

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

December 18, 2011

No. 51

There's More To It Than That

Dee Bowman

It's interesting to me how an illustration can sometimes become so powerful that it supplants the thing it is illustrating. For instance, the illustration for salvation is many times cited by the use of a man's five fingers. Hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized, we are wont to affirm, is God's plan for salvation. And it is. But that's not some sort of creed. It's an illustration, a representative of what happens when an honest person – a sinner – seeking salvation from his sins, reads the Bible and sees what God affirms as the necessary steps to salvation. But let it be carefully observed that:

Sin is more than a mere mismanagement of one's life. Sin is a willful choice, made by a rational human being, but one that is in direct contradiction to what God defines as truth and goodness. A person sins when he deliberately chooses his own way in preference to God's way (Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:8-9). Sin is a disdain for God and His law. In Psalm 51, David affirms, "against Thee and Thee only have I sinned." All sin is against God. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul affirms that Christ was "made to be sin" for us. And in Isaiah 53:4-6, we are informed that the death of Jesus was necessary for our forgiveness. Sin is not just mismanaging one's life, but a serious reproach against God.

Faith is more than a mere admission that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Faith that doesn't act on known knowledge is no faith at all (James 2:22). Faith is active. The Hebrew writer says that in order to please God one must not only believe who He is, but "that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (11:6). It is not enough to merely love God, either. "He that saith I know Him and keepeth not His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 1:4). Love for God is perfected in our obedience. Faith that works is faith that saves.

Repentance is more than just one decision to turn and serve God.

Salvation is not, and never has been, a one-stroke process; and repentance is not a one-time decision. John tells us that we should “bring forth therefore fruit meet for repentance” (Matthew 3:8). That’s a continual process, a willful decision to do better day by day. Repentance activates one’s faithfulness. One who repents will then turn. There is no repentance without turning and no turning without repentance. One implies the other. One who has repented will begin immediately to turn himself around (see Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19).

Confession is more than an admission that Jesus was a historical character. Confession is an audible admission of what is in one’s heart. I cannot know for sure what you believe – no matter how I may suspect it – until you tell me. Confession, to the Christian, is a kind of pledge of allegiance. The Ethiopian, in Acts 8, confessed that he now believed in Jesus Christ. And it’s not just a mantra or creedal admission, but a real statement of acquiesce and resolve to God as Sovereign. Confession states publically who we serve.

Baptism is more than just getting saved. No good Bible student would deny that baptism saves (Acts 22:16), being “born again” (John 3:3, 3:5) is just that—being born. Following your birth there must be a willing decision to develop toward spiritual maturity. “If ye then be risen with Christ”, says Paul, “seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.” That’s the course of pursuit which naturally follows baptism (being “risen with Christ”). That maturation process is one that must be diligently pursued; it’s putting on the “new man” and putting off the “old man” (Colossians 3:10, 12, 14).

Judgment is more than a slapping of the hand. Judgment is serious business. It is an appointment every man will keep and should be a horrible thought to those not prepared for it. “Behold, therefore the goodness and severity of God; on them that fell severity...” (Romans 11:22). Matthew 25:31-46 records the judgment scene. Several things stand out: First, please note that everyone will be there (vs. 32). Second, please observe that there will be a separation of the good and evil (vs. 33). Third, notice, please, that some will be sent in everlasting punishment (vs. 41). And forth, rejoice in the knowledge that there will be a glorious reward for the faithful (vs. 34). “It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Can

we dare ignore the fact of impending judgment? And it could be sooner than you think.

Yes, let us allow the Bible to speak for what constitutes salvation. And let us be careful not to make the illustration of the salvation the salvation itself.

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

∞

Toning It Down

Robert F. Turner

A “Country Meeting” had gone exceedingly well, and elders from another community asked the preacher to work with them in a meeting the following year. He came at the appointed time, and found his reputation had spread, and the building was packed. The elders met him at the car, told him they had never had such a gathering of Methodists, Baptists, and no-church folk, so he must be very careful lest he offend someone with his forthright teaching.

Being young and brash, and having no more tact than to tell the truth, he reminded them of the undiluted lessons that had been given at the neighboring church the previous year. He said that since he had not been in that section of the state before, the previous year’s work must have drawn this year’s crowd; and certainly was the reason he had been asked to come. He concluded, *“if you expect to hold and convert these people with something other than the kind of preaching that brought them together, in the first place, I’m afraid you have the wrong man I’ll get back into my car and go home.”*

With much confusion – “Oh no, you must have misunderstood us” etc., the preacher was persuaded to stay, and the meeting began. The preaching was strong, and seemed to get a little stronger; but the people continued to come, and several were converted.

I do not now believe, nor did I then, that “skinning the sects” is good preaching. Some folk will turn away from straight, plain truth, no matter how fairly we seek to present it. But we are dead wrong in thinking we

can convert people to Christ with anything other than the Bible message. It will convict the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgment; and many won't like that. But we are looking for the "*few*" who will like it, and will genuinely turn to God.

"Toning it down" will produce only "toned down" church. You may keep the money, the politicians, and silk-stocking crowd: but you will lose the backbone and fiber that is necessary for a church to prevail and please the Lord. And if "members" are not interested in pleasing the Lord and saving souls, why bother with any preaching at all?

~via *The Railroad Avenue Bulletin*, Antioch, California.

∞

Life: A Series of Corrections

Bill Robinson, Jr.

A few years ago a friend of mine remarked to me "Life is a series of corrections." The older I get the more I believe his observation is true.

The word correct means: "to remove the errors or mistakes from; to indicate or mark the errors in; to admonish or punish for the purpose of improving; to remove, remedy, or counteract; to adjust so as to meet a standard or required condition." Simply stated correction has to do with change.

However, it's not simply change for the sake of change but rather change for the sake of being and doing the right thing. Yet, such change is difficult because we are going to have to admit our errors in understanding and/or our practice. Furthermore, the fact that the word correction is part of our everyday language indicates there is a standard by which things must change in order to be made right in every field of human endeavor.

In the first century, which we read about in the Bible, Jesus came to make corrections. Yet, what was the nature of the opposition and hostility with which He was greeted? It was the unwillingness of mankind to admit their religious error and change their thinking

and practice. Jesus said in knowing the truth we can be made free (John 8:32). This freedom enables us to make the corrections in our lives to be right with God rather than be enslaved to the religious errors and practices of men. The sincerity of our desire, for this freedom to change, can only be determined by our willingness to correct and change our lives to live for Christ, which is forever and inextricably bound to our knowing the truth. For such is the purpose of the truth which God has revealed in His word (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

~via *Power Talk*; Lexington, Kentucky

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

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

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gilbert Hardy
David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner
Milton Wooldridge
Angeta Andersen
Tim Dean
Don Osborne
Patsy Burroughs
Brent Lowman
Larry Owens
Betty Faye Holt
Rhett Bailey
Phillip Harwell

Hazel Toone
Mark Rogers
Lorene Hill
Martha Rice
L. D. Cary
Matt Poff
Tim & Cathy Taylor
Gladys Sandlin
Barbara Ogles
Una King Currier
Paige Phillips
Randy Graviett
Joe & Sarah Collier

In The Hospital:

Rachel Grubbs; Windsor House Rehab. – rm. 300
Ava Brooke Campbell; Children's Hospital, – B'ham
Faye Cary; Good Shepherd Hosp. – Longview, Tex.

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 11
Clara Hicks, rm. 61

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65 Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Curtis Fudge, rm. 24 Mary Smith, rm. 85
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E 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
Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

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

BAPTISM: We are rejoicing this past week over the baptism of **Braydon Hill**. He was baptized Tuesday morning at the Market Street building. We are thankful for Braydon's good heart and his desire to please God. May the Lord bless him with many years to faithfully serve Him.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Polly Leopard** and **Marjorie Dunnivant** and *all the family* in the passing of Polly's brother-in-law and Marjorie's cousin, **Billy Beasley**. He passed away on Thursday morning. The visitation was Friday night and the funeral was Saturday afternoon in Pulaski, Tenn.

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

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

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 142
Morning Worship 164
Evening Worship..... 121

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 103

Men Privileged To Serve:

SSunday, December 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Jordan Lovell
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marcus Morris
Assisting Stuart Wilson
Serving Nathaniel Adams... Will Chumbley
..... Mark Rogers..... Todd Williams
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching Stuart Wilson
Lord's Supper Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 18th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Danny Johnsons

Wednesday, December 21st:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 34:9--17)
..... Bonnie Sutton
Prayer Marty Adams
Invitation Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Sunday, December 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Kenneth Smith
Serving Marty Adams..... David Terry
..... Harold Davis..... Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 25th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Stuart Wilson