

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

Volume III

May 1, 2011

No. 18

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
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Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

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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

Why Does Evil Exist?

Edwin L. Crozier

Epicurus, an ancient Greek philosopher who lived about 300 B.C., said, "Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able and not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?" Others have asked these same questions for the 2300 years since. However, in their seeming wisdom, they merely demonstrate how philosophers, enamored with their own wisdom cannot see the flaws in their own reasoning.

Epicurus and his philosophical offspring over the millennia have created a false dilemma. That is, they have developed a set of choices and acted like the choices they have listed are the only ones available when they are not.

Epicurus believed a God who is able to eradicate evil but doesn't do so must be malevolent. So, there are but two choices. Either God is not able to do anything about evil or God is evil Himself. It didn't occur to Epicurus that there is a third option. It never occurred to him that God might actually be wiser than him and have a **better** alternative.

Is it possible God sees a good end that can come from the evil and suffering that goes on in the world even today? Is it possible God allows evil because in His infinite wisdom He can actually use it in a way that benefits men if we will let it?

I suggest God who is able to eradicate all evil is unwilling to do so not because He is malevolent but because He loves us too much to do so.

First, His love is demonstrated by granting us the free will to choose between good and evil. He loves us too much to force us to be good like Him. He lets us pursue our own course.

Second, He loves us enough to allow evil so that we may grow and learn to rely on Him, which leads to salvation (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:7 -10; Romans 5:3-5). Without evil in the world, we would have no notion

of our need to turn to and rely on God. We would be lost and never know it.

Third, He loves us enough to allow evil so we can learn to be merciful like Him (cf. Matthew 5:7). If there were no evil, we could not learn how to relieve the suffering of those who have endured evil. We could not learn to be like God.

Finally, God loved us enough to send His Son as an answer to all evil. By surrendering to Jesus (cf. Galatians 2:20), we can eradicate evil in our lives and help do so in others and prepare for the day God eradicates the world because it is evil.

Yes, evil exists, but not because God is malevolent. No, evil exists because God is love.

-via *Friendly Visitor*; Athens, Alabama



More Than Simply Hearing

Eddie J. Caskey

Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:16). This is one of the most greatly admired statements the Paul ever uttered. His conviction is clear and understandable. We cannot help but be amazed when we view the changes, affected by the gospel, in the lives of ourselves and other, who “...once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air...fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (Ephesians 2:2-3). No other power could have been the catalyst for such a transformation than the power of God’s saving gospel. It is no great wonder then, why Paul and others, seemed so intent on spreading the gospel to the whole world.

There is nothing in life that is as supremely important as giving heed to the gospel of Christ. It is much more important than any of the daily concerns and cares of life. There was once an occasion when a very just and honorable woman, named Martha, was visited by Jesus.

Understandably, Martha wanted her honored guest, and His companions, to be comfortable and attended to, so she busied herself with serving them. Her sister, Mary, chose rather to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to Him. Martha, left alone to see after her guest, complains to Jesus about Mary’s choice, even directing Jesus to order Mary to help her. Jesus’ reply is very telling. He says. “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:38-42). Likewise, much too often we are distracted from honestly investigating what God has to say because of undue concern for the cares of life.

Be warned, however, simply hearing is not enough. While “...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17), “...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17). Obedience is a very necessary part of our salvation. The gospel is God’s power to save, but in obedience we yield to that power. The Hebrew writer reminds us, “...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). Even here we see that simply believing is not sufficient; God will only be pleased by those who diligently seek after Him. Earlier, in this same letter, we are told Jesus is “...the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:8-9).

The only faith that pleases God is an obedient faith. Will you not obey, from the heart, that same form of doctrine that disciples of old obeyed to be delivered from their sins (Romans 6:17)?

-via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas

Gospel Meeting

May 15-19, 2011

(Sunday through Thursday)

Jeff May, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

God's Valuable Gospel

David B. Hartsell

If your house is on fire so that you must escape immediately what item would you retrieve first on your way out the door? That will tell you something about what you value the most. Jesus promises that one day our world will be incinerated. What will be most precious to us as we leave the physical realm? Our Savior quickly answers that for us. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26) Friends, when we obey the gospel it profoundly changes us in several ways.

We look at our fellowman as a friend and not a rival. Jesus reaches out to everyone as he walked life's pathway. Yes, he taught the Jews (Matthew 5:7) but He also conversed with a sinful Samaritan woman (John 4) and marveled at a centurion's faith (Matthew 8:5-10). The gospel vastly changed its first converts. Persecution scatters the Jerusalem saints who went everywhere speaking His word (Acts 8:4), Philip teaches his Jewish adversaries in Samaria (Acts 8:5-8), and Cornelius, the first gentile, obeys Peter's preaching (Acts 10). Those who really love Christ's gospel can't stop talking about it (Acts 17:16).

The value we place on Jesus' gospel displays itself in our attitude toward supporting the preaching and teaching of it. God's word lays out His design for an organized, functional church. Our Lord designates special leaders, evangelists and elders, to call the lost to salvation and oversee their maturing in each local congregation (Ephesians 4:11-16). Ideally when they do their work well God's people are to honor and respect them (Philippians 2:25-30 and 1 Timothy 5:17-18). There's hardly anything more discouraging than the Lord's leaders failing to get positive feedback from the saints they serve (1 Timothy 4:16-17). There's another aspect to supporting God's ministers, financial. Paul states, "Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14). Why would any Christian hesitate to verbally and financially support gospel ministers? Paul states the some "so called" Christians worked to discourage him motivated by their envy and

strife (Philippians 1:14-16). Also, he reprimands the Corinthian church by writing them, "I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you" (2 Corinthians 11:8). Faithful saints must encourage those who serve them through the gospel.

God's truth causes us to see our eternal spirit rather than viewing ourselves as only a physical, finite being. The gospel is a double edged sword. One side cuts hearts so that they repent and are baptized unto the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:36-38). The other causes the trembling of Felix (Acts 24:24-25) and the anger of Stephen's Jerusalem audience (Acts 7). Which side of this do you represent? How much do you value the gospel of Jesus Christ? Only the gospel will usher people into heaven (Romans 1:16).

-via *Northwood Messenger*, Northport, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

At Home:

Maragaret Carter	Gilbert Hardy
Hazel Toone	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Bertha Johnson
Martha Rice	Jeff Waddell
Jesse Carter	Matt Poff
Jim Currier	Una King Currier
Joe Collier	Sarah Collier
Ray Miller	Phillip Harwell
Don Bowling	Robbie Shoulders
Randy Graviett	

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Gladys Sandlin, rm. 101
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
Mary Smith, rm. 85	

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:

- Andrew Deen; Japan
- Whitney Deen; Japan
- Matthew Cox; Iraq

THE STORM: We need to remember the storm that occurred this past Wednesday. Let us remember all of those that are suffering in this area as well as, those throughout north and central Alabama. Remember the families that have lost loved ones in this tragic event. May we look for ways to serve.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are glad to announce that *Mary Cecil Keenon* has expressed her desire to be a part of the work here at Market Street. We want to welcome Mary Cecil and make her feel at home among us. Mary Cecil will be in Group one.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Hays Mill church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Frank Richey* is the speaker in this meeting...The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Edwin Crozier* is the speaker in this meeting...The *Capshaw church* in Capshaw is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. They will have different speakers as follows: Sunday am – *Lance Taylor*; Sunday pm – *John Michael Huggins*; Monday – *Joshua Webber*; Tuesday – *Eric Reynolds*; Wednesday – *Collier Raley*; Thursday – *Jonathan Reeder*; Friday – *Daniel Tucker*.

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 one to meet. If you are in group one, 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 April 24th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 134
 Morning Worship 185
 Evening Worship..... 110

Wednesday: Bible Classes.....NA

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 1st:

Morning Worship

AnnouncementsJerry McGlocklin
 Song LeaderJoel Hamm
 PrayerMarion Mitchell
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marty Adams
 Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
 Serving Will Chumbley Russ Wulfekuhl
 Delmer Carter..... Marvin Putman
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

AnnouncementsJerry McGlocklin
 Song LeaderJoel Hamm
 Prayer Wayne Vaughn
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's Supper Marty Adams
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 1st:

UsherJonathan Keenon
 Work Sound System Danny Johnsons

Wednesday, May 4th:

Song Leader Marty Adams
 Bible Reading.....(Isaiah 20:1-6)
 Danny Johnson
 PrayerJonathan Keenon
 Invitation Warren Glass
 Closing PrayerJerry McGlocklin

Sunday, May 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 PreachingDavid Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Marty Adams
 Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
 Serving Will Chumbley Russ Wulfekuhl
 Delmer Carter..... Marvin Putman
 Closing PrayerHunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 8th:

Usher Keenon Currier
 Work Sound System Stuart Wilson