

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

February 20, 2011

No. 8

"The Just Shall Live By Faith"

George Hutto

The Bible presents a unique "worldview" which Christians should be prepared to set forth (1 Peter 3:15) at such a time as this. The prophet Habakkuk preached the thing required of all men of all time and all places in his short three chapters.

At a time when God's people were to be punished for their obstinate sins by the Chaldeans, the prophet's message was *"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith"* (Habakkuk 2:4). The message was amplified by Habakkuk's very name, which meant *"to embrace,"* or *"to cling."* In a changing world, with freedom to live as one might choose, with a plurality of gods, philosophies, and religions, the only security and rightness to be had was by clinging to the God of Abraham in faith.

Habakkuk's thesis is quoted at least three times in the New Testament. Paul says as he steps onto the world stage in the book of Romans, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For theirs is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith"* (Romans 1:16-17). The love of God is at the core of the gospel story (John 3:1), and the response of those who would be just is seen in obedience of faith (Romans 1:5, 16:26).

The Hebrew writer also quotes Habakkuk as he draws attention away from God's dealings with the Jewish nation to the global "new and living way" in Christ. *"Now the just shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul"* (Hebrews 10:38-39).

Now if the Hebrews text ended at this point, readers might be left to the commentary of the *"faith alone"* advocates or the *"salvation by works"* folks. However, the Spirit-moved writer gives us biblical examples of the just who lived by faith in the following chapter, the *"hall of fame of*

the faithful.”

First up are those who believe in the Genesis account of the creation. *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”* (vs.3). The naturalist is eager to explore possible ways that the worlds came to be while simply ignoring the possibility of a Supernatural power. Something existed before the beginning, and if the beginning was the onset of the natural order, the thing before it must have been supernatural, or divine.

Skeptics are like children who are coming of age and hold their parents in contempt. They are unhappy with the world as their parents portray it, but are powerless to change it, try as they may. The truth of our origins is encoded in the cells of our bodies in molecular code which never could have happened by chance. The atoms and the stars shout design from every angle (Psalm 19).

The more we learn about creation, the more majestic the Creator becomes. A just God will hold rebellious children accountable.

Second, the Hebrew writer speaks of Abel, who not only worshiped this majestic God, but worshiped properly, as opposed to Cain, whose faithless attitude led to rejected offerings, and then to murder.

How a person worships does matter - a point related to Habakkuk's theme and dwelt upon in *Hebrews*. In worship, *“The just shall live by faith”* - do it God's way.

The apostle Paul got to this point as well in Romans, when he spoke of his Jewish brethren who had rejected Christ. *“For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God”* (Romans 10:3). They were religious, and they worshiped, but they were lost. Their means of being righteous, justified, just, was all wrong. They did not cling to God in faith, accepting the gospel of Christ.

Third, there was Enoch, who had testimony that he *“pleased God”* (Genesis 5:24). It is possible for men to please God, as demonstrated by Enoch for the Patriarchs, by Elijah for those under Moses; law, and by Christ for the Christian dispensation. Of course, Christ died to atone for the sins of all, but His suffering only shows God's grace for any and all who would live by

faith. The just can live by faith.

Forth, Noah is among the just who lived by faith. He stood alone with his family in a wicked world, and obeyed (Genesis 6:22). Living by faith includes obedience.

Now, neither Habakkuk, Paul, nor the Hebrew writer would argue that Noah's works merited his salvation from the flood. However, the great God who justifies and saves sinners certainly took Noah's action into account. He embraced God's commandments, and clung to God in faith.

Fifth, there is Abraham, *“the father of the faithful.”* His sensitivity to justification was on display when he stood up for any righteous who might have been found in Sodom: *“...Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”* (Genesis 18:23). His faith embraced God even when he was commanded to offer his son of promise, Isaac, on the mount.

Like James, Abraham could point to specifics to demonstrate how one should cling to God in hope. *“...I will shew thee my faith by my works”* (James 2:18-22). The just will be able to speak on the particular points of faithfulness in his or her life (Jude 3).

The book of *Hebrews* continues with other examples: Sara, Isaac, Moses, and others. *“Time would fail me”* he says, to cover all the faithful Bible characters, a “great cloud of witnesses” whose stories will not be complete until the just follow their examples (Hebrews 11:40-12:1).

A person need not be worldly-wise, cosmopolitan, or sophisticated to have a worldview in matters of Christ's religion. He will, however, need to study his Bible. There he will find Habakkuk's refrain held out for God's people in times of doubt or fear: *“The just shall live by faith,”* those who *“believe, to the saving of the soul.”*

-via *Tidings*; Russellville, Alabama.

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

Rebellion Will Ruin You

Mark W. White

Man is a “free moral agent,” we say. No passage of Scripture uses those exact words, but the concept is everywhere in the Bible. Men were not made as slavish robots, unable to exercise personal will. God knew that giving us such freedom could result in our choosing to rebel against Him. Many have chosen to do so in the past, and their stories are often told in the Scriptures. Many will choose to rebel in the future, too.

Before we decide to rebel, however, we must become aware of this significant fact: Rebelling against the Lord is costly. The divine law of consequences is that a person reaps what he sows, more than he sows, and later than he sows (Galatians 6:7-9). And the principle is unchangeable whether you believe in God or not.

A prevailing attitude of our modern culture is that rules prevent people from having a good time. That is certainly not the Lord's intention. In fact, He offers true freedom through a relationship with Him. Our loving heavenly Father desires to keep His children growing in their faith and safe from the Devil's temptations and worldly influences. He does that by limiting our actions and commanding that we follow certain laws and principles, which He has designed for our good. Deuteronomy 6:24 informs us that God's statutes are “for our good always.” There is no greater pleasure or source of contentment than serving Him.

On the other hand, rebellion is a form of slavery. By defying God's authority in some area of our life, we allow Satan to shackle us. We may not feel the constraint of his trap at first, but keep in mind that divine law of consequences. Eventually, we will be heavily burdened by our sin. Whether the penalty ends up being carried in the body, mind, heart, or spirit, we will find ourselves distracted from wholly serving the Lord (Mark 12:30).

Whether or not we see rebellion as serious, God takes disobedience seriously because the consequences are so grave. As the Sovereign of the universe and our loving Father, He has only our best interests at heart. He knows what is good for us and what is bad for us, yet He allows us to make the choices. So rebelling against

Him is foolish. It will ruin us! Wise men and women live by His Word and obey (Psalm 119:9).

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

Gospel Meeting

May 15-19, 2011

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday– 7:00 p.m.

Jeff May, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

At Home:

David Gardner	Joe Leopard
Janet Berryhill	Bobbie Adcock
Earl Davis	Leigh Ann McGlocklin
Rachel Grubbs	Rachel Clem
Yvonne Sherbert	Sue Warren
Mary Ruth Gardner	Martha Rice
Bertha Johnson	George Harris
Roger Andrews	Jeff Mitchell
Jeff Waddell	Randy Graviett
Jesse Carter	Phillip Harwell
Jim Currier	Una King Currier

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

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

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

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Eastside church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Bill Hall*. . . The *Oakland church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Tom Edwards*. . . The *Pepper Road church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Brett Hogland*. . . The *Kelly Spring Road church* near Harvest will begin a meeting on Friday and it will continue through next Sunday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Jeff Smelser*.

BACK ISSUES OF MESSENGER: The back issues of the *Market Street Messenger* are in the library. They are on the shelf to the left as you walk in the door of the library. Some copies of nearly all of the bulletins published in 2009 and 2010 are there. Please feel free to take as many copies of these bulletins as you would like.

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.

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

THE RECORD: For the Week of February 13th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	130
	Morning Worship	182
	Evening Worship	113

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 97

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith	
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson	
Prayer	Marty Adams	
Preaching	David Cox	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin	
Assisting	Wayne Vaughn	
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl	Delmer Carter
.....	Dwaine Allfrey	David Terry
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton	

Evening Worship

Announcements	Keneth Smith
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Landon Adams
Preaching	Rusty Brand
Lord's Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 20th:

Usher	Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System	Danny Johnson

Wednesday, February 23rd:

Song Leader	Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 14:12-21)
.....	Nathaniel Adams
Prayer	Rusty Brand
Invitation	Warren Glass
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, February 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Rusty Brand	
Song Leader	Tyler Cox	
Prayer	Larry Mitchell	
Preaching	Warren Glass	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin	
Assisting	Wayne Vaughn	
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl	Delmer Carter
.....	Dwaine Allfrey	David Terry
Closing Prayer	Benton Ball	

Evening Worship

Announcements	Rusty Brand
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Nathaniel Adams
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 27th:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Stuart Wilson