

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

September 18, 2011

No. 38

Do Not Be Conformed To This World

Roger Hillis

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

Is it just me or does it seem like, in many ways, that Christians are just exactly like the world?

We are supposed to be so different from the world that everyone can tell the difference. Do you think that distinction is as clear as it ought to be these days?

Christians are referred to in the Bible as “sojourners, strangers, and pilgrims.” See Hebrews 11:8-16 and 1 Peter 2:11. Those terms indicate the idea that as foreigners, whose citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20-21), we are temporary non-residents of the earth – in the world, but not of it. We are to live here without involvement and defilement by the wickedness that is here.

Two specific words in the New Testament show this separation from the world. The first is the word “church” itself. The *‘ekklesia’* of Christ is to be called out of the world. We are called out of Satan’s domain and power and into the kingdom of Christ. “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

The second word is “sanctified.” This emphasizes the set apart nature of the children of God. “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians

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

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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

5:25-27). This is also the basis for the common word “holy.” We are to be pure and holy, just as God is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

In the first century there was such a marked difference between Christians and the people of the world that the disciples were easy marks for persecution. Their purity condemned the un-godly and the Christians were often punished by the heathen. Is there still that marked difference? Or do we blend right in?

All too often, Christians wear exactly the same fashions as the world. Clothes that are too tight, too short, too low cut, or too revealing are sometimes seen on Christians. Not all in-fashion clothes are immodest (1 Timothy 2:9-10), but many are. It is the very worldly that set the fashion standards, not the godly.

Some Christians are just as covetous as the world. Materialism is eating up the people of God and we are often blind to it. We can see and recognize greed in others, but it is harder to admit in our own lives, isn't it? Covetousness is a form of idolatry (Ephesians 5:5).

When it comes to recreational habits, I am really amazed at some of the things that some Christians try to defend -- R-rated movies, social drinking, smoking, mixed swimming. We are not supposed to do things just because they are popular! And if we don't, some will ridicule us. “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you” (1 Peter 4:3-4).

Christians have the same problem controlling the tongue as the people of the world. We lose our tempers, gossip, and sometimes tell or laugh at dirty jokes.

Worldliness is not just immorality. It is an attitude of heart and mind that puts anything else before God.

Part of our problem in converting people to the Lord is that they often do not see any difference that being a Christian has made in our lives. We live like the world, talk like the world, go where the world goes, and dress like the world. Some serve God on Sunday and live like the world the rest of the time. We must do better.

~via *Lenexa Edifier*; Lenexa, Kansas.

Our Purpose In Life

Kent Heaton

An oft-uttered phrase in the prayers publicly offered is, “Lord, help us to remember what our purpose in life is.” Few thoughts sum up the total of man than the truth of how privileged we are to be considered worthy to approach God's throne. Men in their pride and arrogance have slain those who dare enter their courts without permission (Ester 4:11). People of God have a Father who entreats His children to come into His presence to lay their anxious hearts before Him (Philippians 4:6-7). Those who follow the son of God have a single purpose in life: to serve the King!

What an imposing thought to consider: We stand before the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (Revelation 19:16) to serve Him and to obey His every command. As servants of the Most High God we have dedicated our lives to follow Him who rides upon a white horse whose name is Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11-16). It is a privilege to serve Him. It is an awesome thing to consider Him we serve. “Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?” (Exodus 15:11).

The mercy of God has allowed us to have this benefit — this blessing. Mortal man has been given the opportunity to serve the immortal Creator of this world who holds our breath in His hand (Daniel 5:23). We serve Him because He loved us enough to give His only begotten Son to die for our sins (John 3:16). Our allegiance is borne upon the blood given at Golgotha (John 19:17). The servitude we offer to God is only dust on the debt of redemption. God has allowed in His infinite mercy to seek men to worship Him and by His grace we are allowed to enter into His holy court.

We did not earn this right. There was nothing we could do that would offer this entrance before God. The Jews proved it could not be done by the written law and the Gentiles showed it could not be done as a law to themselves (Romans 2). Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:9 that God “has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” Glory

to God for this rich blessing of being able to serve a loving Father.

Children of God serve through the blessing of grace. When it enters the mind of men to forget this grace, lost is the blessing of God. All we are and all we can become will only be found in knowing this single purpose. When our life ends and we are ushered before the great and holy presence of Jehovah, these words will ring in our hearts throughout the eternal ages: "Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:23).

-via *The Melrose Memo*; Richardson, Texas.

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What About Monday?

Shane Williams

God is quite popular on Sunday. Millions of people around the world stop what they're doing to visit a building where they seek, in one way or another, to meet with others and practice something in the realm of religion. For many people, Sunday is **the** day to think about God and to worship Him. But then Monday rolls around. What place does God have in their lives then? When the emphasis is on a thousand other things, people can easily go all week without considering Him.

That's not just a danger for the "religious world." Even among some who are truly Christians, God's name may not ever be heard the rest of the week. If it is, it is often spoken in vain and not in reverence. Often His plans are not considered, and His guidelines for living aren't given a thought.

Where do people get the idea that God wants our attention only on Sunday? Certainly not from the apostle Paul, who said we are to "pray without ceasing" (1Thessalonians 5:17)--a sure sign that God is listening on Monday through Saturday too. Paul also wrote, "Rejoice always" (v.16), which indicates that we shouldn't stop just because we aren't in a "church building." And what about the command, "In everything give thanks?" (v. 18). That would surely suggest that

the rest of the week is just as full of opportunities to say, "Thank You," to the Lord.

Sunday is certainly a special day to give direct attention to God. It is the day the Lord resurrected (Luke 24:1). It is the day the church was established in Acts 2. It is the day Christians partake of the Lord's Supper and give back to the Lord (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). It is the "Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10). But it doesn't stop there. Don't forget Monday! Christianity is not a block of time in your week, it **is** your week. It is to be your life!

-via *The Lilbourn Light*; Lilbourn, Missouri.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gayle Ball	Mot Beasley
Rachel Grubbs	Bobbie Adcock
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Martha Rice	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Larry Jones
Rhett Bailey	Brent Lowman
Gladys Sandlin	Wanda Taylor
Phillip Harwell	Paige Phillips
Joe Collier	Sarah Collier
Barbara Ogles	Randy Graviett

In The Hospital:

Jack Jones; Vanderbilt Hospital - Nashville, rm. 7014

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17
Hazel Toone, rm. 93

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

OUR MEETING: This past week we were engaged in a gospel meeting through Wednesday night. It was a good meeting and the men (Jeff McCary, Steve Klein, Norm Webb, Sr. and Lance Taylor) did an excellent work in the sermons they preached. We averaged 137 for each service. The lessons were recorded. If you would like a copy of them, please note it on the members/visitors cards you fill out and we will duplicate those for you.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Mt. Zion church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *David Hartsell* will be the speaker in this meeting. . . The *Pepper Road church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Larry Bailey* will be the speaker in this meeting.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Bonnie Sutton and all the family* in the passing of Bonnie's brother-in-law, *Buel Gladney*, this past Friday morning. His funeral will be this afternoon at Isom's Chapel Methodist church at 2:00 p.m. . . We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Brenda Jones and all the family* in the passing of Brenda's brother, *Jeff Waddell*, last night in Nashville, Tennessee. The arrangement are incomplete at this time.

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 three to meet. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group this evening.

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of September 11th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 140
 Morning Worship 177
 Evening Worship..... 114

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 132

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Stuart Wilson
 Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
 Serving Hunter Cox Jonathan Keenon
 Keenon Currier Marcus Morris
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Ronnie Locke
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
 Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 18th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, September 21st:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 30:15-22)
 Tommy Coblenz
 Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, September 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching Warren Glass
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Bonnie Sutton
 Assisting Joel Hamm
 Serving Paul Hasting Ronnie Locke
 Hunter Cox Marion Mitchell
 Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 25th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
 Work Sound System Danny Johnson