

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

Volume III

January 2, 2011

No. 1

Things Involved In Service

Dee Bowman

Service is serving- sometimes voluntarily, sometime involuntarily. In service one is enslaved to someone or something- sometimes voluntarily, sometimes involuntarily. Slavery is not all bad. For instance, Paul, inspired by the Spirit, said, "being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:18). One may be freed from one slavery, but he will inevitably be brought under the control of another slavery. The black people who were made free by The Emancipation Proclamation, were not free to do as they pleased. They ceased being mere chattel for their masters; but they were brought under the laws of the land. If one is free from righteousness, he is the slave of sin; if he is freed from sin, he becomes the servant of God. Everyone serves someone.

Service to God is a deliberate action. It is a choice made. There is no force involved saving for the force of one's own intelligent reaction to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel forces one to this new slavery by imposing upon him a sense of righteousness and judgment and a sorrow for sin. It only forces one to serve because he comes to know and love God. This new yoke (Matthew 11:30) is easy to bear, its burden light compared to the imposing slavery of sin and the yoke it imposes.

Service to God is man's only way to glorify Him. There is no other. Mental assent may bring some satisfaction to the mind, but it brings little glory to God. Even pangs of conscience may well say something about where a man is headed, but it does not, by itself, glorify God. Only service glorifies God. Adopting the attitudes He recommends, bringing oneself deliberately under His control, performing, to the best of ones ability, His requirements and leaving off His prohibitions constitutes service. Without these things in their proper places, there is only admission, not service. True service brings the whole man into subservience to God.

To serve God one must put himself totally at God's disposal. There must be no room left in the heart for any god of any sort, but Him only. One must sanctify Him, give Him the high place He deserves. That

speaks not only to faith, but to trust and confidence as well. It speaks to allowing Him complete control in ones life. Any less is double-minded devotion and such a mental division of affection is not acceptable to Him. Please note that such submission not only brings Him glory, but it brings glory to the person who submits as well. Man never operates at a higher level of efficiency, nor does he ever come closer to the fulfillment of his design for being, than when he is totally disposed to serve his Maker.

Service to God is eminently practical. It makes sense. It is practical because of what it does for man. Man is made better by serving God. His ideals are more substantive, his goals are more sensible, His labors more effective, his hope more lofty. It makes no sense at all to lay up treasures on earth when nature itself teaches that the earth eventually claims its patrons, leaving them penniless and powerless. It makes good sense to lay up treasures in heaven where God has assured that the investment will pay dividends so rich that our finite minds fail to accurately comprehend them. Such rewards are the result of service to God. Notice, I said the “result,” of such service. These rewards are provided by the grace of God; but they are for those who choose to serve Him. There will be no such rewards for those who deliberately choose a life of service to the mundane.

In its purest sense, service is an offering. Service is a sacrifice of oneself to God. Paul indicates such in Romans 12:1, when he says, “present your bodies a living sacrifice to God.” He speaks of such as “your reasonable service.” It is reasonable because it makes sense; it makes sense because it is reasonable. This offering is a presentation- one presents himself to God to be used as He sees fit. “Here am I Lord, send me” is the mantra of the true servant. You give your life, you give your heart, you give your being to Him. He is yours and you are His. Beside Him there is no other. It is this giving in service that makes it a “living” sacrifice; it is alive, active.

Service is a measurement of ones love for God. If you serve Him faithfully, you love Him dearly. If you serve Him sporadically, you love him sporadically. You must measure your love yourself; and you measure your love by appraising your service to Him. Is it total? Is it unrestrained, unrestricted, unlimited?

Choose you this day whom you will serve.

—via *Southside Reminder*, Pasadena, Texas.

Living As A Leader

Jim Jonas

A true leader of God’s people doesn’t wait for a formal appointment to begin serving. Rather, we come to recognize leaders among us as those who in the regular course of life have already been serving the congregation “without the credentials,” so to speak. We’re not talking about an autocrat, one who arrogates unto himself a position, title or authority that doesn’t belong to him – a usurper, if you please.

Remember, the primary function of leaders, whether elders, deacons, preachers, class teachers, etc. is to serve the people of God: “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:27-28). Being a leader is not about giving orders, being “in charge” or throwing one’s weight around. That was the concept that led James and John to petition for seats of honor in the kingdom, and Jesus replied, “You do not know what you ask” (Matthew 20:20-22).

It would behoove us to keep a mental index file of those whom we observe serving the Lord in various capacities. These are the men who show up at work days (are you there to know who they are?!). You may see them at a gospel meeting (are you there to see them?!). You may bump into them at a hospital (are you there for a chance meeting with them?!). They will attend group meetings; they will frequent social occasions such as potlucks. You will not hear of them willfully choosing other activities over the opportunity to worship; they will be there when the doors are open. Leaders are those who gradually materialize in our consciousness as dependable, interested and willing participants in the daily events and experiences of the congregation. They are not reluctant servants. They don’t ask, “Do I have to go?” Rather, they are the ones who probably beat you there.

At this point we may sense a potential problem. Is our level of association with each other such that we are truly familiar with our fellow brethren? Or is our interaction so sketchy and casual that we don’t really have a clue as to the leadership traits of a given brother?

The obvious solution is to take steps to become better acquainted with others in our spiritual family, for

the time will come when we will be asked to formally recognize the leaders among us. Unfortunately, other solutions have sometimes been substituted:

- 1) Let the elders pick the next elders and deacons. Human wisdom may say that since the elders should ideally be more spiritually mature than others and probably more intimately acquainted with various members, perhaps the selection should be left to them. Such reasoning is a great first step toward creating a self-perpetuating hierarchy. When searching for leaders to handle a delicate problem in the early church “the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said ... seek out from among you seven men of good reputation ...” (Acts 6:2-3). The people made the choice because it was the people who would have to submit to the judgments of the leaders.
- 2) Abbreviated qualifications have been substituted for a comprehensive knowledge of a person; i.e., the man whose children are all baptized and faithful becomes an automatic candidate for elder. It seems so rare these days to find a man whose children are all faithful that we tend first to look at this qualification perhaps forgetting that other equally valid qualifications must also be met.

Men, what do your brethren see in you when they are looking for a leader? “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works.”

-via *Hueytown Church Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama



Sour Grapes

Stacy Crim

The children of Israel had a proverb in the days of the prophets. “...The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?” (Ezekiel 18:2). This of course is simply not true. A father does not eat a sour grape and a child’s face is puckered from the tartness of the fruit. God would set the record straight and no longer allow Israel to cite such foolishness (Ezekiel 18:3).

We learn in the text of Ezekiel 18 that “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the

iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him (verse 20).

This passage teaches us that we do not have to fall victim to our circumstances. If we have a wicked family we do have to fall prey to their wickedness. We can rise above their lawlessness, and be rewarded for our own obedience. The opposite is also true. If we have a good family, that goodness does not preserve us in our wickedness. “...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. for it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:10-12). Truly this is the only way it can be for God to be just and fair. “Is not My way equal...” (Ezekiel 18:25).

-via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Janet Berryhill; Huntsville Hospital – rm. 381

At Home:

Joe Leopard	Jane Meredith
Gilbert Hardy	Fay Ferguson
Rachel Grubbs	Yvonne Sherbert
Bobbie Adcock	Rachel Clem
Hazel Toone	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Gladys Sandlin
Bertha Johnson	Phil Pressnell
Eva Felker	Phillip Harwell
Keena Adams	Rene Hood
Ray Bailey	Jeff Mitchell
Bernice Martin	Randy Graviett
Jeff Waddell	Mary Bates
Emma Clark	Jim Currier
Una King Currier	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
Bernice Thomas, rm. 52	

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Shut-In:

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 one to meet. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group this evening after our evening service.

BEGINNING TODAY: This morning will begin our new quarter in our Bible classes. I hope that everyone will be a part of these classes on a regular basis. On Sunday mornings this quarter, there will be a class in the small auditorium on the west wing studying "Leadership". This class will be for all who are interested in being and developing themselves as leaders and for those who would like to encourage others to become effective leaders. This class is not just a men's class; any women who are interested in helping to encourage their husbands, or brothers in Christ to be leaders are invited to attend.

PAST ISSUES OF THE MESSENGER: In the office we have all of the past issues of the *Market Street Messenger*. If you are keeping copies of all the Messengers and have missed some, please let us know what you are needing. We have issues from both Volume 1 and Volume 2. We will be discarding these old issues soon, so please let us know if you would like any of them.

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

THE RECORD: Average Attendance 2010

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 126
 Morning Worship 164
 Evening Worship..... 116

Wednesday:
 Bible Classes..... 101

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Ronnie Locke
 Assisting Wayne Vaughn
 Serving Nathaniel Adams... Marvin Putman
 Keenon Currier Marion Pepper
 Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Rusty Brand
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Wayne Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 2nd:

Usher David Terry
 Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, January 5th:

Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 10:20-34)
 Jack Cannon
 Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, January 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Tyler Cox
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marty Adams
 Assisting Stuart Wilson
 Serving Will Chumbley Delmer Carter
 Landon Adams Mark Rogers
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Wayne Vaughn
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper Marty Adams
 Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 9th:

Usher Jonathan Keenon
 Work Sound System Danny Johnson