

# 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](http://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*

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## *So What Is The Church, Anyway?*

**Dee Bowman**

There is continual confusion about what the church is in this generation. People want to “up-grade” the church, to make her more culturally acceptable, more “up- to-date.” Please allow me a few minutes of your time to examine what is and what is not the church. And please be advised, I am not answering this question as it pertains to what man thinks, but what God says. After all, the church didn’t originate in the mind of man, but in the mind of God, according to His eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:9-11).

**The church is not an institution.** While it is an institution in the sense that it was divinely instituted, it is not some corporate entity like a business, one where the rules of incorporation are different from the people who comprise the enterprise. Rather, the church is a relationship, a relationship between God and His saved people, those who have complied with His terms for salvation. The church is saved people (Acts 2:47). You are not in the church to be saved; you’re in the church because you are saved. The church is the saved.

**The church is not a country club.** The church of our Lord is a spiritual entity, not a physical one. It never was God’s intention to make the church an organization to provide for the social needs of men. It has no assignments that pertain to meeting men’s aesthetic propensities—like providing musical entertainment or parties for the enjoyment of its members. Now that is not to say that music has no role in the church, for according to God it is an important part of the worship He deserves, as well as “teaching and admonishing one another” (Ephesians 5:19). And the gatherings on the Lord’s day, as well as on other occasions deemed expedient for coming together, are certainly socially agreeable to men, for they edify and build up the membership.

**The church of our Lord is an edification society** (Ephesians 4:12; Romans 14:17-19; Hebrews 10:23-25). But it is not the duty

of the church to provide for “Mother’s Day Out,” or counseling for those needing psychological help, or for Boy Scout Troops, or softball teams. The church is not in the restaurant business. The church has a spiritual mission, not a mundane one.

**The church is not a law-making body.** That is, it does not have the right to make its own laws. The church belongs to Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27); He governs it. Man cannot add to nor can he diminish from the things of God without incurring His disfavor. “Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God” (2 John 9). The church does not dictate its own course. The Scriptures are sufficient to “furnish the man of God unto every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible is complete and needs—nor will it tolerate—more or less than it is. The church does not make laws, it merely practicalizes what has already been made law by God.

**The church is not a benevolent society.** It is not the business of the church to take care of the world’s poor. That sort of benevolence is the work of individuals (James 1:26-27; Galatians 6:10). In the first place, such an endeavor would quickly demand all the time and resources of the church (consider the Salvation Army); and in the second place, there is absolutely no authority for such an endeavor. Nowhere in Scripture will you find where the church saw as its mission to feed and clothe the less fortunate, unless they were needy saints—and then only until the need was finalized (Acts 11:27-30). You will search in vain to find where the New Testament church ever built a permanent organization to feed the hungry or provide care for un-wed mothers or aged saints.

The church is a preaching, teaching, worshiping organization—built to honor God, to propagate the gospel message, to edify itself, to care for its own. In short, the church of Christ is meant to bring glory to God, and to help men get to heaven by doing, in every thing they do, what God has said.

-via *Southside Reminder*, Pasadena, Texas

### *Remember Our Study Periods*

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

*Come and Join Us As We Study Together*

## *The Meaning of Life*

**Daniel Bailey**

What is the meaning of life? That’s a tough question. Millions of people all through the centuries have spent their lives pondering and searching to produce an answer to this fundamental question of human existence. Many philosophies, religions, schools, cults, and other institutions have found foundation purely in speculating the meaning and purpose, if there is one, of human life – a purpose for all the tragedy, suffering, pain, sorrow, happiness, comfort, relief, and joy that comprise the human experience. However, children of God who have faith that God’s word is true and totally sufficient in providing all that we need to know in this life (2 Peter 1:3) have a profound advantage over even the most supreme thinkers and philosophers of the ages, because God provides in the Bible the answers to many of life’s hardest questions, if we’re but willing to read and accept the infinite wisdom of the Lord.

For instance, consider Acts 17:26-28 – Paul spoke these words while exhorting the philosophers and orators in the midst of the Areopagus in Athens, an audience that spent all their time pondering and questioning new theories and channels of human thought (cf. Acts 17:21):

*“And God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being...”*

Now, that statement actually addresses a lot more than just the question that began this short study, but notice that the apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, explains the meaning of life. Why are we here? What is the purpose of human existence? God tells us that He created all nations of all people on the earth so that we might seek Him and reach for Him and, upon finding Him, learn to do His will. That’s a simple answer to what many perceive to be the hardest question of all.

Just so that we don’t mistake this to be the only passage with the same explanation for the meaning of

life, consider also Ecclesiastes 12, and remember that these words were written by King Solomon, the wise king. Solomon implored the Lord to grant Him wisdom and an understanding heart, which he deemed more important than wealth, or longevity, or victory over his enemies (see 1 Kings 3 and 2 Chronicles 1). This wise king went on to explore every aspect of life on earth, all its fleeting joys and sorrows, to discover the purpose and meaning of man's existence. Solomon recorded his findings in the book of Ecclesiastes. The conclusion of this great book of wisdom literature, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, reads as follows:

*"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."*

Wise King Solomon found after all his searching that the meaning of life is not in labor, nor wealth, nor fame, nor power, nor physical pleasure, nor pain, nor folly, but the meaning and purpose of life is to fear God and keep His commandments, because this life is but a brief playing field and all our works will come before God in eternal judgment.

No words can describe the blessing that God's word provides by sufficiently answering the most fundamental questions of life. The choice belongs to the reader: study God's word and receive it with an open heart to gain faith in God's answers, to live in comfort and hope that cannot be stripped away by the weariness of life; or else refuse the message as too simple or too contrary to modern opinion, and live a life in speculation and vain philosophy with no stability, only faith in the fickle wisdom of men. As Jesus admonished on so many occasions, he who has ears to hear, let him hear (Matthew 19:9, 14- 15).

-via *Meditate On These Things*; Woodlawn, New York.

## Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ

## The Market Street church of Christ Website at:

**MarketStreet-church.com**

### On The Site You Will Find:

1. Information about the Market Street church.
2. The Market Street Messenger in .pdf format
3. Sermons preached at Market Street.

*Please Visit the Site Regularly.*

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Hazel Toone

Tim Dean

Martha Rice

Matt Poff

Betty Faye Holt

Rhett Bailey

Phillip Harwell

Joe Collier

Barbara Ogles

Bobbie Adcock

Mary Ruth Gardner

Jack Jones

Brent Lowman

Gladys Sandlin

Una King Carrier

Paige Phillips

Sarah Collier

Randy Graviett

### *In The Hospital:*

*Rachel Grubbs*; HealthSouth Rehab - rm. 223B

*Larry Owens*; Decatur General - Decatur, rm.

### *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65

Mary Smith, rm. 85

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57

Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

### *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

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Morris'* Marcus and Bonnie are out of town this weekend...*Nancy Abernathy* is in Arkansas with her son and his family.

**A STUDY OF THE PARABLES:** In the little auditorium in the west wing there is an adult Bible class meeting this quarter studying *The Parables of Jesus*. The class will meet on both Sunday and Wednesday evenings. *Jordan Lovell* and *David Cox* will be teaching the class.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Jackson Drive church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Whit Sasser* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Holland's Gin church* in Ardmore is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Randy Barnes* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Pleasant Valley church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Joraan Lovell* is speaking there this morning and they will have different speakers through Wednesday evening.

**SINGING AT THE GATHERING PLACE:** Remember that after our service this evening, we will be going to the Gathering Place to sing and work on learning some new songs. I hope that everyone will be able to be present.

**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 October 9th*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 124  
Morning Worship ..... 160  
Evening Worship.....  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 101

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, October 16th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements .....Jerry McGlocklin  
Song Leader .....Hunter Cox  
Prayer .....Marion Mitchell  
Preaching .....David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Larry Mitchell  
Assisting ..... Marty Adams  
Serving ..... Marcus Morris.....Gilbert Hardy  
..... Harold Davis..... Terry Andrews  
Closing Prayer .....Joel Hamm

*Evening Worship*

Announcements .....Jerry McGlocklin  
Song Leader .....Stefan Fudge  
Prayer .....Marcus Morris  
Preaching ..... Jordan Lovell  
Lord's Supper ..... Larry Mitchell  
Closing Prayer .....Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 16th:

Usher .....Jerry McGlocklin  
Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson

**Wednesday, October 19th:**

Song Leader ..... Stuart Wilson  
Bible Reading.....(Isaiah 32:1-8)  
.....Paul Hasting  
Prayer ..... Landon Adams  
Invitation .....David Cox  
Closing Prayer .....Marion Mitchell

**Sunday, October 23rd:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer .....Jonathan Keenon  
Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Tommy Coblentz  
Assisting .....Marion Mitchell  
Serving ..... Ronnie Locke ..... Kenneth Smith  
..... Stefan Fudge..... Marvin Putman  
Closing Prayer ..... Tommy Burns

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox  
Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
Preaching ..... Song Service  
Lord's Supper ..... Tommy Coblentz  
Closing Prayer ..... Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 23rd:

Usher ..... Keenon Currier  
Work Sound System ..... Stuart Wilson