

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

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No. 3

Restoring Restoration

Dee Bowman

"If Christianity would go back to its origins, cleanse itself resolutely from the silt of time, and take its stand with fresh sincerity from the personality and ideals of its founder, who could resist it?" That's an observation from Will Durant from an article written for the **Saturday Evening Post** in August, 1939.

Isn't it amazing how things don't change? The statement is as relevant to our needs today as it was when Dr. Durant wrote it. It speaks of restoration. It's a call for restoration.

But that's not the first time a call for restoration has been made. Both the Old and New Testaments are replete with calls for restoration. The Prophet Jeremiah called for it when he said, *"thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, wherein is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls"* (Jeremiah 6:16). Things don't really change much, do they? The people then, like some people today, were not obliged to listen. "But they said, we will not walk therein."

Man wants his own way. He always has. It seems that no matter how many times he is called back to God, he can't stay for long. He has to dilute, to rearrange, to make alterations. He has to do it his way.

God's truth will not tolerate mismanagement (2 John 9). Whether it is done in some sincere manner or out of gross rebellion, God will not allow man to tamper with His will (Psalm 119:89).

It's hard to believe what's happened to the restoration concept in the past fifty years. I use that figure because I've been acquainted with it for that long. When I was a young man the restoration motif was alive and well-in fact, it was dynamic. People were constantly telling folks about the need to return to the Bible, to "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent." They wanted "book, chapter, and verse" preaching and would not be satisfied with less. They-most of

them at least-could take you to that same book, chapter, and verse and show you why they believed what they believed. What has happened, folks? Why am I not hearing those same thoughts expressed today?

In many churches of Christ today those slogans-cries for restoration-are not being heard. In fact, in many places they've not been heard in so long a time that people are not even familiar with them. Are they no longer relevant? Do they no longer apply? Are they outmoded and antiquated, no longer pertinent? Just how is a thing justified as scriptural today? Well, in many churches there is little effort made to give scriptural reasons for what is being done. And some preachers have gone so far from the restoration plea they will tell you openly, and without shame, "what's the big deal? We're just another denomination anyhow."

And do you know what's sad: In many cases, it's so. We have screamed out, "*Give us a king so we can be like the nations round about us!*" (1 Samuel 8:5). Churches in many places don't call for Bible authority for what they do (1 Peter 4:11). They do what they want to do. If they want to have women participate in leadership roles in the worship services, they do it. If they want to have a choir, they do it (some have even put the instrument in their song services). If they want to have a "contemporary service," one with so-called "casual worship" (complete with coffee and donuts), they have it. And when asked where is the biblical authority for such things their reply is simple. "What's the big deal? We do lots of things for which we have no Bible authority."

Churches in many places no longer subscribe to the Bible concerning the plan of salvation (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:22; 1 Peter 3:21). For instance, many deny that baptism is even essential to salvation. "Churches of Christ say that?" you say. Yes, sir. They will tell you that with a degree of ecumenical pride-sometimes even arrogantly.

Churches in some places are tainted with the seeds of metropolitan-ism. Local autonomy is breached with impunity. One eldership oversees the work of several different churches. The work done by congregations reaches into areas of psychology, home-health care, social and benevolent organizations, much of which work is funded by churches without regard to whether or not the Scriptures approve it. Para-church organizations, as well as colleges and universities are funded

by local churches without regard to whether or not the Scriptures approve such actions. It seems that so long as a thing is done in the name of religion, it has God's approval. Pshaw!

Is the Bible the final authority for salvation, as well as for the work and worship of the church? Answer yes or no. Then read Romans 10:1-2 and John 14:6. Will we be held accountable for what we teach and practice? Answer yes or no. Then read Galatians 1:6-9. Is our plea for a return to the Bible no longer relevant? Should we just abandon it as a cliché? Just answer yes or no. Then read I Peter 4:11.

Don't you think it's about time we decided again whether or not the Bible should be our only rule of faith and practice? It's a matter of life or death, folks.

-via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.

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Preaching Jesus

Zack Lee

Many in the religious world today have the idea that we need to preach Jesus. They say, "Preach the man and not the plan." I certainly agree that we need to preach Jesus. But what does it mean to preach Jesus? The majority of "Christians" would have us to believe that preaching Jesus means that we tell people about Jesus while leaving off particular doctrines found elsewhere in the New Testament. But what does the Bible have to say about preaching Jesus? The Bible plainly tells us what it means to preach Jesus in Acts. 8:5-12.

When Phillip preached to the Samaritans, they believed the things he said concerning the kingdom. What is the kingdom? The kingdom is the church that Jesus promised to build (Matthew 16:18,19). Phillip could not preach Jesus without preaching about the church which Christ died and shed His blood to establish (Acts 20:28). There is but one church (Ephesians 4:4-6) and one day Christ is going to save that church in heaven (Ephesians 5:23).

No doubt Phillip told them these things. The saved are added to the church (Acts 2:47). To Phillip,

preaching Jesus meant to preach about the one church of Christ.

When Phillip preached Jesus to the Samaritans, he included preaching in the name of Christ. Preaching the name of Christ is to preach His authority. Christ said to the apostles, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18). Christians are to respect the authority of Christ to the point that all that we do in faith and practice is according to His will (Colossians 3:1). The religious world in general does not like to hear about the authority of Christ, but those in Samaria to whom Phillip preached gladly accepted what he had to say on this subject.

There is no doubt that Phillip preached baptism when he preached unto them Jesus (Acts 8:12). It is impossible to preach Jesus without preaching baptism. This can be seen in the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. Phillip began at the same Scripture he was reading from and preached Jesus to him (Acts 8:35). As they came to some water the eunuch asked Phillip what prevented him from being baptized (Acts 8:36). The fact that baptism is essential for salvation cannot be denied by the honest person because Christ laid down this requirement (Mark 16:16), and it was His apostles who continued to teach this very same thing (Acts 2:38), I Peter 3:21). The religious world would have us preach the man but not the plan. This is ridiculous. The man is the plan and His plan includes baptism for the remission of sins!

What does it mean to preach Jesus? Among other things, it means to preach about the one church of Christ, the authority of Christ, and baptism for the remission of sins. Let us make sure that we stick to preaching Jesus the way the New Testament prescribes.

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

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



Gospel Meeting

April 10-14, 2011

Jeff May, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

At Home:

Janet Berryhill	Mot Beasley
Nancy Abernathy	Jane Meredith
Hazel Toone	Rachel Grubbs
Yvonne Sherbert	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	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:

Bernice Thomas, rm. 52 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Joe Leopard, rm. 108 Gladys Sandlin, rm. 107
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E Mary Smith, rm. 85

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

ESSIE BELLE BATES 1915 – 2011: It is with sadness that we note the passing of *sister Essie Belle Bates*. Sister Bates had been a longtime member of the Market Street church. She had been unable to attend services the last 7 plus years due to her declining health. We want to express our deepest sympathy to all the family of sister Bates in her passing. Her funeral service will be this afternoon at 2:30 at the Spry Funeral Home.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to the the family of *Mattie Lou Vaughn*. She past away this past Tuesday in Biloxi, Mississippi. Her visitation will be Monday night from 6:00 to 8:00 at the McConnell Funeral Home. Her funeral will be Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 at the McConnell Funeral Home chapel. Mattie Lou Vaughn was an aunt to *Phillip and Wayne Vaughn* and *Frances Bowers*. May the Lord bless this family.

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

THE RECORD: For the Week of January 9th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 121
Morning Worship 163
Evening Worship..... 97

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 81

Men Privileged To Serve:

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

Wednesday, January 19th:

Song Leader Marion Mitchell
Bible Reading (Isaiah 11:10-16)
..... Harold Davis
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Invitation Jesus' Trevino
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, January 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Rusty Brand
Serving Jonathan Keenon Tommy Burns
..... Keenon Currier Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 23rd:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Marty Adams