

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

December 9, 2012

No. 50

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) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm..... (256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
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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

Friendly Fire

Russ Bowman

Anyone who gives much attention to the various military activities of this country, or any other country for that matter, knows the one of the most pressing concerns, and greatest tragedies, of warfare is the issue of “friendly fire.” War is a horrendous consideration and it is amazing that various cultures throughout history have actually embraced and pursued the aggressive destruction of other peoples. But even among the most violent of societies, there has been the constant concern for preserving the lives of one’s own forces. An army will not dominate long if it destroys its own. And for cultures such as ours which (publicly anyway) have attempted to avoid armed conflict it at all possible, the idea that we might kill our own soldiers is particularly detestable. I strongly suspect that those in the military who calculate the possible loss of life in warfare probably factor in some percentage of deaths due to friendly fire, especially given the destructive potential of modern weaponry. But every time you hear of one serviceman killed at the hands of a fellow countryman, we wince and grieve with singular anguish. Given our peculiar distaste for such accidental casualties, how much more abhorrent would it be were we to learn that our soldiers were being wounded or killed by their comrades intentionally.

In His prayer recorded in John 17, Jesus voiced a particular concern for unity among His disciples (v. 20-26). During his ministry, His apostles had repeatedly argued about which of them would be the greatest in the kingdom (Luke 9:46f; Matthew 20:20f; Luke 22:23f) and His comments to them in John 13 clearly illustrate His concern about their ambitions. They were an interesting collection of men, with at least two sets of brothers (imagine rivalry in that relationship!), one political dissident, one government employee, and one dishonest treasure. Add to those considerations Peter’s obvious impetuosity and the fact that James and John were willing to destroy entire villages with fire from heaven and you have the possibility of serious division. And the forging of unity within this small band would be nothing compared to the kind of oneness that would be reflected in the church belonging to Christ. Greek,

Jew, circumcised, uncircumcised, Barbarian, Scythian, slave, free, male, female (Colossians 3:11; Galatians 3:28). And add to those outward distractions the diverse moral (or immoral) background of Christ's disciples (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). When Paul noted in Ephesians 3:10 that the "the manifold wisdom of God might be known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places," his point is that the angels in heaven would be most impressed by God's wisdom when they witnessed His power to take so many men with so many differences and bring them together in a unified body under a single Head. Such is the contextual argument of Ephesians 2:10;3:11. And the magnitude of that feat is underscored by the frequent appeals made to us by God that we might remain united. Over and over and over and over, God pleads with us to be one (Romans 15:5f; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:13f; Galatians 3:26f; Ephesians 4:1f; Philippians 1:27, 2:5f; Colossians 3:12f). Notice that He demands that of us, the implication being that unity is only achievable when everyone involved is striving toward such. That places a great responsibility upon believers and it also raises some interesting considerations.

It occurs to me that we Christians often look at these unity passages with a kind of tunneled vision. By that I mean that we generally appeal to them as a demand for doctrinal unity. Now, don't get me wrong. Passages such as 1 Corinthians 1:10 ("...that you all speak the same thing... be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment") and Ephesians 4:1f ("there is one body...spirit...hope...Lord...faith...baptism... God") clearly denote and demand unity in teaching and belief. There is no biblical evidence that God ever intended for people who call themselves Christians to be splintered into so many divergent denominations. And any defense of such a "system" is offered in direct defiance of God's repeated demand for oneness. Such a call to doctrinal unity is certainly not an unjust use of these passages.

But the appeal for doctrinal unity does not exhaust the application of these instructions.

In fact, in some cases it may be that doctrinal unity is almost secondary in these passages. Many of them call upon Christians to be forbearing, likeminded, lowly, gentle, longsuffering, loving, humble, selfless, meek, kind, peaceful in dealing with other Christians. Isn't it interesting that God has to tell brethren who are in

agreement doctrinally to be nice to one another?

"Friendly fire" is, sadly, all too common among Christians. And the real travesty is that, unlike the occurrence in temporal warfare, it rarely occurs accidentally within the spiritual realm. Instead, Christians look through the scope, line up the target, and pull the trigger of division with intent and malice aforethought. For as long as I can remember, I have watched people who claim to be disciples of Jesus attack their own. Preachers assassinating other preachers. Elders wounding other elders. Brethren lobbing destructive barrages upon the heads of their own spiritual family. Local churches berating, disdain, or disregarding other local churches. Believers who are called to edify one another, love one another, restore one another, and work together to extend the good news of salvation to a lost and dying world, who instead destroy faith, discourage hearts, disappoint hope, disease the body. What a tragedy! I don't know how many times in the past couple of months I've heard of such poison within some church trying to do its work. Satan must be thrilled when we do his killing for him. And God must be so very sad. I know how frustrated I get when my own children fight and fuss and turn on each other. Why would we think God would react so differently?

Given the diversity of people who come to Christ, it stands to reason that unity will be a challenge. And while we do have a common faith and standard and Lord, we are all very different people, and there will be times when Christians find unity a challenge. But it is achievable when we all "endeavor to keep it" (Ephesians 4:3). May God help us to selflessly serve each other, remembering that Satan is the enemy and we are fighting together against him. Not with him against ourselves.

~via *Family Items*; Athens, Alabama.

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

Why Should I Care About God?

Justin Roberson

Sometimes when I study with someone about God, the first question often asked is, "Why should I care?" He or she may continue this thought process by asking, "What motivation should I have for serving God?" One undeniable fact is that after this life is over we will face uncertainty unless we look at it through the Bible's eyes. From the Bible, we know that questions about God and eternity are both important and relevant. God shows us 3 answers why we should care about Him.

1. I Fear Hell The Most

The most basic motivation that the Bible offers is the threat of pain and separation from all that is good if we do not obey God; however, the wrath that awaits us is not an immediate punishment in this life. The greatest thing is that God will judge us fairly and gives every opportunity to avoid this. "But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, *who will render to each one according to his deeds*: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness - indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek" (Romans 2:5-9).

Can you imagine the day coming when Jesus is revealed what eternal separation from God in hell happens? I pray that we don't ever have to face that fate - "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His almighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

2. I Desire Heaven More Than Anything

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John

14:1-3). To live in the Lord's house for all of eternity, is the greatest thing that could ever happen to us. In fact, to leave behind all the difficulties of this life and rest in His love for eternity, we should be willing to serve our King. After all He not only loves us but considers us His children.

3. I Love God And Want To Be With Him

Ultimately, Christians will grow to the point that they appreciate the love and sacrifice that God made for us through Jesus' death. "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8). "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ... We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:10,19).

~via *The Northwood Messenger*; Northport, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Bobby McGuire	Helen Blankenship
Gwen Bullock	Gilbert Hardy
Mary Ruth Gardner	Wynell Casteel
Shelby Isbell	Wayne Gooch
Ewell Smith	Bruce Mordecai
Carrie Miller	Evelyn Harrison
Abby Gilbert	Betty Faye Holt
Phillip Harwell	Ava Brooke Campbell
Charles Burns	Jeffery Miller
Matt Poff	David Hartsell
Eli Williams	Shelia Dunnivant Douglas

In The Hospital:

Gladys Johnson; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm. 210
Virginia Meyer; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm. 306
Una King Currier; East Glen, Birmingham

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 16 Beulah Pope, rm. 100
Mattye Murray, rm. 60

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B
Albert Norton, rm. 36 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74 Billy Sutton, rm. 37

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 29-E

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 will not be meeting for the rest of December. They will resume meeting on January 8th and continue the study "The Barnabas Factor".

OUT OF TOWN: The Carters: Delmer and Margaret are out of town this week on vacation.

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

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Please come participate in this good work.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The Children's Bible Drill is each Sunday afternoon at 4:40 and lasts about 15 minutes. It meets in the auditorium and will end about 5 minutes before the beginning of our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present this evening for the Bible drill.

THE RECORD: For the Week of December 2nd

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	121
	Morning Worship	168
	Evening Worship.....	106
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	96



**The Market Street
church of Christ Website at:
MarketStreet-church.com**

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 9th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams	
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge	
Prayer	Bonnie Sutton	
Preaching	David Cox	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding	Jordan Lovell	
Assisting	Marcus Morris	
Serving	Harold Davis	Danny Johnson
.....	Nathaniel Adams	Keenon Carrier
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin	

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Ronnie Locke
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 9th:

Usher	Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, December 12th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Isaiah 55:8-13
.....	Heath Dollar
Prayer	Wayne Vaughn
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Sunday, December 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Dwaine Allfrey	
Song Leader	Tyler Cox	
Prayer	Todd Williams	
Preaching	David Cox	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding	Larry Mitchell	
Assisting	Bonnie Sutton	
Serving	Marvin Putman	Tommy Burns
.....	Landon Adams ..	Brandon Griswold
Closing Prayer	Mot Dollar	

Evening Worship

Announcements	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching	Dan Reed
Lord's Supper	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 16th:

Usher	Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System	Marty Adams