

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. 11

Pattern For The Church

David A. Cox

The Hebrew writer declares "as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5). Seeing the the Lord admonished Moses about the pattern given to him, it seems that the people of God today, the church, should be mindful of the pattern given to them. Paul was concerned about the pattern when he reminded Timothy to "Hold fast the form (pattern, ASV) of sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13). Again to the Romans, Paul wrote that their conversion to Christ was that they had "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you" (Romans 6:17). Following the pattern or form that had been given was essential in conversion and in one continuing to please God. Acts 2:42 states, "that the disciples continued in the apostles' doctrine." They "continued", that is followed, "the apostles' doctrine". Those things that the apostles had taught them. They were "holding fast the sound words"; following the pattern that had been given to them.

What is the focus of the church?

In the New Testament, the focus of the church was in preaching Christ and Him crucified. The goal in doing this was to bring people out of the world of sin and darkness and into the kingdom of Christ. In the early chapters of Acts the early disciples were successful in this (Acts 2, 3, 4, and 5, etc.). However, not every church remained focused in their work for the Lord. In Revelation 2:1-7, the church at Ephesus had done much good in its past. Paul considered it one of the of the finest that he had worked among, but they had lost their focus. In verse 7 we read, "...I have somewhat against thee that ye have left your first love." Also, the church at Laodicea had become so impressed with themselves that they said, "we have need of nothing" (Revelation 3:15-16). Here are examples of churches that stopped following the pattern concerning the focus and mission for the church.

Is it possible today that local congregations could do like the above

examples and quit following the pattern? Yes it is and this may be one of the greatest dangers facing local congregations. We see many churches that build large balances in the bank, focus on the successes of the past and find great satisfaction where they currently are. These churches fail to focus on teaching the lost and spiritually edifying the members of the body, opting instead for gyms, games, eating, and playing as they try to encourage people to join them.

The power of God is in the salvation of souls of men; the same as it was in the first century. Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to the Jew first and also the Greek" (Romans 1:16). A church who remains focused on saving souls will not be sidetracked by fleshly, temporal things to convert people. It is only the gospel that will save.

What is the pattern for worship?

John 4:24 declares, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Jesus tells us that God desires people to worship Him. But a certain kind of worship is required. First, our worship must be in spirit. This means that we must worship with emotion and feeling. Our worship to God should never be cold and stale and just "going through the motions." Each individual must prepare himself for worship so that he may worship God in spirit. Second, worship must be in truth. Our worship must be according to the pattern given in God's word (John 17:17). The pattern given to us in the New Testament shows that the church had a lesson preached (Acts 20:7); sang (Ephesians 5:19); prayed (Acts 2:42; etc.); observed the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7); and gave of their means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). They did these things on the first day of the week. Could we change any of these things or add other things to these and still be following the pattern given to us? Absolutely, not.

What is the pattern for the organization of the church?

God has given a pattern for the organization of the church. Paul and Silas, as they returned back on their missionary journey, went back through the cities they had visited and to the churches that they had been with to "ordain elders in every church" (Acts 14:23). Paul wrote to Titus and told him that he was "left in Crete to set in order the things that are wanting and to ordain elders..." (Titus 1:5). Paul reminded Timothy of the qualifications of elders and deacons so that he could do

his work as an evangelist and ordain elders and deacons. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi "with its bishops and deacons" (Philippians 1:1). It is quite clear that the New Testament has given a pattern that elders are to be in every church. Is a local congregation truly following the pattern given by the Lord if they are not working diligently to have Elders? No. There are qualifications for men to attain if they are to serve in either capacity as an elder or a deacon. But if a congregation is truly concerned with following the pattern for organization, then every effort will be made to organize the local church as God desires. It is not right for congregations to supplant the organization God has given with the man-made organization of the monthly business meetings. Yes, it may be necessary to not have elders for a time, but let us be mindful of God's pattern of qualified men serving, and not develop the attitude of "everything is going along fine, why change?"

When God gives a pattern, He expects it to be followed. So then, let us follow the pattern given in God's word and never change it.



Respecting Those In Authority

Kent Heaton

A nation that crumbles in the chaos of non-conformity, is a people that has rejected all forms of authority. Nature declares the need for authority as laws are established that govern life. Disobeying these laws will cause one to suffer consequences that Jehovah put into place that are unchangeable. Man cannot fly without aid and when he goes against this law he suffers physical harm. As in the immutable laws of nature, authority is established in government by God and to resist this authority will bring serious consequences. Paul writes, "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves" (Romans 13:1-2). In our world of freedom we must

remember that while we have opportunities to express our freedom, we cannot do so in a fashion that goes against the government. The only time this is allowed is when the law of the land declares law contrary to the law of God. (Acts 5:29).

Countless hours of COPS illustrate that many people refuse to recognize authority and resist every form of it. The lawless attitudes of those who rebel against law enforcement officers, courts and government remind us of the steep road we as a nation are traveling to sure destruction. Schools no longer maintain levels of authority as students are allowed to curse teachers, refuse to obey staff and destroy the learning environment of days gone by. Respect for authority is no longer recognized by a vast majority of our nation. The book of Judges concludes with this statement: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). This sounds more like our time when everyone does what they feel is their "right" to do. When men fail to recognize authority and respect the authority that exists, there are no boundaries or limits. The root of the problem stems from the suppression of God in the lives of men. "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice" (Psalms 53:1). Without God, men seek to do what is right in their own eyes. Authority is based upon selfish motives of the individual. What is right and wrong is measured by the desires of the moment. Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah God reminds us of the consequences of those who seek to usurp authority. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in the own sight" (Isaiah 5:20-21).

There is only one clear truth - the truth of God (John 17:17). Rejecting this truth is rejecting authority. Refusing to obey authority is refusing to obey the Son of God. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 23:18). Dare we reject this authority?

-via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

George Harris; Huntsville Hosp., rm. 1746

At Home:

Irene Mitchell	Yvonne Pressnell
Helen Blankenship	Marion Mitchell
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Rachel Grubbs	Janet Berryhill
Yvonne Sherbert	Hazel Toone
Bertha Johnson	Martha Rice
Jesse Carter	Phillip Harwell
Jeff Waddell	Randy Graviett
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. 101	Mary Smith, rm. 85
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	

Limestone Manor:

Albert 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 *Carriger church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Buc Chumbley*... The *Somerville church* in Somerville is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Norm Webb, Sr.*

MARY CLARA NORTON – 1922 – 2011: It is with

sadness that we note the passing of sister Mary Norton. She passed away Tuesday evening at the Huntsville Hospital. Sister Norton was a longtime member of the church at Market Street. We have missed sister Norton's presence among us over the last year and half or so. She and brother Norton have truly been a great example to all of us here in their 65 years of marriage. On visits with the Nortons, sister Norton would always ask about the church at Market Street. She loved to hear about the church here and the work that was going on even while she and brother Norton were unable to attend. May the Lord bless brother Albert Norton in the loss of his wife of 65 years, and all the family in their loss. Her funeral was Thursday afternoon at Limestone Chapel.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Julie Meals and all the family* in the passing of Julie's brother, **Jeff Mitchell**, this past Sunday. Jeff fought a long hard battle with cancer and we ask the Lord's richest blessings upon all his family. A memorial service will be conducted at a later date.

CONFESSION: Wednesday evening, **Ann Locke** came forward asking for prayers for forgiveness from sins. We appreciate Ann and the attitude of heart in her desire to please the Lord in her life. May we encourage her and may she encourage us in our lives as children of God.

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.

VBS MEETING: We will have a planning meeting for our Vacation Bible School this afternoon at 4:15 in the small auditorium in the west wing. I hope that everyone that is interested in teaching, assisting in classes or preparing for the classes will be present. We will discuss the date, time, curriculum, etc. during the meeting.

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.

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of March 6th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 127
 Morning Worship 174
 Evening Worship..... 101

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 93

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Stuart Wilson
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marion Mitchell
 Assisting Bonnie Sutton
 Serving Marvin Putman..... Paul Hasting
 Will Chumbley Harold Davis
 Closing Prayer Lifford Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Jonathan Keenon
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
 Closing Prayer Gilbert Hardy

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 13th:
 Usher Tyler Cox
 Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, March 16th:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
 Bible Reading (Isaiah 16:1-14)
 Rusty Brand
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Invitation Warren Glass
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, March 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Larry Mitchell
 Assisting Jonathan Keenon
 Serving Landon Adams..... Danny Johnson
 Keenon Carrier Tommy Burns
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching Joel Hamm
 Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 20th:
 Usher Paul Hasting
 Work Sound System Stuart Wilson