

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 4:00 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
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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 V

December 15, 2013

No. 50

What Is Acceptable Worship?

David A. Cox

Man is born with a desire to worship something or someone. It is as natural for man to worship as it is for him to eat. As a matter of fact it would be impossible for man to live and not worship. He may not always worship the right object, or with the right motive, or in the right way; but he will worship.

Example of Unacceptable Worship

As we think about unacceptable worship we do not have to read far in the Bible till we come to an example of such. In Genesis 4:1-5, we read of the two sons of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. We are told that both offered sacrifices unto God, but that God was pleased or "had respect" for Abel's sacrifice and did not have respect for Cain's sacrifice. What was the difference? Hebrews 11:4 tells us that "by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice." The difference was that Abel offered what the Lord had told them to offer. How do we know that? Because the Hebrew writer said "by faith." How does faith come? Romans 10:17 says "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." So then Abel, acting upon the will of God (by faith), offered his sacrifice. This is one example where we can learn that God will not accept everything man calls worship. If we today are going to have acceptable worship to God, we must worship the way God has told us to.

What Are Essentials for Acceptable Worship?

In John 4, Jesus had a discussion of worship with a woman of Samaria at Jacob's well. This woman, recognizing that Jesus was sent from God, turned the discussion toward the old religious argument between the Samaritans and the Jews about the place of worship. Jesus in answering her said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24). This makes it clear that all worship is not necessarily acceptable worship. Let us notice what

the conditions of acceptable worship are.

To Worship the Right Object – God. The first place to begin in acceptable worship is to worship the right object. In Acts 17, Paul was in the city of Athens and as he went throughout the city he saw that the people there were a very religious people. They had altars built to every false god imaginable. They even had an altar to the “UNKNOWN GOD” because they did not want to leave any god out. Paul seized this opportunity to teach the Athenians about “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, and dwelleth not in temples made with hand; neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;” (Acts 17:24-ff). We must be impressed with the fact that Paul wanted the men of Athens to know about the right object of worship, as Jesus pointed out to the woman at the well. Worship is not simply the performance of certain acts, but is something that stems from the heart. It is giving the reverence and the divine honor to God that He deserves. For one to worship acceptably he must know about the right object - who He is and what He has done for us.

To Worship With the Right Motive – In Spirit. Also in John 4, Jesus said those who worshipped God “must worship him in spirit.” This further emphasizes what we have already mentioned; acceptable worship is that which springs from the inner man. Our worship must be sincere, not formal nor indifferent, but with a sense of a spiritual communion with God. Whatever the outward acts involved in our worship: the taking of the Lord’s supper, the prayers prayed, or lifting of our voices in song, these acts must come from the heart. If not, they will not only be vain and empty, but a mockery and an insult before God. Worship that is insincere is not acceptable worship, but worship that shows an outflowing of sincere praise and love for God is well pleasing to Him.

To Worship the Right Way – In Truth. It is just as important to worship God in truth, as is sincerity. To worship God in truth, one will be worshipping God as He has directed in His Word. One worshipping God in truth will regulate every purpose of his heart and every act of his worship by the word of God. As we look to

God’s Word, we find that worship includes:

- Singing – (Ephesians 5:19)
- Praying – (Colossians 3:17; 4:2-3; Acts 2:42)
- Partaking of the Lord Supper – (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27).
- Giving – (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- Teaching – (Acts 2:42; 20:9)

As we observe these items of worship we see that they are not elaborate, nor intended to appeal to the carnal tastes of man, but are intended to please God. To add to or take away or change in any way any of these items of worship is to forfeit our fellowship with God (2 John 9; Revelation 22:18-19). It matters not what one may like or dislike, but what God desires and that He is worshipped “in spirit and in truth.”

In order to offer acceptable worship to God one must do only the things God has authorized. May we all examine our worship to insure that it is acceptable and pleasing to God in every way.



“It’s Not My Responsibility”

Jim Stauffer

The fact we have become a generation of people disclaiming responsibility is not surprising to many above the median age of this nation today. We continually hear how the government should pass laws to keep us from doing things that harm ourselves or others.

We need to ban guns that people use for hunting and recreation because some people obtain them and kill others with them. We need to regulate the food restaurants serve because many people eat too much of it and it damages their health. It seems we have become a society that does not accept personal responsibility for our behavior. We blame the school system for the failure of our children to grow and mature into solid citizens. As the young people say today, duh! They are simply patterning their lives after us.

What if we were expected by government to have this level of responsibility? Exodus 21:28 – “When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death.”

We would be mortified if such a law was passed today. People would begin to complain they could not be responsible for the actions of an animal. We would see battles in court fought over the claim, “It’s not my fault.”

Well the temptation for Christians to become the same way is real. We are taught to care for one another, Galatians 6:9-10 – “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

It is all too easy to observe a brother in need and wait long enough until someone else fulfills that need. It reminds me of the old saw where the guy who is slowest to his wallet at the restaurant is least likely to have to pay for the meal. Just wait the situation out and someone else will come through. That may work in the eyes of men but with God. Hebrews 4:13 – “And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

While we do live in a time when people are better off financially than ever before, it does not mean people do not have needs. We are taught to love our brethren as Christ has loved us “and gave himself for us” (Ephesians 5:1-2). John makes this point clear, 1 John 3:17-18 – “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” While John specifically mentions this world’s goods, brotherly kindness is not limited to supplying material needs. It can be many other things your brother needs that you can supply.

The brother who disclaims responsibility for any reason admits to his failure to love his brother sufficiently to know his needs and make the necessary sacrifice to

provide for him. John goes on to make clear where we stand if we fail in our responsibility, 1 John 3:19-20 – “By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.”

-via *The Lenexa Edifier*, Lenexa, Kansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Majorie Dunnavant	Lenna Ruth Bates
Jennifer Threet	Rebecca Sims
Fay Ferguson	Gwen Bullock
Gilbert Hardy	Joyce & Crutcher Harbin
Patsy Johnson	Ava Brooke Campbell
Jerry Taylor	Una King Currier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Charles Burns	Mark Hargrove
Abby Gilbert	Lisa Swafford
Brittney Murrell	

In The Hospital:

Bonnie Sutton; Athens-Limestone Hosp.; rm. 216
Colton Carruth; Children’s Hospital; Birmingham

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Matty Murray, rm. 60
Mable Crafts, rm. 63	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Jack Cannon, rm. 111A
Albert Norton, rm. 36	Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. “Tut” Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

- Reba Adams, at home
- Wynell Casteel, at home
- Lola Colwell, at home
- Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
- Betty Hasting, at home
- David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
- Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

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.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Tommy and Marcella Coblentz**, in the passing of their baby granddaughter, **Collins Coblentz** this past Wednesday morning. Let us remember **Tommy, Marcella, Daniel and JoAnna** in our prayers...Also, we want to express our sympathy to **Judy Vaughn** and all the family in the passing of Judy's aunt, **Jennie Green**. She passed away Tuesday night and her funeral was on Saturday... Also, we extend our sympathy to **Jordan Lovell** and all the family, in the passing of his great uncle, **Johnny Fielding** this past week. His funeral was Wednesday and he was laid to rest in the Fielding Cemetery.

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 three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of December 8th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	106
	Morning Worship	162
	Evening Worship.....	105
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	119



Remember Our Study Periods

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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 15th:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Tommy Coblentz
- Song Leader Hunter Cox
- Prayer Dan Reed
- Preaching Jordan Lovell
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Bonnie Sutton
- Assisting Marcus Morris
- Serving Bart Brown David Terry
- Marty Adams Stefan Fudge
- Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Evening Worship

- Announcements Tommy Coblentz
- Song Leader Tommy Burns
- Prayer Joel Hamm
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
- Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 15th:

- Usher Dwaine Allfrey
- Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, December 18th:

- Song Leader Todd Williams
- Bible Reading..... Mark 9:14-29
- Danny Johnson
- Prayer Landon Adams
- Invitation David Cox
- Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Sunday, December 22nd:

Morning Worship

- Announcements Keith Hinkle
- Song Leader Tyler Cox
- Prayer Tommy Coblentz
- Preaching David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding Kenneth Smith
- Assisting Larry Mitchell
- Serving Heath Dollar Nathaniel Adams
- Tommy Burns Kennon Carrier
- Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

- Announcements Keith Hinkle
- Song Leader Joel Hamm
- Prayer Norman Brown
- Preaching Song Service
- Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
- Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 22nd:

- Usher Marcus Morris
- Work Sound System Terry Andrews