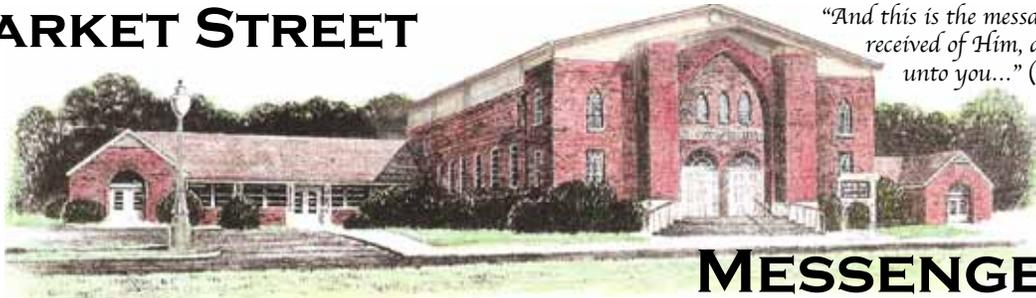


MARKET STREET



“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) 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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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 IV

December 16, 2012

No. 51

What Is The Church?

Dale Smelser

Often when we say that the Bible teaches there is one body, or church, of Christ, people are incensed and pull out all their overly stretched prejudicial terms like “bigoted” and “intolerant.” But Jesus did build a church, and it is his: “Upon this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). If one believes the Bible, that should be no problem. Next, Jesus is the savior of that body or church (Ephesians 5:23). He is not the savior of some other body. So there is one church of which Christ is savior. Again, that should be no problem to anyone who believes the Bible.

The real problem is in understanding what the church is. What does the expression “church of Christ” refer to? Of course some think this applies to any who claim to be Christians, or virtually all of the people and organizations grouped together as “Christendom.” And they think when we speak of the church of Christ we are speaking of our denomination. They don’t seem to be able to think in any other way. Really, when we use the term scripturally we are not speaking of a denomination or organizationally connected group. We are speaking of the people of God. If that is correct, we are speaking of the saved. And all not found among the saved, are axiomatically not the people of God, his church.

Who is that? The church consists of those purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). The church has been cleansed by the washing of water with the word (Ephesians 5:25-27). That allows of no sensible interpretation other than speaking of those who, instructed by the word, put their faith and trust in God, have repented, and have been baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38). Paul was told three days after believing and repenting (Acts 9:9-11), to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins (Acts 22:16). He believed. He still had his sins. He had repented and prayed. He still had his sins. Not being cleansed of his sins, he was not part of the church of Christ. And that continued for 3 days until he called on the name of the Lord by being baptized to wash away his sins. That being done, he now being saved would have been added to the saved number, or the church (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23).

Being purchased or loosed from his sins by the blood of Christ, he became a priest, a living stone in the house of God, the church. People anywhere on earth who thus obey the word of God are saved and come into the church or body of Christ. Those who do otherwise and yield to human religious organizations that reject that, are not the church of Christ. It is that simple.

Then, God's people are to worship in spirit and in truth; in truth (which is the word, John 17:17), not in just any way they choose. The essence of worship is to please not the self, but the one worshipped (Hebrews 12:28). His word shows us what that worship is. Humanly originated religious traditions render worship unacceptable and vain. Jesus said so (Matthew 15:7-9). There is a lot of religious activity claiming association with Jesus which he does not accept (Matthew 7:31-23).

The church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23). A body obeys its head. To find the body of Christ, or his church, find the people on earth obeying Christ. Those following the traditions developed through the centuries are obeying someone, something, other than Christ. They cannot be the body of Christ. Wherever on earth there are people following Christ as his will is set forth in the New Testament, the church of Christ exists. This is not a description of "Christendom" with all its diverse doctrines, morals, and resulting diverse practices. If the parts of my body took off on their own and did their own thing out of control of my head, I would be a monstrosity. The body, the church, obeys the head. That is the unifying principle. Those thus complying are the church. The congregations you see calling themselves churches of Christ are not organizationally connected. They are just groups of Christians following Christ. And when they fail do that, they are not what they call themselves.

~via *Wildercroft Bulletin*, Riverdale, Maryland.

Congregational Singing

Friday, February 22, 2012 — 7:00p.m.

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

Trusting God

Edwin L. Crozier

If the Sermon on the Mount were boiled down to one major challenge, it would be "Trust God." From beginning to end, the Sermon challenges us to let go of those things the worldly trust and cast ourselves into God's arms.

The first sentence is "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This is one of the hardest. I have to learn to quit relying on me. I am not rich enough, strong enough, good enough to be part of the kingdom of heaven. So long as I rely on me, I won't ever make it.

That is tough. What are we taught in our society? If I want something done right, I have to do it myself. I have to pull myself up by the bootstraps. I have to blaze my own trail, chart my own course, guide my own destiny. I have to be in control. That is great. It will probably help me succeed in business, but it won't get me to God's kingdom.

How can I gently submit to God and other people, unless I trust God's way for my life? If I am constantly divided thinking I need some other master or comfort or aid, I will never wholly submit to God. It takes real trust. Especially when submitting to God means facing persecution.

It is counter intuitive. Why would I do the very things that cause others to despise and ridicule me? I do them because I trust the promises of God that He who sees me even in secret has a better reward waiting for me. I will submit to Him even when others scoff because I trust Him above all others.

How can I abandon the eye for an eye mindset of personal retaliation and revenge? In the same way Jesus did. Committing myself to the Father (Luke 23:46; 1 Peter 2:23). How can I abandon the get all the accolades and honor I can mindset? By trusting God's reward is better than man's (1 Peter 1:3-5). When will I pray for God's will to be done? When I trust God's will. When will I pray that God provide me with my daily needs? When I trust that God knows what I need. When will I ask for His guidance in righteousness? When I trust His righteousness is best for me.

How can I look past my daily worries? When will I not be anxious about food and clothing? We aren't talking about luxuries here, but necessities. I will overcome this when I trust God really does take care of His own. I will overcome this when I trust that the death of those who die in the Lord is blessed instead of thinking I have to hold on to this life as long as possible (Revelation 14:13).

When will I walk Jesus' narrow path, building my house on the foundation of Jesus' word? Only when I trust God above all. Proverbs 3:5 teaches us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding." That is what the Sermon is all about. Do you trust God?

~via *Franklin Church Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee.

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"My Tears"

Buc Chumbley

A few years ago my daughter, Molly, ask a question which caught her old dad off guard. She asked, "Dad, where do tears go?" All I could say was, "honey, sometimes tears dry up or evaporate on your cheek, other times they fall to the ground where they get mixed with the dirt." I know these answers were nothing too earth shaking, but the fact is, such is the plight of our physical tears.

Molly's question reminded me of what David wrote about, long ago, when he spoke of the wonderful blessing of what happens with the "spiritual tears" of the child of God.

In Psalms 56.8-9 David wrote, "You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me."

Do you remember as a child collecting things and placing them in boxes, books, and jars? To you they were special things, important things that were precious to you. David says that to God our tears are special, precious and collectable, that they go into His bottle, His

book, because He cares about His children. And because He cares, He looks for every opportunity to comfort us when we are hurting, depressed or discouraged.

As God bottles our tears now, there will come a day when the spiritual and physical tears of His children will be forever wiped away. Revelation 21:3-4, "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Now isn't that the day we should all look forward to?

~via *The Hueytown Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Virginia Meyer	Gladys Johnson
Gwen Bullock	Gilbert Hardy
Mary Ruth Gardner	Wynell Casteel
Shelby Isbell	Wayne Gooch
Una King Currier	Bruce Mordecai
Carrie Miller	Evelyn Harrison
Abby Gilbert	Betty Faye Holt
Phillip Harwell	Ava Brooke Campbell
Charles Burns	Matt Poff
Eli Williams	Shelia Dunnivant Douglas

In The Hospital:

David Hartsell; UAB Hospital, 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 this month. They will resume meeting on January 8th and continue the study, "The Barnabas Factor".

OUT OF TOWN: The Carters: Delmer and Margaret have been out of town this week on vacation... **The Beasleys:** Robert and Mot are in North Carolina visiting with family.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group three 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. 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 160
Evening Worship..... 95

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 98



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Coblenz
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

Wednesday, December 19th:

Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 56:1-12
..... Jordan Lovell
Prayer Marion Mitchell
Invitation Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, December 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Tommy Coblenz
Serving Steve Bradley Terry Andrews
..... Russ Wulfekuhl Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 23rd:

Usher Heath Dollar
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams