

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. 4

Where Do Elders Come From?

Paul Earnhart

The scarcity of functioning elders (bishops, pastors) in local churches has led some Christians to conclude that they are a rare breed with rare qualities. Otherwise, they reason, why would they be so difficult to come by? Contrary to this rather discouraging view, elders do not have to be imported from outer space. They are generated from ordinary human beings from "every tribe and tongue and people and nation," and perhaps it will help identify the reason for their scarcity if we trace, step by step, where elders originate.

First of all, and elementally, elders come from strong Christians, men and women who by the power of God have been radically reborn (John 3:3-6). Now, here are some remarkable people. They have given up everything for the Lord's sake, claiming not even their breath as their own (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 2:1-2). Theirs is a life of utter trust in the Son of God (Galatians 2:20). Why should we be surprised that something special should arise in the characters of folk like this? They will love God supremely and care about others in a self-sacrificial way.

Secondly, elders (Greek presbuteroi, older men), by definition, originate from Christians who are men. There is nothing special or remarkable or difficult here. From the outset, men as well as women have been touched by the appeal of the gospel (Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 8:12; 17:12,34) and we can logically anticipate that wherever the gospel is preached, this will continue to be so.

Thirdly, elders are to be taken from among Christian men who are mature in years (older) and in the faith ("not a novice"), (1 Timothy 3:6). The bulk of the bishop's required qualities are no more than would be expected in any mature disciple: "...sober-minded, orderly, given to hospitality...no brawler, no striker; but gentle, not contentious, no lover of money...good testimony from them that are without..." (1 Timothy 3:7) "...not self-willed, not soon angry...a lover of good...just, holy, self-controlled; holding to the faithful word..." (Titus 1:6-9). Every Christian, without exception, is expected to grow and mature into "a

full-grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:13). There is nothing unusual about the Lord's servants becoming increasingly like Him. It is their failure to grow up that is considered aberrant (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:12-14).

Fourthly, elders are drawn from mature Christian men who are married. The Holy Spirit has indicated that the elder is to be "the husband of one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). Here, again, there is no special obstacle. As a matter of course, most men marry.

Fifthly, elders are to be taken from mature Christian men who are married and have children. His children are to be believers and those still in his household are to be respectfully obedient (Titus 1; 1 Timothy 3:4). There is nothing remarkable about a married man having children. Most married men are fathers, and from such a characteristic population new disciples were drawn in the past and will be drawn today. Nor should it be thought unusual for a Christian father's children to be faithful disciples and obedient to him. Godly parents will, more often than not, lead their children to serve the Lord (Proverbs 22:6). In New Testament times, it was not uncommon for whole households to be converted (Acts 10:24; 11:14; 16:31,33).

From among mature Christian family men with many different abilities there are bound to be some who are effective teachers (1 Timothy 3:2), able to nurture and train their brethren in the righteous ways of the Savior and protect them from the deceptions of false teachers (Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-5).

Now, from all these qualifications of elders there is nothing so significant as the fact that they are devoted Christians. That they are men, married men, family men is not anything special. That they possess native skills as teachers gives them no distinction, either. Many men who have no faith in Christ at all could say the same. In the cases of elders, it is the unqualified devotion that these men have to Christ that gives meaning to their family relationships and to their God-given skills.

I cannot tell you how often I have heard complaints about the absence of elders in local churches and the difficulty of finding qualified men to serve. It is not helpful merely to describe the problem and complain about it. We need to find the exact source of this critical shortage and formulate some godly solutions.

One thing we must face is that the Holy Spirit makes elders out of devoted Christians and churches

that are filled with half-hearted and indifferent disciples don't have any material to work with. The answer to the shortage of every kind of worker in the kingdom of God is to get each child of God among us to be totally committed. If we can do that, the problem will take care of itself in time. If not, we will keep on complaining about the shortage of elders today and assure and even greater shortage tomorrow. Until we are willing to deal with our own shortfall in devotion, it is a little unrealistic to complain about the other fellow's.

-via *Stanley Avenue Church Bulletin*, Andalusia, Alabama.



Real Contentment

Shane Williams

Man frequently thinks that IF only he were rich and famous he would finally be content. Too often we look with envy at those who are celebrities, thinking how much better our own lives would be if that were us. Becoming rich and famous does not guarantee contentment. If it did, multimillionaire athletes would not jeopardize their careers by turning to drugs. If it did, the occurrence of multiple marriages among celebrities would not be commonplace. Obviously, real contentment must come from a foundation other than money and fame.

In Ecclesiastes 5, Solomon said we shouldn't be surprised when the poor are oppressed and when justice and righteousness are denied (vss. 8-9). His words sound as if they were written in 2010, instead of so many years ago. "If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. (9) The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields."

The life of those who love money is not as glamorous as it seems. They are never satisfied with what they have, and they face the emptiness of watching other people consume their riches (vss.10-11). Again this sounds like it was written to our society. "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. (11) As goods increase, so do those who

consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?"

The modest laborer, content with what he has, can sleep soundly, while the rich man lies awake at night worrying about his money (vs. 12). "The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep." These indeed are great words of wisdom that all of us today need to take to heart.

How about you? Are you frustrated or content? Paul told Timothy to tell the rich that they are "not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). Only when we trust in the Lord and follow Him will we find what we are looking for.

-via *The Lilbourn Light*, Lilbourn, Missouri.



Full Circle

Dennis Carrow

In our quest for perfection we find ourselves back where we began. The critical issue before us is what will be our next step?

All have sinned. Each one of us are dependent upon God's grace and mercy being extended to us. The next step is our reception of what God has provided. How can we know we are receiving that which is from God? God's grace teaches us to deny worldliness and to live godly lives.

As we are confronted from day to day with trials and temptations we can know we can overcome. We will know we have overcome by where we are standing. Remember we began our quest for the perfect day. The quest in the midst of an imperfect world. Perfection can only be defined by where we are in Christ! When we are baptized into Christ we are forgiven. We stand before God justified. We are in full hope of heaven. As we go about our daily lives we are susceptible for sin. Sin separates us from God. If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us...and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). So, where we once were we have returned.

The grace of God is available to everyone. The Blood of Christ cleanses anyone who comes to Christ from all sin. It is our next step that will determine where we are. If one has never obeyed the gospel, their next step is to confess Christ and be baptized for the remission of sins. If one has done that but committed sin, they must repent and pray for forgiveness. (Mark 16:14,16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

Our walk of faith, striving for perfection, begins with our desire for the perfect day, never giving up, refusing to allow others to lead us off course, persevering, always moving forward, knowing every thing depends on my next step. As we draw a close to another year, we must realize we are almost home.

We have come Full Circle. Our lives revolve around Christ. We learn from the past, but we do not live there. Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things that are ahead, I press toward the goal...

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

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
Wynell Williams	Paul Adcock
Doris Claxton	Phil Pressnell
Jeff Waddell	Phillip Harwell
Keena Adams	Jeff Mitchell
Randy Cox	Randy Graviett
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 four to meet. If you are in group four, remember to meet with your group this evening.

JESUS' TREVINO: It was good to have *Jesus' and Susana Trevino* with us this past Wednesday night. He gave us a report of the work that he is doing in Lake Jackson, Texas, Mexico, Central and South America. It was good to meet brother *Benjamin Urbina* and his wife, *Aleyda* from Pasadena, Texas and brother *Jesus' Gutierrez* from Saltillo, Mexico. We continue to ask the Lord's blessings on these men and their work.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Judy Vaughn and all the family* in the passing of Judy's mother, *Eva Felker*. She past away Saturday morning in Rogersville. Her arrangements are incomplete at this time. Spry Funeral Home will be in charge of her arrangements... We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Marlon Meals* and *all the family* in the passing of his uncle, *Gerald Meals*, this past week. His funeral was Tuesday afternoon at Spry Funeral Home... We also express our deepest sympathy to *Nick Sandlin* and *all the family*, in the passing of his aunt, *Naomi Eubanks*, this past week. Her funeral was Monday afternoon at Limestone Chapel.

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

THE RECORD: For the Week of January 16th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	131
	Morning Worship	170
	Evening Worship	112
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	121

Men Privileged To Serve:

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	Rusty Brand
Closing Prayer	Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 23rd:

Usher	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, January 26th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 12:1-6)
.....	Danny Johnson
Prayer	Rusty Brand
Invitation	Warren Glass
Closing Prayer	Benton Ball

Sunday, January 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Rusty Brand
Serving	Jonathan Keenon Tommy Burns
.....	Keenon Currier Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Landon Adams
Preaching	V. J. Benson
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Rusty Brand

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 30th:

Usher	Delmer Carter
Work Sound System	Danny Johnson