

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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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Searching For The Runaways

Mark W. White

Throughout this country, thousands of children are "on the streets", having left their homes in search of "freedom" from the restraints of parents, teachers, rules and regulations. Many of them are quite young, celebrating an eleventh or twelfth birthday "on their own." Parents and friends live in anguish not knowing the whereabouts of these children. Unsure whether their children are living or dead, these parents and friends endure tremendous agony as they seek them out and bring these children back home. Many of the children leave home because they feel unloved and unwanted. Others run away because they actually are not welcome at home, for one reason or another.

Throughout the kingdom of God, thousands of God's children have turned back into the world, leaving the fold of God in search of "freedom" from God's demands. They are also running from the watchful eye of elders and other members of the family of God. These are spiritual runaways who have disassociated themselves from the body of Christ.

It is nothing less than a terrible tragedy that so many members of the church have gone astray. Like sheep wandering away from the fold, they have placed themselves in great spiritual danger. 2 Peter 2:21,22 declares that a Christian who migrates back into the world is in an ugly predicament. "...the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: 'The dog returns to his own vomit', and 'The sow, that had washed to her wallowing in the mire.'" The Hebrews writer explains that those who do not endure, but draw back, do so to the condemnation of their own souls (Hebrews 10:26-39).

Most every church has members who have "run away" from duty. They no longer attend, and if we are not careful, we may even forget they exist. Too often, we fail in our duty to "round up the strays." In some cases, a "runaway" might not even be missed for quite some time. Even

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
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Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

after a year or more, someone may inquire “I wonder what ever happened John and Mary Doe? I never see them at a Bible class or worship anymore.” What a shame! How pitiful when some of the sheep have jumped the fence and we are so busy we don't even take notice! Elders, as shepherds, do have primary responsibility to watch out for souls (Hebrews 13:17). But every faithful Christian is charged to “restore” those “overtaken in a fault” (Galatians 6:1).

Perhaps a runaway is reading these lines. If so, please know that God still loves and cares for you. So do your brothers and sisters. We all want you to come home and take your place with the family.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

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Respecting Those In Authority

Kent Heaton

A nation that crumbles in the chaos of non-conformity, is a people that have rejected all forms of authority. Nature declares the need for authority as laws are established that govern life. Disobeying these laws will cause one to suffer consequences that Jehovah put into place that are unchangeable. Man cannot fly without aid and when he goes against this law he suffers physical harm. As in the immutable laws of nature, authority is established in government by God and to resist this authority will bring serious consequences. Paul writes, “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves” (Romans 13:1-2). In our world of freedom we must remember that while we have opportunities to express our freedom, we cannot do so in a fashion that goes against the government. The only

time this is allowed is when the law of the land declares law contrary to the law of God (Acts 5:29).

Countless hours of COPS illustrate that many people refuse to recognize authority and resist every form of it. The lawless attitudes of those who rebel against law enforcement officers, courts and government remind us of the steep road we as a nation are traveling to sure destruction. Schools no longer maintain levels of authority as students are allowed to curse teachers, refuse to obey staff and destroy the learning environment of days gone by. Respect for authority is no longer recognized by a vast majority of our nation. The book of Judges concludes with this statement: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). This sounds more like our time when everyone does what they feel is their “right” to do. When men fail to recognize authority and respect the authority that exists, there are no boundaries or limits. The root of the problem stems from the suppression of God in the lives of men. “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice” (Psalms 53:1). Without God men seek to do what is right in their own eyes. Authority is based upon selfish motives of the individual. What is right and wrong is measured by the desires of the moment. Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah God reminds us of the consequences of those who seek to usurp authority. “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in the own sight” (Isaiah 5:20-21).

There is only one clear truth - the truth of God (John 17:17). Rejecting this truth is rejecting authority. Refusing to obey authority is refusing to obey the Son of God. Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 23:18). Dare we reject this authority?

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

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

Saying, But Not Doing

Dan S. Shipley

The following statement appears in the creed book of a popular denomination. Read it carefully. “The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.” Similar statements can be found in nearly all denominational creed books, one would be hard put to better express the allsufficiency of the Scriptures, except it be in quoting such passages as 2 Peter 1:3 or 2 Timothy 3:16, 17. Even the men who write the creed books say that the Bible is all we need. They acknowledge it to be the only standard of faith and practice in religion. They say that no man should be required to believe or practice anything other than what can be read in the Scriptures. Not only do the creed books say it, *practically every member of every leading denomination professes to believe it!* And, what may sound even more surprising to some is that most denominationalists believe themselves to be following the Scriptures. Those who may doubt such a statement need only to ask them.

Why then, one may well wonder, the great difference between denominational profession and practice? What they *profess* certainly cannot be faulted. In fact, it is my judgment that the above-quoted statement of confidence in Scripture, *if truly believed and applied*, would go a long way toward promoting unity and eliminating the divisions of denominationalism. Why then the disparity between what is said and what is actually done? For one thing, many simply do not know what the Bible teaches. It is much easier to *assume* practices to be right than to prove them so, as per 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Ignorance of right begets ignorance of wrong. The man who does not know what “the Holy Scriptures contain” on the subject of baptism is not likely to know that infant baptism is wrong. It cannot be “read therein or proved thereby”, but what is that to one who makes no effort to either read or prove? We mean no disrespect to its members when we say that **Denominationalism has no greater enemy than the Scriptures**. It is good to affirm our confidence in the Bible but it is better to know, believe and abide in its precepts.

No man ever became a member of any religious denomination by following New Testament teaching. When men will reject all that cannot be “read therein and proved thereby”, they will reject denominationalism itself. If not, then they will reject the teaching of the Bible, even if unwittingly. What many have not realized is that denominationalism does not offer optional ways of being right, but of being wrong! It is not a question of whether men are pleased with such religion. Many are. **But is God pleased?** Again, assumption is easy. But there is *only one way* that any man can **know** what pleases God and that is in following to the best of one’s ability His will, the Bible. Abiding in **that** doctrine produces fellowship with Heaven as nothing else can. Failure to abide therein forfeits all (2 John 9). We say it is sufficient — but merely saying so is not.

-via *Plain Talk*; Burnet, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Jane Meredith; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 656
David Gardner; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 530
Bernice Thomas; Athens-Limestone Hosp., rm. 200
Gladys Sandlin; Crestwood Hospital, ICU
Phil Pressnell; Vanderbilt Rehab.

At Home:

Janet Berryhill	Gilbert Hardy
Rachel Grubbs	Hazel Toone
Mary Ruth Gardner	Bertha Johnson
Eva Felker	Jesse Carter
Keena Adams	Phillip Harwell
Ray Bailey	Jeff Mitchell
Randy Graviett	Bernice Martin
Jeff Waddell	Emma Clark
Mary Bates	Una King Currier
Jim Currier	

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

Shut-In:

Sarah Hallbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

- Joel Smith; Iraq
- Andrew Deen; Japan
- Whitney Deen; Japan

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.

SONG SERVICE: Remember this evening will be the time for the regularly scheduled monthly song service. I hope that everyone will be able to come and be a part of this service in which we are teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Lifting up voices in songs of praise to God.

RUTH OWENS – 1927 – 2010: It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister Ruth Owens this past Friday. Sister Owens had dealt with various health problems over the last several years and has not been able to be at services. However, she loved the Market Street church and enjoyed reminiscing about the days gone by and loved to hear about the work the church was doing today. Ruth was a sister to *Katherine Stoffregen* here at Market Street. We want to express our deepest sympathy to all of the *Owens and Clanton families* in the passing of sister Ruth Owens. Her visitation/funeral will be this afternoon at 1:30 followed by the funeral at 3:00.

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

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are pleased to mention that sister *Janice Cagle* has let it be known that she desires to be a part of the work at Market Street. We are glad to have her here with us. Let us all make Janice feel at home among us.

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of Nov. 21st

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 128
Morning Worship 162
Evening Worship..... 110

Wednesday:
Bible Classes..... 92

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Jonathan Keenon
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Bonnie Sutton
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Delmer Carter
..... Hunter Cox David Terry
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 28th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, December 1st:

Song Leader Marty Adams
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 8:11-22)
..... Will Chumbley
Prayer Jack Cannon
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Sunday, December 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Tyler Cox
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Bonnie Sutton
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Delmer Carter
..... Hunter Cox David Terry
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 5th:

Usher Keenon Currier
Work Sound System Stuart Wilson