

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 VI

April 6, 2014

No. 14

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) 232-3312
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977
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

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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

Bargain Basement Christianity

George Hutto

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6-7).

There are those who pass off man-made churches and perverted gospels. They may offer a “race-horse” deal, and having the “real thing” might cost more, but in the judgment we’ll be glad we looked carefully at the true gospel of Christ.

The real conversion might be missing. When you get that as-is package back home and start looking for all the parts, something may be missing. The wrapper might promise salvation, but the actual product often looks like the unreligious! His foul language is the same; her skimpy clothes are the same; they hang with the same worldly friends; and their Sundays are spent sleeping late, on the lake, or at a ball game.

Bible conversions should be seen in the lives of the converts. *“...If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

The truth might be missing. The foundation of some churches is a new prophet, a new twist on the scripture, or reliance on mere tradition. Some folks have outgrown scriptural worship and want “contemporary worship” which changes with the times. There is a consensus among many that “believe only” is the way to be saved from sin, while the Bible teaches that doing the will of God is essential, along with God’s grace. (Matthew 7:21; Titus 2:11-12).

Jesus said “the truth shall make you free,” and the apostle Paul said that the church is the “pillar and ground of the truth.” Bargain–basement religion is the pillar and ground of speculation, wishful thinking, and misguided leaders.

All glitter and no substance characterize too many churches. In 1983, Cadillac introduced the Cimarron, a conspicuously dressed up Chevy Cavalier with more chrome and leather seats. Its first engine made

only 88 horsepower.

Churches might glitter, but you know they are missing substance when they call themselves the Cowboy Church, or the Motorcycle Church. Churches offer day-care programs, singles classes, finance courses, and all kinds of sports activities: anything and everything but the gospel front and center.

If Jesus cleansed the temple of money-changers and sellers of sheep, how likely is it that He would bother to visit the purveyors of the cheap tricks churches are pulling off today in the name of Christ?

The apostle warned that perverted gospels will give you what you pay for! *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap”* (Galatians 6:7).

There are look – alike churches out there. Most folks think the church is composed of denominations, resulting in division, a concept contrary to the Bible. (Ephesians 4:4-5) Besides the denominational church, there are those who claim to be the one-and-only. But as with pearls and diamonds, we have to check to see if they are for real.

How do we check them? By looking into the Bible. How did this Christian become a Christian? Surely if we are transformed from sinner to saint the same way the first Christians did, we will be right with God (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4). And, surely, if we follow the worship and organization that we see in the first churches, we will be safe (1 Corinthians 3:17).

Of course, everybody prays, everybody sings, and everybody has sermons. Everybody loves the neighbors and does good deeds. Does it follow that they are all right with God? Even those homosexual churches? We must look beneath the surface. Jesus and the apostles talked about false teachers, and I doubt that we’ve advanced to the point of escaping them today.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it” (Matthew 13:45-46).

Some folks think the gospel is “not much use around here.” In the last few years doctors are finding that the recent move to reduce salt in diets is leading to other health problems. The ancients recognized (“worth his salt”). Sometimes the guys at the pawn shop or the folks running the yard sale do not recognize what they

have.

When the institution of marriage on the rocks, we might think that the old-time gospel asks too much of men and women to change to become Christians. In a society which will even tolerate gay marriage, where is the place for Bible teaching on the home? With Dr. Science calling on parents to not teach their kids biblical creation, why even bother teaching Genesis?

But you see, believers should never expect to find a perfect nation where Bible Christians and Bible churches live life without trouble. Rather, they must put together the pieces necessary to live godly lives. They can have a scriptural marriage, teach the scripture (and reason!) on the world’s origin, and subdue the material for spiritual ends.

The same gospel is for every age and every place. There was a time when even America was a foreign soil, and the gospel message shaped the whole nation into a bastion of free speech, free religion; where monogamy is the rule and decency is expected. Faithful Christians are the “salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13).

Our neighbors might have a customized gospel. They have escaped the “organized” and the “conventional” like my friend who once built his own tractor. He made it from bits and pieces he found in the parts bin.

These fellows listen to preaching on the radio, do good deeds for their neighbors, say their prayers, and do not lie, cheat, or steal. But they do not worship with the saints, as the Bible insists (Hebrews 10:25). They do not have elders to oversee them (Hebrews 13-17) they do not sing with the saints and have communion as church members are duty-bound to do. The thing they lack is authenticity.

Likewise, the customized fads of the time, like trunk-or-treat, Christmas parties, and spontaneous worship are just that – fads designed to make the time-bound participants happy – at not much cost or expense in spiritual development.

My friends, there are no bargains in the Lord’s religion. Christ paid the ultimate price, and it is expected of us that we lay down our lives in humble submission to the will of the King. Doing so will bring a real conversion, love for the truth, substance, Christianity below the surface, relative purpose in our time, and living by the same rules expected of all - to God’s glory and our salvation.

-via *Tidings*, Russellville, Alabama

Assuming the Better

Robert F. Turner

Those who have made a study of such matters tell us that we tend to measure up to what certain “peer” expect of us. If those to whom we look as “leaders” or models indicate their high hopes for us, we strive to meet those goals. If they indicate a lack of trust in us, a feeling that we will fail, we may lose confidence in ourselves – and fail. I do not believe man is completely “programmed” by his environment, but it takes a lot of “inner strength” – “built-in” character available to those who look to God for the standard of integrity and righteousness (Proverbs 11:3-6) – to buck the predictions of failure, and succeed in spite of the gloomy odds against us. Sinful man must be encouraged to believe that he is made in God’s image, and is capable of living “to the glory of God.”

The Hebrew writer recognized this principle, for throughout an epistle directed to backsliders, that necessitated many warnings of failure and of its dire results, he repeatedly encouraged. They were “brethren” with Christ, and in Him could be glorified (Hebrews 2:10-13). They were “partakers of the heavenly calling” (3:1). God’s oath and promise offered them “strong consolation” (Hebrews 6:17-20). And after a direful warning he reminded them of past successes (Hebrews 10:31-ff) and says, “But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

The “back-slappers” have stretched this principle to include insincere compliments — using us (and our pride) to accomplish their ends. They would “palaver” us into doing their bidding or buying their products. By the same reasoning some would rule out all negative teaching and correction — including that of the Apostle Paul’s, I suppose. Such maneuvering we abhor.

But elders, preachers, and parents (to name a few) may do a gross injustice to those who look to them for guidance, by failing to properly encourage. Must we always assume the very worst? Love “thinketh no evil” (1 Corinthians 13:5-6), but tends to place the best possible interpretation on matters. It most assuredly “rejoice not in iniquity.” (Think that one over!) Lawlessness calls forth sadness, compassion, a desire to help, on the part of those who love.

Some much needed teaching re: the church, creedalism, fellowship, and many other subjects, has been ineffective and is rejected, because the teachers assumed a superior attitude and spoke or wrote as though they did not expect the message to be heeded. We do not advocate a Pollyanna, head-in-the-clouds attitude. Rather, suggest it is very realistic to expect that brethren in Christ really want to do what is right. True, many are cumbered with traditional concepts, and may have a somewhat sectarian view of the church. But this is rarely by choice. They have inherited such error, over a period of years, and the “surgery” must be done with TLC and consideration. It is a fair assumption that genuine saints desire to be rid of all human error.

So, think positively! Warn in hope! Let your speech be seasoned with salt! Fight sin because you love the sinner!

—via *The Eastside Enlightner*; Athens, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Marjorie Dunnivant	Marcus Morris
Reba Byram	Kathleen Wales
Fay Ferguson	Robert & Mot Beasley
Buddy Pepper	Crutcher Harbin
Gwen Bullock	Essie Hardison
Matt Poff	Sam Pepper
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Joey Hinkle	Bob Richter
Ray Kennedy	Joan Stanford
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Carol Locke	Ava Brooke Campbell
Abby Gilbert	David Holt
Jerry Taylor	Una King Currier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Howard

In The Hospital:

Jack Cannon; Athens-Limestone Hospital; ICU
Mary Hinkle; Athens-Limestone Hospital; ICU

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 75	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97	Matty Murray, rm. 2
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Franz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63	

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B
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

David Rice, Mobile, Alabama

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Cartwright church* is beginning a gospel meeting this week and it will continue through Wednesday night. The speaker in this meeting will be *Patrick Brentlinger of Manchester, New York*...The *South Fayetteville church* in Fayetteville, Tennessee begin a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Steve Klein*.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: The new quarter in our Bible classes is beginning this morning. I appreciate all of our teachers that have taught this past quarter and those teaching this quarter. It is a blessing to have teachers like the ones here at Market Street that are so dedicated to teach our Bible classes.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coblentz's: Tommy and Marcella* are now back home after being on vacation in Savannah, Georgia...*The McLemores: Alvis and Ann* are in Tennessee this week.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Todd Williams and all the family* in the passing of Todd's grandmother, *Martha Anne Rogers*. Her funeral was on Saturday in Pulaski, Tennessee.

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.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of March 30th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 125

Morning Worship 167

Evening Worship..... 105

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 103

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Bonnie Sutton
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Bill Claxton Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Nathaniel Adams Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Tommy Coblent
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 6th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Terry Andrews

Wednesday, April 9th:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading Mark 13:14-23
..... Keenon Currier
Prayer Ross Melvin
Invitation Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer James Johnson

Sunday, April 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Keith Hinkle
Serving Marvin Putman Keenon Currier
..... Paul Hasting Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Norman Brown

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Hunter Cox
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 13th:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams