

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
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

July 24, 2011

No. 30

Fellowship

Bob Walton

I receive a number of church bulletins each week from several sections of the country. I appreciate them being sent to me: for the most part I have profited from reading them. One of the things I have particularly noticed has been the frequent use of the word "fellowship". Not only have I noticed the use, I have observed both the overuse and abuse of this word. To illustrate what I mean: An article in a church bulletin received last fall stated in part, "periods of fellowship are a source of strength to this congregation." But in the very next sentence we were told what this "fellowship" was -- it was a "Halloween party in the fellowship hall of the church building." Also, a recent bulletin to cross my desk announced -- "members are reminded to bring sandwiches and drinks to the fellowship hall and stay for an hour of fellowship following the service on Sunday evening."

The word "fellowship" is a good word; it is a Bible word: however, I know of no passage that uses the word to describe social meals or recreational activities. I do realize that the word is used in a modern sense to identify social and recreational activities, but it is apparent to the Bible student that there is a vast amount of difference between the modern, secular use and the Bible use of the word.

The bible definition of the word is, "communion, partnership, sharing in common, or participation with." But what did the early Christians share? They were together; they "shared" in prayers, the Lord's Supper, and the teaching of God's word (Acts 2:42). The Christians at Corinth were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1-9). Paul wrote about the help of the Corinthian Christians to needy saints and called it "the fellowship of the ministering to the saints" (2 Corinthians 8:4). The Philippian Christians were praised for their "fellowship (with Paul) in the furtherance of the gospel" (by their contribution to him) (Philippians 1:5). Our fellowship is with one another by "walking in the light" (1John 1:7), and this is the fellowship the Christian should be interested in. These are but a few of the more than twenty

New Testament passages that allude to the fellowship, partnership or joint participation in religious matters by early Christians. And by a careful study of these references, it is evident that they all refer to spiritual matters and never to recreational, social, or secular activities such as Halloween parties, church suppers, or ball games.

Incidentally, in reference to the church that met in the “fellowship hall of the church” (building) for an hour of fellowship following the services on Sunday evening; I wonder if there was any “fellowship” in the service itself? Was not the fellowship with God by the church as it met together to sing, pray, study, etc.? Was there no sharing or joint participation in religious matters then – rather than in some social activity following the period of worship to God?

My friends, the error all begins when the word “fellowship” is taken out of its scriptural context and made to apply to social, recreational, or entertainment activities, which is not the Biblical use of the word. And a second grave spiritual blunder that often ensues is to build and maintain a fellowship hall to carry out this unscriptural practice.

I do encourage the fellowship of Christians in public worship to God, in evangelism, and in benevolence to the needy. I also encourage social and recreational activities among Christians; that these activities be carried out by the individual and be a part of the activities of the home, the center of such activities for the Christian.

I, however, stand opposed to social and recreational activities and/or facilities for these activities being financed with the Lord’s money, called “Bible fellowship,” and labeled “a good work of the church.”

Brethren, let us call Bible things by Bible names, and do Bible things in Bible ways!

-via *Gospel Power*, Anderson, Alabama.

Gospel Meeting

September 11-14, 2011

(Sunday through Wednesday)

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Children’s Influence Upon Parents

Bill Hall

Children can influence their parents just as parents can influence their children. The following story about an imaginary couple may have been duplicated in the lives of many of our readers.

George and Mary were a wonderful couple as they began their life together. Throughout their youth they had received strong teaching concerning worldliness, and their conduct showed the effects of that teaching. They has been taught faithfulness in attendance, and they never missed a service for “anything.” In character and conviction, they were blameless.

This young couple failed, however, to instill into the hearts of their children these same convictions. Consequently, as the children reached their teens, they began to put pressure on their parents to let them do what all the other young people were doing. Gradually the will of the parents was broken down, and they began to permit their children to do things they never dreamed their children would ever do.

Rationalization came easy for George and Mary. “After all, the Bible is not specific in these matters,” they thought. “The Bible says ‘modest apparel’, but it doesn’t define modesty.” “And, they’re only planning to go to the dance; they aren’t planning to dance.” “We can’t say ‘no’ to everything,” they said. When Junior began to show unusual athletic ability, the question of attending services became a problem. At first they took Junior out of games and brought him to midweek services, but then the team began to depend more and more on him. The play-offs came, and the team’s only hope in the plays-offs was for Junior to play. George and Mary gave in. And once they had given in, they had no more argument for the future. Junior never missed another game to “go to church.”

George and Mary often found themselves on the defensive in Bible classes. They began to argue for their children’s behavior. And, the more accustomed they became to their children’s actions, the more innocent their actions seemed to be. Eventually, their own conduct became affected. They reached to point where they thought nothing of missing Friday night during a meeting to see Junior play ball. Mary even

adopted some to the daughter's dress habits, although remaining sufficiently "discreet" to stay in good graces of the brethren. Yes, George and Mary are still in good standing in the church, and their change has been so gradual that many fail to realize that they are not the strong Christians they formerly were. What happened to George and Mary? Instead of bringing their children "up" in the nurture and admonition of the "Lord", their children brought them "down" in the nurture and admonition of the "devil".

Our children may do wrong, but they must not do wrong with our permission. We do not seek anger, but repentance. Parents, would your names fit in the place of "George" and "Mary" in the above story?

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



Fruits Worthy of Repentance

Tim Smelser

Pete Rose gambled on baseball and he says he is sorry. Many writers and sportscasters are skeptical though. Rose has not shown remorse, has not asked for forgiveness and has written a book from which he will profit greatly as people clamor to read the sordid details of his gambling addiction. All of the press coverage reminded me of the actions of many televangelists in the late 80's.

Some may remember the fall of Jim Baker who made millions as he fleeced his flock and then was charged with sexual misconduct. He tearfully asked for forgiveness and eventually resurfaced as a TV personality. Then there was Marvin Gorman and Jimmy Swaggart, former heads of the Assemblies of God. Both were ousted on charges of sexual misconduct. The Bible warns against these leaders, preachers. Paul told Timothy that some would "suppose godliness is a way of gain" (1 Timothy 6:5). Swaggart was a perfect example of this. He owned a private jet, TV network and a mail order business worth about \$150 million.

John charged the Pharisees and Sadducees to "bring forth fruit worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8). Moses

warned God's people, "Be sure, your sins will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). One Assembly of God spokesman told ABC's Nightline something with which we would heartily agree. He said that someday we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and that we are all accountable to God. Amen dear sir! Now, if only we would start living like we believe such is true!

-via *The Parchment*; Indianapolis, Indiana.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Marion Pepper	Delmar Carter
Mot Beasley	Rachel Grubbs
David Gardner	Gladys Johnson
Mary Ruth Gardner	Martha Rice
Brent Lowman	Una King Currier
Jeff Waddell	Wanda Taylor
Matt Poff	Mary Dean
Joe Collier	Sarah Collier
Barbara Ogles	Randy Graviett
Paige Phillips	Phillip Harwell
Robbie Shoulders	Don Bowling

In The Hospital:

Jack Jones; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 390
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
Mary Smith, rm. 85	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	

Limestone Manor:

Albert Norton, rm. 98

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 express our deepest sympathy to *Kevyn Currier and all the family*, in the passing of Kevyn's father, *Jim Currier* this past week. His funeral was Wednesday in Bessemer... Also we want to express our deepest sympathy to *Ronnie Locke* in the passing of his sister, *Ruby Shepherd*, earlier Saturday morning. The arrangements are incomplete at this time.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Cartwright church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Thursday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Jeff May*... The *Gooch Lane church* in Madison is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. The speaker in this meeting is *Gary Henry*... The *Hillsboro Heights church* in Moulton is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Frank Richey*.

SONGBOOKS: We began using our new songbooks "*Songs of Worship and Praise*" last Sunday. The elders want anybody here that would like to have a copy of the old book "*Hymns For Worship*." to get one. The old books are in boxes in the little auditorium in the west wing.

SINGING: There will be a singing on Friday night at the *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. The singing will be led by: *R. J. Stevens, Tim Stevens and Gary Braswell*.

PREACHING AWAY: Today, *Warren Glass* is preaching for the *Pine Lane church* in Bessemer. He will be speaking at both services today.

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.

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.

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of July 17th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 134
Morning Worship 180
Evening Worship..... 130

Wednesday:
Bible Classes..... 100

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Bonnie Sutton
Assisting Joel Hamm
Serving Ronnie Locke Marion Pepper
..... Harold Davis Paul Hasting
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 24th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, July 27th:

Song Leader Marty Adams
Bible Reading (Isaiah 28:1-10)
..... Paul Hasting
Prayer Jack Cannon
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Sunday, July 31st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Jonathan Keenan
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Bonnie Sutton
Assisting Joel Hamm
Serving Ronnie Locke Marion Pepper
..... Harold Davis Paul Hasting
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Dawine Allfrey
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 31st:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Stuart Wilson