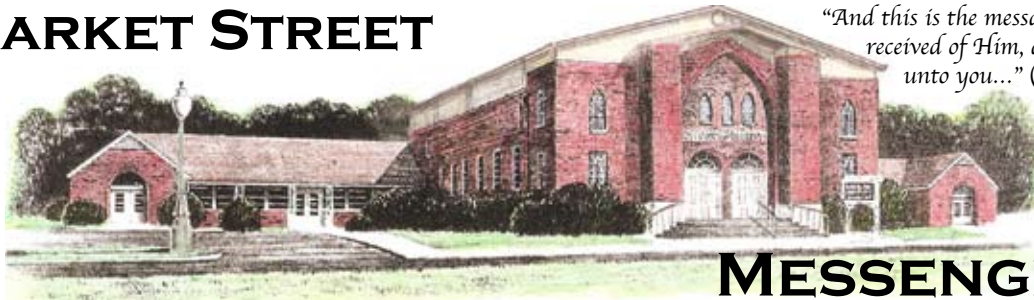


# MARKET STREET



*"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

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No. 21

## *Why Are There Religious Divisions?*

**David Hartsell**

Over the past several decades "religious groups" have begun practicing things that miss the fundamental purpose of the church. Churches sponsor carnivals, sports teams, dinners, secular schools, and various types of entertainment. One church even put a McDonald's restaurant inside their building. It's disturbing to see good, moral people approving of church monies being used for such practices. Many people's attitudes toward certain basic "Bible truths" have changed, and not for the better. It all begins with not getting the right answers to certain religious questions, Where does the Bible come from? Is the Bible God's complete revelation to mankind? How do we react to what the Bible says?

All scripture is given by the inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Inspiration means God breathed. God's Spirit reveals His truth through words, not vague ideas (1 Corinthians 2:13). The resurrected Lord expresses His complete confidence in the scripture as He speaks with two of His disciples, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!" (Luke 24:25) Paul instructs the Corinthians "not to think beyond what is written" (1 Corinthians 4:6). God's curse falls on any person who changes His words, even to the slightest degree (Galatians 1:6-9). God establishes every word in heaven before we receive it (Matthew 18:18). "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). The Bible radiates from God Almighty.

Some agree that certain parts of the Bible are inspired but not all of it. Therefore we need other "inspired writings" to keep us on the straight and narrow. The Holy Scripture disagrees! The Lord Jesus, on the eve of His crucifixion, told His apostles that through Divine communication The Spirit would guide them into "all truth" (John 16:13-15). These inspired men reveal the "mystery" of God's plan of salvation in the New Testament (Ephesians 3:3-5). Paul urges all saints "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). But how can humans understand these words? People learn by simply using the rules of language: grammar, syntax, logic, etc. Some Bible

### 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*

passages require careful reading and thought but they can be understood (2 Peter 3:16). If you truly love The Lord and His Word, you eventually will come to the right conclusion.

Since the Bible comes from God Almighty, His words encompass all truth, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” (Romans 11:33). Brethren, if we knew nothing else about how to interpret scripture this would be enough to teach us that no one can improve on God's words. Moses warns Israel not to add or subtract from any of His laws (Deuteronomy 4:2). Several New Testament passages teach everyone not to presume to speak when God is silent (Hebrews 7:12-14, 1 Peter 4:11, and Colossians 3:17). God reserves eternal punishment to anyone who adds or subtracts from His teachings (Rev. 22:18-19). Please carefully read and think about these passages. Nothing suffers from genuine investigation but error.

-via *The Northwood Messenger*; Northport, Alabama

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## *Rejoicing In Iniquity*

**Jason Garcia**

At times it seems that we are surrounded by people who love nothing more than to talk about all the sin they enjoy: drunkenness, lying, stealing, promiscuity, and all the other evils people love to brag about. How do we react in those circumstances: Avoiding worldly people is impossible if we are living as Christ did, for he freely intermingled with them, and even ate with them as He taught them (cf. Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10). In our jobs and at school we encounter sinners all the time looking for someone to share the same delight they have in their sin. When they turn to us, how do we respond? Do we shut down as if we are afraid to say anything against their lifestyle? Do we smile and laugh and carry on with them, or do anything to give them the impression we approve of their sin? Paul taught the Corinthians that love, “does not rejoice in iniquity, but

rejoices in the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:6). It isn't hard to find worldly people who are excited about their sin and relish opportunities to share it with others, and also have no shame in speaking about it as their favorite pastime. Do we show them how excited and passionate we are about serving the Lord? Do we delight in sharing what the Lord has done for us, or do we cower and act ashamed of our identity in Christ?

Why is it that we hesitate at times to be as open about our love for Christ as some people are about their love of sin? In the time of Christ there were men who believed He was the Son of God but, nevertheless, they would not openly confess Him to be so. The Scripture gives us insight as to the reason for this in John chapter 12: “because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (v. 43). Why do men hesitate or outright refuse to confess Christ as the Messiah? Essentially, they love having a better relationship and reputation with other people than with God. If we ever find ourselves failing to stand up for Christ, we need to ask “why?” Remember the words of our Lord the next time a friend or family member mocks Him in our presence: “So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33). We mustn't allow ourselves to think that denying the Lord is limited to our speech, for we may deny Him by our actions as well (cf. Titus. 1:16).

As far as being open to people about our joy in Christ consider what Paul has to say in Philippians: **“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone...”** (Philippians 4:4-5 emphasis mine). We, of all people, have more than enough reasons to be happy; why on earth would we hide that from anyone? Paul argues elsewhere that if the hope we have in Christ is false, then Christians should be the most pitied of all people (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:16-19). People of the world look to the fleeting pleasures of sin the find happiness, but in the end they are left emotionally and spiritually destitute. The truth is that without Christ no one can be truly happy—even in this life (cf. John 13:17 KJV). Peter offers us the visceral truth of those who live in sin when he says **“The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire”** (2 Peter 2:22). Still, if any doubt remains, consider the Psalmist's words: **“When I kept silent about my sin,**

**my body wasted through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer**" (Psalm 32:3-4 emphasis mine). No sinner will escape the condemnation of God in eternity, and neither will he escape the damaging consequences of his sin in this life. Do we make efforts to teach this truth to the sinners we encounter? When it comes to sharing the Gospel with others, how eager are you to share the good news? Consider what Jeremiah had to say when it came to preaching the Word of God: **"If I say, 'I will not mention Him, or speak any more in His Name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot"** (Jeremiah 20:9 emphasis mine). Are you on fire for God? Can you say along with Jeremiah that you cannot keep yourself from sharing God's Word? Are you compelled by the love of Christ to preach His message to the world? (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15) Consider one final passage regarding Paul's attitude about preaching the Gospel: **"Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel"** (1 Corinthians 9:16). Paul says of himself that he would be miserable and wretched if he did not share the news of Christ, what about you? Would your heart be pained if you neglected to teach others about the salvation found in Christ? Let us never shrink from declaring our love for Christ, and naming Him the Savior and King of our lives! (cf. Romans 1:16).

-via *Faithful Sayings*; Amarillo, Texas

# News & Notes

## THE SICK:

Gilbert Hardy	David Gardner
Bertha Johnson	Mary Ruth Gardner
Martha Rice	Mary John Thomas
Jeff Waddell	Patsy Burroughs
Joe Collier	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Sarah Collier
Robbie Shoulders	Randy Graviett
Don Bowling	Phillip Harwell

## *In The Hospital:*

Sue Warren; Athens-Limestone Hospital – rm. 217  
 Jim Currier; St. Vincent's East; Birmingham – ICU  
 Barabara Ogles; Decatur General Hosp.; – rm. CIC4  
 Rhett Bailey; St. Jude's Hosp. Memphis, Tenn.

## *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

## *Limestone Health Facility:*

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65      Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57  
 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

**SYMPATHY:** We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Delmer Carter and all the family*, in the passing of Delmer's brother, *Jesse Carter*, this past Wednesday morning. His funeral was Saturday afternoon at Spry Funeral Home.

**NEW SONGBOOKS:** The elders have decided to purchase new songbooks here at Market Street. They know that some members here would like to purchase a songbook or songbooks in memory of someone. If you would like to do this, you can find envelopes with Market Street's name on them along with 3 x 5 plain card beside them to place the money and the information needed for the songbooks. The books are \$11 each. They will be accepting the memorials until June 12th.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Our Vacation Bible school is scheduled for **June 13-16**. I hope everyone will mark this on your calender and beginning praying for the efforts that we will make for the cause of Christ. There are invitation cards at each exit to give or send to those we would like to invite.

**VBS TEACHERS MEETING:** This afternoon we will be meeting at 4:15 with the VBS teachers to go over

plans for the Vacation Bible School. I hope that all the teachers and those that would like to assist with the VBS in any way will be present at this meeting.

**OUR GOSPEL MEETING:** Our Gospel Meeting with *Jeff May* preaching ended this past Thursday evening. The meeting was very well attended and I thank each of you for attending so faithfully. We averaged 158 for the meeting. Jeff did his work well and all were benefitted who came to hear the lessons. I appreciate the song leaders during the meeting: *Stuart Wilson, Tyler Cox, Joel Hamm, Stephen Fudge and Tommy Burns*. The singing was excellent and was a great help to the meeting. I appreciate all the work that so many of you did by inviting your friends, neighbors, co-workers, family, etc. to join us for the meeting. We had a great number of visitors who came and many told me that they had been invited by many of you. Let us continue to remember the meeting and the open doors it has given us. If you would like copies of the meeting on CD, please let us know and we will get them made for you.

**THE DEFOORS:** Over the last nine months *Barry, Kathy and David Defoor* have made their home among us. It has been good to have them here. With sadness, we will see them leave us and return back to their home in Morgan County near Eva. We have been glad to have them here and hope that someday they will return again to us. They will be back attending the church at Lacey's Spring. Our loss is indeed the church at Lacey's Springs gain.

**PREACHING AWAY:** *Warren Glass* is preaching this morning for the church at New Georgia in Lauderdale county. He will be back with us tonight.

**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.

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

**THE RECORD:** *For the Week of May 15th*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 143  
 Morning Worship ..... 184  
 Evening Worship..... 140

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 145

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, May 22nd:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith  
 Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
 Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Jonathan Keenon  
 Assisting ..... Wayne Vaughn  
 Serving ..... Will Chumbley ..... Delmer Carter  
 ..... Landon Adams ..... Hunter Cox  
 Closing Prayer ..... Nathaniel Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Kenneth Smith  
 Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
 Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper ..... Wayne Vaughn  
 Closing Prayer ..... Marty Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 22nd:

Usher ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
 Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson

**Wednesday, May 25th:**

Song Leader ..... Marion Mitchell  
 Bible Reading ..... (Isaiah 22:1-11)  
 ..... Paul Hasting  
 Prayer ..... Marty Adams  
 Invitation ..... Warren Glass  
 Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn

**Sunday, May 29th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Marty Adams  
 Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
 Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Assisting ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Serving ..... Jonathan Keenon ..... Harold Davis  
 ..... Keenon Carrier ..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
 Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Marty Adams  
 Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
 Prayer ..... Stuart Wilson  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Closing Prayer ..... Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 29th:

Usher ..... Paul Hasting  
 Work Sound System ..... Stuart Wilson