

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
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Can We Be United?

David A. Cox

Often, in the religious world, people will lament the fact that there is so much division. The division is often excused by people saying that the Bible cannot be understood alike, but such an attitude eliminates any hope of true biblical unity. In seeing the need for unity and Christ's desire for it (1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:20-21), religious groups believing entirely different things will gather together, agree not to discuss the points of division and will have a so-called "unity meeting". The question is, "If this is not unity (which it is not) can Biblical unity be achieved?" The Bible teaches that we can be and are expected to be united and the Bible can be understood alike (Ephesians 4:3; 5:17).

The religious division that exists today is a result of men following what men say through their creeds, confessions of faith, disciplines, manuals, etc. rather than what the word of God has said. The truth is determined in many cases, by what conventions and synods proclaim as truth, rather than what the Scriptures say. Biblical unity is impossible to obtain while there are denominational bodies which teach conflicting doctrines from the various creed books, but claim to be followers of Christ. Jesus, in His prayer to the Father for unity among the believers said, "Sanctify them with thy truth, thy word is truth" (John 17:17). As Jesus continues His prayer, we see the result of this was so all the believers would be united. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). Christ prayed that His disciples and those that are taught by the word, would be one. The unity Christ prayed for was for those in the first century, as well as those today. This unity which Christ prayed for is commanded of those that follow Christ. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be of the "same mind and the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10) and he further told the Philippians, "Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing" (Philippians 3:16).

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
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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

The Stone of Help

Michael W. McLemore

In order to achieve the unity of which Paul was speaking of and that Christ prayed for, we must all use the same standard as our authority in religious matters. We recognize this with regard to other facets of this life. If a man goes to build a house, would he not use the proper standard of measurement? If a lady was cooking a recipe, would she not follow the standard of measurement specified? The answer to the previous two questions is yes, of course. Those in the first century were united because they “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42). They used the only standard of authority for the things that they practiced in religion. The unity that existed among the Christians in the first century was the result of their being taught by the apostles to be of the same mind and judgment, and their understanding Christ’s desire for those who would believe through the inspired word of God. Why then do we not use the only divine rule? The answer is that many do not have the proper attitude toward the word of God. Numerous examples are written for our admonition concerning those who thought they could change things to what they desired instead of following the teaching of God. Examples include Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10), Uzzah (2 Samuel 6), the children of Israel wanting a king instead of Judges to rule over them (1 Samuel 8), Naaman (2 Kings 5), etc. These examples resulted in divisions, death, pain, and hardships. Let us determine that we are not going to allow our attitude toward what the word of God teaches be altered by popularity, family relationships, preconceived ideas, or allurements to the things of this world.

Yes, we can have unity! And we can have the kind of unity that God desires us to have. God’s word is very important because it teaches us the truth and we will be judged according to it (John 17:17; 12:48). Let us be keenly aware that the Bible is God’s inspired revelation to man, and it teaches us what we should do to be pleasing and faithful to God in order to receive the crown of life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 2:15; Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:7,8). The apostle Paul made it clear to the Galatians that they should be able to understand the gospel that was taught and be able to recognize error when it was taught (Galatians 1:6-9). To be able to recognize error, we all should heed the exhortation of Paul to “Study to shew thyself approved unto God rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Let us recognize that when the divine rule is followed, there can be the kind of unity God desires.

Every aspect of the Christian existence hinges upon the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ. The New Testament candidly validates Jesus of Nazareth through his death, burial and resurrection from the dead as the foundation of all Christian hope. The son of God is truly the Head of the Corner, in Him we trust and our faith is made perfect. The Christian’s faith in Christ as the Chief corner stone or the founding rock serves him/her well in all occasions of life. Whether in times of peace or persecution, times of affliction or blessing or even times of birth or death, the servant of Christ can rest in Him as their Stone of Help.

In the record of the Israelite victory over the mighty Philistine host, Samuel is careful to enter into the annals of time Israel’s prayer to Jehovah of repentance and petition. Israel, through Samuel their prophet, offered sacrifice to God for deliverance from the oppressive hand of Philistine tyranny. God’s answer to their fervent cry came in the form of an absolute rout of the Philistine force. To insure this event would serve as a perpetual reminder to Israel in the future, Samuel erected a stone between Mizpeh and Shen and named the place Ebenezer, saying “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us” (1 Samuel 7:5-12). The narrative of this Old Testament event serves to this present day as a reminder to the Lord’s faithful people of God’s succor of those who are obedient to Him. Christ is that help.

Life upon this earth is fraught with many difficulties and predicaments; none as great as man’s separation from God by sin. The danger of this separation may not be felt by many while life on this earth continues. Men and women wholly estranged from God enjoy their earthly lives, succeed in business and live in quite solitude with their fellowman. Such people may in old age have little regret. Yet, may I ask, what of the future? The real peril of mankind is facing God without an advocate, without atonement for sin, without hope. Rightly, this is mankind’s greatest fear. It is here Christ, our stone of Help, benefits us the most. The apostle John reminded first century Christians, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with

the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). Jesus Christ is our salvation from the oppressive hand of satanic tyranny — sin.

There is no more important enterprise than the preaching and teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus in His last personal appointment to the chosen apostles said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Why is preaching the word of God such an important work for Christians? Because it was to the Lord. Because the souls of men are in danger of being damned for eternity (Mark 16:16). The desire of the Lord’s people should be to be faithful to our commission.

Multiplied thousands are wondering aimlessly through life, living life as they please by their own rules. This was Israel's condition before Samuel, a dedicated servant, turned the people back to God. The chosen people of God had rejected God’s will, the religious leaders of their day were corrupt and tolerant of sin. God had rejected them and allowed their enemies to overcome them. The ark of God had been taken by wicked hands into battle, and Israel suffered Jehovah’s vengeance for their evil. Only then did they realize from whence their help in days past had come. And, by turning back to God, repenting of the evils which they had committed and obeying God’s will, He became their Stone of Help. Likewise, He can be ours. But, it’s up to us. Will we not then share this lesson of truth with our friends and neighbors?

Our prayer is this will be our aim. All we ask is for receptive hearts and an open Bible.

-via *The West End Way*; Richmond, Virginia

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Testifying Against God

Jason Malham

“O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me” (Micah 6:3).

Never has there been a better example of a rhetorical question. God’s query was not meant to be answered

for the answer was obvious; and it was an answer that had deep and disturbing implications.

God had been gracious and patient with the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. They constructed idols from wood and stone and referred to them as their father. They lived the prostitute’s life seeking instant gratification from instant gods. But come the high tide, they hungered for the true and living God of Israel (Jeremiah 2:27). And He was there for them.

So what negative declaration could they speak against Jehovah? What charge could they bring against the One who had been so long-suffering? They could bring no charge. Why then did God ask the question? Because though they could not accuse God of wrong-doing, they were treating Him as though He’d done wrong.

Their lives were portraits of apostasy and betrayal. Their unfaithfulness was a slap in the divine face that for so long had looked upon them with mercy. Surely a people who were willfully abandoning God’s ways had a reason. Surely they had come to find fault with God or His will. For why else would people consciously betray the wishes of Him who had done so much for them?

And what about you, friend? Are you doing God’s will in your life? If not, may we ask: What will you testify against God?

-via *Millersville Messenger*; Millersville, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Mot Beasley	Delmer Carter
Rachel Grubbs	Bobbie Adcock
David Gardner	Martha Rice
Mary Ruth Gardner	Jack Jones
Wayne Bolton	Una King Carrier
Jeff Waddell	Phillip Harwell
Matt Poff	Brent Lowman
Mary Dean	Wanda Taylor
Joe Collier	Sarah Collier
Paige Phillips	Barbara Ogles
Randy Graviett	Robbie Shoulders
Don Bowling	

In The Hospital:

Gladys Sandlin; Health South Rehab., rm. 320
Rbett 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 ***Judy Vaughn*** and all the family in the passing of Judy's aunt, ***Edna Lauderdale***. She passed away Wednesday and her funeral was yesterday afternoon in Florence.

SONGBOOKS: Some have asked about getting some new songbooks for their personal use. If you would like to do this these David can order them for you for 11.00 dollars per book. Please let David know. He will place this order on Monday morning.

GOSPEL MEETING: The ***Oakland church*** is beginning gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday night. ***Mark White of Florence*** will be the speaker in this meeting.

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 August 7th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 134

Morning Worship 190

Evening Worship..... 114

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 112

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting Stuart Wilson
Serving Nathaniel Adams... Will Chumbley
..... Terry Andrews Keenon Carrier
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 14th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, August 17th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 29:1-10)
..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer Marty Adams
Invitation Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Sunday, August 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Tommy Coblenz Paul Hasting
..... Harold Davis Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching Stuart Wilson
Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 21st:

Usher David Terry
Work Sound System Danny Johnson