

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 V

September 1, 2013

No. 35

Foolishness of the Message

Jordan Lovell

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

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
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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

Paul, writing to the Corinthian Christians, said, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18) Paul also stated in 1 Corinthians 1:21 that “...after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” There is a word that appears in both of these verses that is intriguing: “foolishness”. Yet, even more intriguing is the fact that Paul says that the preaching of Christ and the cross is foolishness to many humans.

I find that hard to believe because the message of Christ and the cross to me, and to so many others, is wonderful news! Isn't that what the word gospel means? It means good news. It's good news because I don't have to be condemned because of my sins, which are many. It's good news because I don't have to stay in the grave. The cross gives me victory over the grave. (1 Corinthians 15:55 “O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?) Because of this victory I do not have to fear death! The cross is good news because of the hope it gives me. It gives me the hope of heaven. It gives me the hope of seeing loved ones who have gone on before me. It gives me the hope seeing Jehovah God in all His glory, and I want to tell you something friends, that is good news!

But, not to everyone...For some say “That's foolishness”.

And many have a hard time understanding how the message of Christ and the cross is foolishness, but I think to understand such a statement we have to look at the cross through the “eyes” of the world. It's foolishness in the eyes of the world because:

1. **We are justified by One Who was condemned.** We are set free by One Who shackled. Jesus was made out to be a criminal, and He received the punishment reserved for the lowest of the low. And so, the world sees what happened to Jesus while He was upon the cross, and they ask the question, “How can you be saved by Jesus when He couldn't even

save Himself?” Many of the rulers and chief priests also mocked Jesus with this same question while Jesus hung upon the cross (Matthew 27:42; Mark 15:31; Luke 23:25).

So then, when the world considers the cross, the world sees nothing more than a Man Who’s life left Him when He breathed His last breath upon that cross. However, this is where the world’s understanding of the cross falls short. Jesus wasn’t just “another man”. He wasn’t just “another criminal”. He was the Son of God! This “plan” of the cross was something that was a part of God’s scheme of redemption since the fall of man in the garden. So then, when you see the cross as what it truly was, you see that the cross wasn’t just about the death of Jesus, but it was about reconciling man unto God.

Also, the world has trouble looking passed the “flesh”. The world sees the death of Jesus and they believe that because He died, he was unsuccessful. The world has trouble dealing with things which they cannot see. The world doesn’t understand that Christians “walk by faith and not by sight”. Yes, by sight many understood that Jesus’ life was taken by the blood that was shed, but by faith we believe that He lives. By sight many understood that they put Jesus in a tomb, but by faith we believe He came out of that tomb upon the first day of the week.

Following God is about more than what you see with your eyes, hear with your ears, touch with your hands, or feel in your heart. It’s about trusting in His word, His will, and His plan, even if it leads to the cross.

2. We are blessed by One Who was made a curse.

Paul wrote to the Galatians in chapter 3:13 saying “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”

Again, many would ask, “how can you be blessed by One Who was made a curse?” Well, time would certainly fail us to explore all of the blessings that come from the curse of the cross, but let us address one wonderful blessing. All men have something in common: Sin (Romans 3:23). All men have another thing in common: Payment for sin, which is death (Romans 6:23). Another commonality we share is that we are absolutely helpless when it comes to atoning for those sins. Only one thing can wash away our sins: The blood of Christ.

We deserve the due punishment for our sins, but our wonderful savior took our place, shed His blood, and rose again so that we might have life everlasting. He took the punishment. He took the curse. Praise God for the “Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”!

3. We live through One Who died. The world does not see death as the faithful Christian sees death. Death is not the end. Death is only the beginning. Paul, writing to the church at Corinth said, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” We as faithful followers of God have hope in more than just this life.

Death is often feared, and faced with many negative emotions. But we must understand that the Creator of life is also the Creator of death. All that we are, as human beings, is part of God’s glorious plan, and His plan teaches us that we have something greater to look forward to: an eternal home with Him where there is no death, no sorrow, no pain, nor tears. Furthermore, if we are able to realize that home with God in heaven, we must pass through death. There is no other way.

“This world is not my home, I’m just a passing through” as the old song says. Yes, one day we will breathe our last breath. One day our heart will beat for its last time. The body will be dead, but we shall live with Him eternally. And we shall live, because He died for us.

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“How Do You Know?”

Phil Robertson

My dad has always enjoyed telling a joke about the thermos. It goes like this. Three men were arguing over what had to be the greatest accomplishment of mankind. One said it was the trips to the moon. Another said it was modern medicine and all the cures. However a third guy said it had to be the thermos. Bewildered the first two men said, “Why the thermos? All it does is keep hot things hot and cold things cold.” To which

the third guy replied, "Yea, but how does it know?" Think about it. It's silly, I know.

However, how often do you hear people saying they know what God wants? A young fella walks into a church for the first time and immediately says, "I know this is where God wants me to be." A lady switches from one church to another because she likes the elaborate music and the "contemporary" worship service. When the emotion fills her heart, she says, "I knew this is where God was directing me." Another man looking for deeper love, leaves his wife and moves in with a girl friend. This new relationship is exciting and he thinks, "Doesn't God want me to be happy? Obviously, this is where God wants me to be."

Mankind has a long history of transforming personal opinion into God's will. He wants to make God in his own image. He assumes that what makes him feel good is what God wants.

God has always challenged these blind assumptions. "You thought that I was one just like yourself" (Psalm 50:21). He even challenged man's ability to reason at all without His guidance.

In the day of Hosea, the Israelites, who were "God's chosen people," were condemned for trusting in their "own ways" (Hosea 11:13). They claimed to praise the Most High but they never consulted Him (Hosea 11:7). God said, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). They did not consult God, instead they sought counsel from their "wooden idols" (Hosea 4:12).

Jeremiah warned the nation of Judah about seeking any man's advice. He said, "O Lord I know that they way of man is not in himself, It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Even Solomon, the wisest man ever to live, repeatedly warned of the foolishness of following human wisdom.

- "The way of the fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise." (Proverbs 12:15).
- "There is a way that seems right unto a man, but its end is the way to death" (Proverbs 14:12).
- "Every way of man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts" (Proverbs 21:2).
- "The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge but the mouth of the fools feeds on foolishness" (Proverbs 15:14).

Instead of assuming we know what God wants, we

should trust God knows what we need. Seek Me and Live" says the Lord (Amos 5:4). He will illuminate our path and direct us in the ways of righteousness (Psalm 116:165; Psalm 23:3).

Therefore the only way we can really know what God wants is to study the Bible. It is His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is His will for our lives. If we cannot find it in His Book, then we do not have any reason to say, "I know this is what God wants for me."

-via *Hueytown Church Bulletin*; Hueytown, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Wayne Vaughn	Virginia Meyer
Alvis McLemore	Mot Beasley
Benton Ball	Betty Hastings
Wynell Casteel	Gwen Bullock
Charles Burns	Matt Poff
Abby Gilbert	Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier	Anita Willis
Charles White	Jerry Taylor
Elizabeth Kate Miller	Barbara Piper
Ava Brooke Cambell	

In The Hospital:

Rosella Pugh; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm 307

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Matty Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 18	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Mable Craft, rm. 71	

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	

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Jack Cannon, rm. 82

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

OUT OF TOWN: The Hamms: Joel, Sharma, Clayton and Ragan are in Georgia today... **The Burns:** Tommy and Susan are in Savannah, Georgia this weekend... **The Williams:** Todd, Julie, Matthew and Phillip are out of town for the weekened ... **Hunter Cox** is in Auburn this morning and plans to be back this afternoon.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Elvin Stoffregen** and *all the family*, in the passing of his brother-in-law, **J.D. Clanton**, last Saturday. His funeral was Tuesday at the First Baptist Church... Also, remember the **Dollar Family**. There was a memorial for **Mot Dollar's** brother, **William Dollar**, on Saturday at the Athens City Cemetery. William passed away in March. Let us remember all those that have lost loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: **Leon and Hazel Brooks** along with their grandson, **Nathan Smith**, expressed their desire to be a part of the work at Market Street. We rejoice in their decision to be numbered with us. They will be in *Work Group 2*. Let us extend a warm welcome to them.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are studying the book of "Proverbs". All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember **Mitzi Carruth's** son-in-law, **Joel Smith**, who is in Afghanistan serving the U. S. military. Keep him in your prayers.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of August 25th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	143
	Morning Worship	207
	Evening Worship	134
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	106

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Joel Hamm
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Marcus Morris
Assisting	Ronnie Locke
Serving	Nathaniel Adams..... Mot Dollar
.....	Dan Lovell..... Paul Hasting
Closing Prayer	Norman Brown

Evening Worship

Announcements	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Marcus Morris
Closing Prayer	Keith Hinkle

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 1st:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, September 4th:

Song Leader	Todd Williams
Bible Reading.....	Mark 5:1-20
.....	Daniel Reed
Prayer	Ross Melvin
Invitation	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	Marty Adams

Sunday, September 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Bart Brown..... Keenon Currier
.....	Kenneth Adams..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 8th:

Usher	Marvin Putman
Work Sound System	Landon Adams