

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

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

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No. 50

Like His Teacher

Russ Bowman

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40).

It appears to me that many "religious" people in our day have lost sight of the important concept of discipleship. Our English word "disciple" is a translation of the Greek term "mathetes" and means properly, "a learner; a pupil." Of all the terms which God uses to describe His people, the term "disciple" is the most common. We think of followers of Jesus Christ as "Christians" and that is an accurate designation (Acts 11:26), yet more often than not God refers to His people as disciples. In the first five books of the New Testament it is used some 225 times, and that fact should impress upon our minds the relationship that we sustain to our Lord. We are to be learners, followers, and imitators of Jesus Christ, for those expressions are at the very heart of the concept of discipleship. When Jesus instructed the apostles to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). He was instructing them to encourage people to learn from, follow, and imitate Him. That is the fundamental function of a Christian. After all, Jesus states in John 8:31, "If you abide in My word, then you are My disciples indeed."

However, I fear that we sometimes lose sight of that all important goal. We seem to confuse "religiosity" for discipleship. "Religiosity" is simply "affected or excessive devotion to religion" and for many folks--at least in outward appearance--the concept of Christianity is really about devotion to some creed or tradition of religious organization. How else can you explain why some 85% of people in this country consider religion at "least somewhat" important to them (according to a 2002 Gallup poll), while we languish in dishonesty, alcoholism, sexual immorality, violence, and wickedness? I don't believe only 15% of people in this country are responsible for all the evils of our day. Yet, I know a lot of folks who "go the church" but who live pretty much the way that they want to. Being "religious" is not equal to discipleship.

So what's the solution? Read the above quotation from Luke 6:40.

A perfectly trained disciple will be like his teacher. My job is to be like Christ.

I spent an hour or two last week reading the gospel of Mark. No interruptions. No searching for sermon or class material. Just a simple consideration of the text. And when I finished, I was reminded of the simplicity of the gospel of Christ--Who He was, what He did and what He wants. What He wants is salvation for all mankind through obedient faith--discipleship. Who he was and what He did provided the example for those of us who want to be true disciples. And while volumes have been written about the qualities of Jesus Christ that are worthy of exaltation and emulation, I was impressed again with a couple of things that stand out about my Lord. And, as a disciple, these things I need to focus upon and develop more fully in myself.

Jesus consistently manifested compassion upon those who were in need. You cannot read the gospels—particularly Mark—without being impressed with Jesus’ power. Yet, more often than not, that power was manifest in response to some pitiable man or woman in need. He saw those diseased, possessed, crippled, maimed, blind, hungry, or merely unguided, and “was moved with compassion” (Mark 6:34). And that compassion for those physically wanting was merely the temporal expression of a God that is ultimately compassionate toward all of us because of our spiritual failures. Thus, the One Who raised others from death, willingly died because of His compassion for sinful plight. True discipleship demands that I develop such compassion for those in need, whether that need be physical or spiritual.

Jesus consistently manifested patience with His critics. The Jewish leaders of His day did not like Jesus, apparently because of His great popularity with the multitudes. Thus, He and His disciples are constantly hounded and criticized by the scribes and Pharisees. Yet, I stand impressed with His patience. He could have blasted them with heaven’s fire, yet He calmly and pointedly tried to direct their minds toward truth. And this in spite of their own dishonesty and malicious intentions. I become so irate with those who abuse and ignore God’s Word. And, like most folks, I’m inclined to be irritated with those who unjustly criticize me. My preferred designs in such circumstances are no source of pride, I’m afraid. But if I am to be a disciple, I need to imitate the Master in such situations. I need

to learn patience.

Jesus consistently manifested a complete commitment to God’s will. God’s will demanded some difficult things of Jesus. The incarnation--God coming to earth to live as a man. Humiliation. Scorn and reproach. Faithless followers. Self-serving multitudes. Stubborn opposition. Hunger and thirst. Disappointment. Ingratitude. Painful and violent death. Yet, through it all—no matter what the demand—He was devoted to the will of the Father. May God help me to learn and imitate my Master in the total and complete devotion to God's will. Discipleship demands it.

Let’s remember, folks, God doesn’t just want people who go to church on occasion, or offer lip service to religion. He wants disciples of Jesus Christ.

-via *The Bulletin*; Haleyville, Alabama

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The Fool

Kent Heaton

The English word “fool” is a derivative of the Latin meaning of “bellows, bag, to blow” and suggests a person lacking in judgment or prudence. A fool may be perceived as a stupid person or one who entertains in a silly way for laughs. There is a fool spoken of by God. “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalms 14:1; 53:1). Sadly, without acknowledging it, most people fall under this definition.

Jesus told the multitude in Luke 12 that life is not about the abundance of things one possesses. The folly of covetousness is looking at the stuff of this world as lasting and eternal. The Lord tells the story of a man who was rich and increasing in wealth as his crops yielded plenty. The man was so possessed by his affluence that he decided to tear down his existing barns and build larger barns for all his crops. The spirit of the man was satisfied with his own worth but failed to realize that his breath was held in the hand of the Almighty God

(Daniel 5:23). That night he died. God called him a "fool" because he denied God and lived for self.

The Psalmist describes the confidence of the foolish to their own destruction. "Wise men die; the fool and brutish alike perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue forever, and their dwelling-places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names" (Psalms 49:10-11). The fool is one who believes what is right is what is in his own eyes (Proverbs 12:15). He "rages and is self confident" (Proverbs 14:16); "has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart" (Proverbs 18:2); "trust in his own heart" (Proverbs 28:26).

The fool is one who does not know God because he does not see God. His life is about himself. A fool does not see the glory of God in the works of creation (Psalm 92:1-6), but walks in darkness (Ecclesiastes 2:4). He rejects the counsel of God for his own. "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant" (Jeremiah 17:5-6).

The sadness of the fool is that in death there is no joy. The fool has lived his life without God pursuing all the follies of material gain to leave behind for others. Life is vain. Life is a waste. Death brings nothing but sorrow. What the fool attained in life is lost in death. He lived without God in this life and will live without God in death. Hope in death can only come to those who believe in God and accept His will as guide for their lives. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

-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



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:

Glady's Sandlin; HealthSouth Huntsville – rm. 320

At Home:

Gayle Ball	Gilbert Hardy
Bobbie Adcock	Hazel Toone
Mary Ruth Gardner	Annie Mae Bragg
Bertha Johnson	Phil Pressnell
Eva Felker	Phillip Harwell
Keena Adams	Jesse Carter
Ray Bailey	Jeff Mitchell
Bernice Martin	Randy Graviett
Jeff Waddell	Mary Bates
Emma Clark	Jim Currier
Una King 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
David Gardner, rm. 98	Bernice Thomas, rm. 52
Jane Meredith, rm. 114	

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, 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

Matthew Cox; Iraq

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.

WORK GROUPS: Tonight will be the night for work group two to meet. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group this evening after our evening service.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Freddie Mae Elmore* in the passing of her brother, *Bobby Dale Sims*. His funeral was last week.

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK: Remember our website at MarketStreet-church.com is updated weekly with the bulletins and sermons that are preached at Market Street. We have a good number of visits from people throughout the U.S. and around the world. Also, the Market Street church has its presence on Facebook with a profile page. Remember these efforts along with the local work we are doing to reach the lost for Christ.

PREACHING TONIGHT: Brother Adam Kendall-Ball will be with us tonight speaking about the work in Zimbabwe. He will be speaking of his plans to return to his home country to preach. Let's all make every effort to be present.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of Dec. 5th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 124

Morning Worship 163

Evening Worship..... 97

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 90

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marion Mitchell
Assisting Jonathan Keenon
Serving Paul Hasting Harold Davis
..... Landon Adams Chris Sides
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Preaching Adam Kendall-Ball
Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 12th:

Usher Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, December 15th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 9:13-21)
..... Landon Adams
Prayer Tyler Cox
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, December 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marion Mitchell
Assisting Jonathan Keenon
Serving Paul Hasting Harold Davis
..... Landon Adams Chris Sides
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching Marty Adams
Lord's Supper Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 19th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Danny Johnson