

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 IV

August 19, 2012

No. 34

Have You Ever Wondered Why?

Larry W. Rouse

A Readers Digest article titled: "Ever Wonder why?" contained some interesting facts. For instance, have you ever wondered why: "Men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's are on the left? It's easier for right-handed people, the majority, to push buttons on the right through holes on the left, and so men's buttons are on the right. When first used, buttons were expensive and worn primarily by the well-to-do. Women in that class were usually dressed by servants. Since a maid would face the woman she was dressing, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right the woman's left where they've remained."

The same is true in religion. Today churches of men have adopted practices based on their personal convenience and on the decisions of men in the past rather than in the scriptures. Few ask the important question: "Why do we do that?" Jesus said in Matthew 15:8-9: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Please do not think that mindless service to God will do any good. Consider a few questions to ask today:

1. Why do men sprinkle babies today and call it baptism? (Rom. 6:3-4)
2. Why do churches not take the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week? (Acts 20:7).
3. Why do churches have church creeds and conventions to tell their members what to believe? (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Colossians 2:18-22)

If we call Jesus Lord then should we not show it by keeping His word over what men desire? (Luke 6:46) You may be surprised at the vicious opposition you will receive when you question the long held traditions of men. Paul warns each of us to choose the cross of Christ over the favor of men. Consider how Paul answered these questions:

1. Who is a real servant of Christ? "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would

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

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

- not be a bondservant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10).
2. What if I give in to men for the sake of “peace?” “As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ” (Galatians 6:12).
 3. If I really know Jesus, will I allow the demands of this world to take priority over the sacrifices Christ expects of me? “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14).

Let each of us go beyond “wondering why” we do things in service to God and begin today to search the scriptures and know why! Be ready for the surprise of learning that many things that are commonly accepted by the masses are not found in God’s word. Also be ready to stand against the intimidating pressures of men. God will bless you richly, only if you are willing to follow Him (Luke 14:33).

~via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia



Out of Focus

David Posey

A severely out of focus picture is not worth the paper it is printed on. An out of focus life is not much better.

Actually, it is rarely the case that a photograph is totally out of focus. Usually, you can find parts of the picture that are clear and sharp. But it’s not the part of the scene you planned to capture.

Why did it happen? The focus mechanism of the camera will bring into focus the part of the scene at which the view finder is pointed. If you’re trying to take a picture of your four-year old sitting in a chair and he suddenly moves, you’ll probably get a nice, sharp picture of the wall behind him. Your four-year old, meanwhile, will be a blur.

Christianity can be like that. We mean to focus on the Lord, but instead of the Lord moving, we move the view finder of our life. There He is, in all His glory,

filling up the frame. But right behind him is a shiny, dark blue BMW Z4 and, ever so subtly, we turn the lens toward the car and the focus follows.

John calls this problem the lust of the eyes in 1 John 2:16. In this case, the lust of the eyes may be motivated by another class of sin he mentions, the boastful pride of life. “Wouldn’t people think I’m something special if they saw me driving this car,” we may catch ourselves thinking. All of this may lead to a third category of sin that John mentions, the lust of the flesh. Our appetite for recognition and our hunger for the fleshly exhilaration of owning such an automobile may lead to covetousness and greed and all kinds of binding lusts. Peter said, “for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved” (2 Peter 2:19).

All that because of a hunk of metal. What a bargain, eh? Meanwhile, Jesus is a just a blur in our life, hardly recognizable to us anymore. He has been replaced. Individuals do this, churches do this, we all are susceptible to doing it. We forget why we are here.

Unfortunately for those caught in this web, the film of life will be developed one day and “we’ll get the picture.” At judgment, when Jesus stands before us as our Judge, He will be the only one we see and He will be in terrifying focus. If we should hear those words, “depart from me, you worker of iniquity, I never knew you” we’ll know why. It’ll be because we couldn’t keep Jesus in our sight and maintain our focus on the only thing that really matters after all.

~via *The Folsom Point View*; Folsom, California

Beacon of Truth

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

The Mistakes of Jesus

David B. Hartsell

Luke tells us that after Jesus spent all night in prayer, He chose His twelve apostles (Luke 6:11-12). Today, Christians look at these men and marvel at their dedication to the Lord. The apostles were giants of faith! Yet, during the time Jesus selected them they must have looked like mistakes. Let us emphasize this idea by considering some examples.

Simon Peter had some wonderful leadership qualities. Once Jesus asked who the disciples thought He was. Peter quickly responded, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). What a wonderful confession of faith. At other times, Peter blurted out ideas that were not well thought out. He could be a "loose cannon." On the Mountain of Transfiguration, Simon awoke from sleep and suggested the building of three tabernacles for Jesus, Elijah and Moses. He said this "because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid" (Mark 9:6). We all remember his bold proclamation that he would never forsake Christ. Then later he denied our Lord three times. Why would Jesus call Peter to be an apostle?

How could Matthew be an apostle? He was a publican or tax collector. Publicans were Jews who gathered taxes for the Roman government. Many used dishonest methods in extracting these funds. The Jews despised publicans. Jesus, however, called Matthew to be one of His closest disciples. This did not set well with the Pharisees. They asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" (Matthew 9:11). Jesus explained that the sinners were the ones that needed Him the most. Still, Matthew looks to be a strange pick as an apostle.

Another Simon became an apostle: Simon the Zealot. What was a zealot? Zealots were a small but militant group that believed they must throw off Roman rule by force of arms. Pharisees and scribes hated Roman domination, but they took a more diplomatic approach toward them. Can you imagine how Simon the Zealot and Matthew the Publican lived in peace? Why were both of these men selected to be close followers of our Lord?

Even the selection of James and John, the sons of

Zebedee, cause us to question Jesus' judgment. Once they asked Jesus if they could burn up a Samaritan village. He rebuked them and said they were to be of a different spirit (Luke 9:51-56).

How could Jesus make so many errors in judgment? They weren't errors. These men were imperfect and needed much spiritual growth. But they loved Jesus! And they were willing to correct their mistakes and to go on to maturity. This should encourage the rest of us who love and sincerely follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

~via *The North Jasper Seeker*, Jasper, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Levi Greer	Bobbie Adcock
Wynell Casteel	Yvonne Sherbert
Mary Ruth Gardner	Betty Faye Holt
Charles Burns	Dempsey McLemore
Ava Brooke Campbell	Jeffery Miller
Henry Hobbs	Matt Poff
David Hartsell	Mary Holt
Reverie Barksdale	Marie Bates
Leroy Davenport	Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier	Gladys Sandlin

In The Hospital:

David Gardner; Huntsville Hosp.; rm. 766

Scott Sandusky; North Carolina Hosp.;

Eli Williams; St. Jude's Hospital; Memphis, Tenn.

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 10 Beulah Pope, rm. 100

Mary Holt, rm. 26

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Mae Bragg, rm. 57

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Frances Bowers, rm. 37

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Albert Bowers rm. 115-B

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

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

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. If you are a lady, and are able to meet with them, please join them in this study.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group one will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

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

OUT OF TOWN: *The McLemores: Alvis and Ann* are on vacation this week in Gatlinburg, Tennessee... ***Steve Bradley*** left for Texas on Thursday for his work and we will miss him while he is away.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: This week the ***Oakland church*** will be engaged in a gospel meeting through Friday night. Services will begin at 7:00p.m. The speaker in this meeting will be *John Kilgore*.

THE RECORD: For the Week of August 12th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	137
	Morning Worship	170
	Evening Worship.....	110
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	93



Gospel Meeting

September 16-20, 2012

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday- 7:00 p.m.

Buc Chumbley, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Bonnie Sutton
Assisting	Joel Hamm
Serving	Mot Dollar
	Marion Pepper
	Paul Hasting.....
	Dan Lovell
Closing Prayer	Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcement.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Jordan Lovell
Preaching	Todd Williams
Lord's Supper	Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer	Stuart Wilson

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 19th:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, August 22nd:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading.....	Isaiah 48:1-8
	Danny Johnson
Prayer	Kenneth Adams
Invitation	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer	Ronnie Locke

Sunday, August 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Joel Hamm
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Jordan Lovell
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	David Terry
	Marvin Putman
	Dwaine Allfrey
	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcement.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Stuart Wilson
Prayer	Wayne Vaughn
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	Jonathan Keenon

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 26th:

Usher	Heath Dollar
Work Sound System	Marty Adams