

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 9, 2011

No. 2

A New and Better Covenant

David A. Cox

“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises” (Hebrews 8:6).

In this verse, the Hebrew writer is affirming the fact that there is a new and better covenant. Earlier in this letter to the Hebrew Christians, the writer reminds and teaches that Christ is our great High Priest. Following this instruction, the writer mentions the greater or “more excellent” ministry of Christ. Let us consider a few things about this “more excellent ministry” in the new and better covenant.

What Is A Covenant?

A covenant might simply be thought of as an agreement or a contract between two parties. Under a covenant, each party has certain obligations or responsibilities. Agreements such as this are made between two individuals, two countries or between God and people. In the making of contracts between men concerning physical things, there is often a give and take attitude as the terms are negotiated. But in a contract between man and God, this is not the case. God sets the terms and He expects us to submit to them.

The Old Covenant

God never intended the old covenant to be the final covenant between Him and his people. Paul, speaking of the old covenant, says that the “law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ” (Galatians 3:24). What the law did was to bring “the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20) to us and to show us our need for forgiveness. People simply did not live up to the standards required under the law of Moses. Sacrifices were made for sin, but the sacrifices of bulls and goats could not remove sin (Hebrews 10:4). Rather, the sins were just rolled forward till an acceptable sacrifice for sin was offered (1 John 2:2; Romans 3:25-26).

The Hebrew writer quotes from the prophet Jeremiah saying, “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the

house of Israel and with the house of Judah” (Hebrews 8:8; cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34). This shows that from the beginning God knew the old law would not remove sin, but was a “shadow of the good things to come” (Hebrews 10:1-2) and that it would be replaced. It was to this end that God made provisions for the coming of Christ hundreds of years before Christ came.

The New and Better Covenant

The Hebrew writer refers to the new covenant as “a better covenant, which is established upon better promises” (Hebrew 8:6). Why is this a better covenant? Because under the old law there was no real forgiveness of sins, just the rolling of sins forward to be dealt with again later (Hebrews 10:3). But with Christ as our High Priest, we have the sacrifice offered for our sins that takes them away. We have access to God through Christ at all times for all needs (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:16). As we fail we can confess our sins and God will forgive us (1 John 1:9). How much greater is this new covenant!

Lastly, the new covenant is superior to the old in that the “better promises” are not temporary, but permanent (Hebrews 10:16-17). The land that God promised and gave to the children of Israel was a great and precious blessing to them, but it was temporary. They lost it. But the promises given to the faithful people of God of all the spiritual blessings that are in Christ are not temporary (Ephesians 1:3): a new body and a permanent home, a place without all the sorrows and struggles of life, a place that is eternal for the people of God.

May we ever be mindful and thankful that we are allowed to live under this “new and better covenant.” May we accept the covenant of God, submit to it, and never turn aside from it.



God’s Commandments

Frank Himmel

Those who emphasize keeping God’s commandments are often branded legalists. Well, if saying one needs to obey God makes me a legalist, so be it. I am in good company. Consider what John had to say in his first letter about God’s commandments.

“And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep his commandments” (2:3). Too many talk about knowing God or Jesus in some nebulous, undefined way. Anyone who cannot precisely explain how you know God surely struggles with the question of how you can know whether you know God. John puts it in terms of commandments. That is simple and objective.

“The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (2:4). It is not fashionable to call religious people liars in these days when most folks think it doesn’t matter what you believe anyway, as long as you are sincere. But John knew it was possible to deceive others and even be self-deceived about your standing before God. Anyone can claim to know Him; the evidence is in action.

“And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight” (3:22). In the movies a man can spend most of his life living for self, yet in a moment of crisis turn in prayer and receive whatever he asks. In reality, it is those who obey God to whom He is attentive (Psalm 34:15-16).

“And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit who He has given us” (3:24). When a boy talks and acts like his dad, people say they can see his father in him. Folks cannot see the heavenly Father in you if you do not obey His commandments. Why? Because He is not there.

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments” (5:2). It is commonly said that what the world needs is more love. I agree. the question is, What is love? Is it a warm feeling? Is it toleration of whatever lifestyle someone choses or attitude he adopts? No, John says it is obeying God’s commandments. You see, these comands not only tell us how to act in reference to God, but also with respect to each other.

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome” (5:3). Worldly people commonly look at God’s comandments as taking all the fun out of life, as unrealistically demanding. John found them otherwise. Ironically, God’s laws make us free – free from the frustration of trying to find happiness in ways that do not work; free from the

progressive nature of sin, where one bad thing leads to another; free from the guilt of wrong. It is the way of transgressors that is hard (Proverbs 13:15).

-via *The Manslick Road Speaker*; Louisville, Kentucky.



The Next Step

Dennis Carrow

For one to go for a walk they must take several steps sequentially before it is “a walk”. The New Testament refers to a walk as a manner of conduct in one’s life. 1 John 1:7 refers to our “walk in the light” being predicated by the blood of Christ cleansing us from all sin. None of us can be “in the light” except by grace through faith. This cleansing places us “in the light”. Our present condition depends on how we walk. How we walk will be determined by our next sequence of steps.

To walk in the light we must confess our sin (1 John 1:8-9; Acts 8:22; James 5:16). This is not a vague statement that one has sinned, but a confession that has godly sorrow attached with a view toward repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9,10). This must always be our next step if we are to walk in the light.

The necessity of repentance and confession does not diminish God’s grace, but magnifies our dependency on it. It is God’s grace that teaches us what our next step is (Titus 2:11,12). Our striving for perfection comes only by grace through faith. Everything else leads us away from the light of God’s word.

What we learn from 1 John 1 is most critical. Our walk in the light will be determined by our next step. For those in Christ, if we sin, our next step is repentance and prayer. Any other sequence of steps will have us in darkness.

Striving for perfection should be our daily goal. We can and do sin. We must repent and pray for forgiveness when we sin. The next step should always be toward God. The Holy Spirit shows us how to walk in the light. “Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love... be even more diligent to make your call and election

sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble (2 Peter 1:5-7,10).

The fact that we sin does not mean that we are “sinning all the time,” “walking in darkness.” The purpose of the instruction of 1 John is so “that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” (1 John 2:1-3).

-via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

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:

Janet Berryhill; Millinium Rehab. – rm. 221

At Home:

Nancy Abernathy	Jane Meredith
Mot Beasley	Rachel Grubbs
Yvonne Sherbert	Hazel Toone
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Gladys Sandlin	Bertha Johnson
Doris Claxton	Phil Pressnell
Eva Felker	Phillip Harwell
Keena Adams	Rene Hood
Randy Cox	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 Rachel Clem, rm. 49

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 two to meet. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group this evening.

BAPTISMS: We are rejoicing this week over the baptism of *Emily Ghadimi* and *Justin Ghadimi* this past Monday evening. We are thankful for their good hearts and desire to please God. May the Lord richly bless them with long lives to serve Him. May others follow their example of faith and obedience.

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 soon 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: For the Week of January 2nd

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 131
Morning Worship 192
Evening Worship..... 124

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 100

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Hunter Cox
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 Hunter Cox
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

Wednesday, January 12th:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading (Isaiah 11:1-9)
..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Sunday, January 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Stuart Wilson
Serving Will Chumbley Delmer Carter
..... Landon Adams Mark Rogers
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Evening Worship

Announcements Rusty Brand
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching Stuart Wilson
Lord's Supper Marty Adams
Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 16th:
Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Stuart Wilson