduction to the game I played with my young niece who had, with her peers, her own set of rules. They were not always like those which came with the game. Later, when I played with others, I learned that I wasn’t playing UNO with my niece, it was another game. Oh, we played with UNO cards, but the rules had been changed to suit the players. For instance, these youngsters didn’t like the rule that limited playing the wild draw four cards only when you did not have the proper color in your hand, so they threw it out. The point is that they played a game **like Uno**, but it wasn’t **Uno** because it was not according to the rules.

Many people “play” at religion in this same manner. They will use the basic rules, that is, they use the Bible as their base; but in most instances, the rules have been changed to suit the players. By so doing, they may be playing a game **like** “Christianity” but it isn’t really “Christianity” at all because it isn’t according to the original rules of the game. There are some of the rules that they did not like, and these have been thrown out. There are other rules that they would have preferred so they have been adopted as part of the rules of the game.

The original rules are the ones that were originally given in the outset of the game, by the creator of the game itself. So, it will behoove finite man not to put himself in the infinite position of changing the rules of the game, that the true Creator has Himself given, to control how the game is played. Nevertheless it is done by every religious conference, council, and synod, by every person who “reasons” out of (not by, or in) the Scripture, which is the original rules of the game,

to satisfy some theory or opinion of the players. God has always had a pattern for man in accomplishing His Will, and has warned man not to tamper with His Will in playing the game (Hebrews 8:5; Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 21:8, 19). Only by His rules are we righteous in our efforts to play the game of “Christianity” (Deuteronomy 6:25).

In our day and time of “salvation by faith only,” man reads the “rule” book that says that baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), but that doesn’t fit their own theory, so it is thrown out as unnecessary. In our day of “doing your own thing” that includes easy divorce, men do not like God’s limitations, involving the only reason one can put away his wife and marry another, and so they throw that rule out of the game. So, men put away their wives for any and every reason they can imagine, and marry another.

When we do that, we no longer are playing the game of “Christianity” according to the original rules of the game that are only found in the original rule book, the Bible. But men have adapted the rules to please themselves in playing the game. So, a matter of picking and choosing, adding and subtracting, twisting and substituting the original rules to suit themselves. Thereby adapting life, as we want it, rather than as God wants it, and thereby we will stand in judgment unprepared to meet the original giver of the original rules of the game.

-via *Stanley Avenue Bulletin*; Andalusia, Alabama.

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Women Preachers

Mike Thomas

The majority of religions in our society do not permit women to preach, though that is changing with each decade. Why are women not permitted to preach in most congregations?

While I cannot speak for denominations, I know why the congregation I am a part of does not permit it. It is not a matter of ability or individual preference (for we have many capable, knowledgeable, spiritually-minded women). Nor is it a matter of human tradition

(“That’s the way things have always been”). The reason women should not preach to congregations where men are present is because it is a violation of God’s will. “*And I do not permit women to teach or have authority over a man, but to be in silence*” (1 Timothy 2:12). “*Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive...for it is shameful for women to speak in church*” (1 Corinthians 14:34,35).

Lest we think God has something against women, we should realize that when God tells someone to submit to another, He is not preferring one person over another. God is trying to establish order. He tells Christians to submit to the civil government (Romans 13:1), but does that mean they are less important to God? Children are to submit to parents (Ephesians 6:1-4), but does that mean the child is worthless to God? You see the point. Submission is not a matter of personal worth; it’s a matter of organization and completeness. The world is chaotic when people do not obey the laws of the land or disregard their parents rules. Likewise, the church is not the way God would have it when women are teaching classes or preaching sermons where men are present. Granted there are a couple of other factors for this arrangement (1 Timothy 2:13, 14), but ultimately it’s a matter of doing things decently and in order in church. It’s God’s will.

Thank God for Christian women who respect God’s word and seek to please Him in all things. Their worth is far greater than rubies!

-via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Jane Meredith; Huntsville Hospital; rm. 668

Phil Pressnell; Vanderbilt Hospital; rm. 8022

Mary Bates; HealthSouth Rehab; rm. 323

At Home:

Will Chumbley

Hazel Toone

Earl Davis

Wayne Gooch

David Gardner

Mary Ruth Gardner

Eva Felker

Keena Adams

Jeff Mitchell

Scott Adams

Jeff Waddell

Emma Clark

Randy Graviett Bernice Martin
 Una King Currier Jim Currier
 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
 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 is in the east wing.

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

RAYMOND BROWN 1940 – 2010: It is with sadness that we note the passing of brother Raymond Brown this past Sunday morning. Brother Brown will certainly be missed among us. His dedication and conviction of Godliness is what is sorely needed in the day in which we live. We express to all the family our deepest sympathy. His funeral was Thursday morning at Limestone Chapel and his burial was in the Limestone Memorial Gardens.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Annie Mae Bragg and all the family* in the passing of Mae's cousin, *Pauline Bates*, this past Sunday. Her funeral was Wednesday morning at Spry Funeral Home.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Westview church* in Athens is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Kasey Harbin* preaching... The *Trinity church* in Trinity is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Bobby Robinson* preaching

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of October 24th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 107
 Morning Worship 131
 Evening Worship..... 112
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 100

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 31st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Rusty Brand
 Assisting Tyler Cox
 Serving Mark Rogers Nathaniel Adams
 David Terry Marion Pepper
 Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Landon Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Rusty Brand
 Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 31st:

Usher Delmer Carter
 Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, November 3rd:

Song Leader Marty Adams
 Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 6:1-13)
 Will Chumbley
 Prayer Stuart Wilson
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, November 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Jack Cannon
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Rusty Brand
 Assisting Tyler Cox
 Serving Mark Rogers Nathaniel Adams
 David Terry Marion Pepper
 Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper Rusty Brand
 Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 7th:

Usher David Terry
 Work Sound System Stuart Wilson