

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

August 3, 2014

No. 31

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

Why Do People Suffer?

Carl Witty

The recent typhoon in the Philippine Islands has been at the forefront of the news in recent days. Some are saying it was one of the most damaging storms recorded in the history of that nation. The physical damage is almost beyond calculation, the human death toll continues to rise daily, and the problems for the island nation are almost beyond comprehension.

“Natural” disasters always give rise to the age-old question: “Why do people suffer?” The response to that question results in faith on the part of some and unbelief on the part of others. Many times people frame their inquiry with these words: “How can all-powerful God allow suffering?”

There are explanations that do not satisfy:

1. “Suffering is only an illusion – it doesn’t actually exist.” It is my understanding that this is the position taken by the Christian Scientist Church. There is some truth in this view. Physicians say that our mental attitude may greatly affect our health, especially our sense of pain. However, this is not a completely satisfying explanation for suffering. This suffering of Filipino families who are now burying their loved ones is real. It is no illusion. Those struggling with the devastating effects of cancer are not helped by the statement “it’s all in your mind.”

2. “Suffering occurs because of sin.” In John 9:1-3, the disciples of Jesus, when observing a man who had been blind from birth, wanted to know whose sin caused this man’s suffering, the man’s own sin or that of his parents. Jesus responded that neither was the cause of his blindness. This explanation for suffering is sometimes true. The alcoholic brings suffering to himself and those who love him. The criminal may suffer incarceration; his family suffers the loss of his presence and his providing for them. But suffering because of sin is not always the complete explanation. It certainly was not in this case of Job. His suffering tested the strength of his faith where there seemed no possible profit or reason to have faith.

There are some real reasons for suffering:

1. Suffering may be on behalf of others. Jesus suffered for us – He

was wounded for our transgressions (Isaiah 53:5). He bore our sin in his own body when he suffered on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). A mother choose to suffer in order to bring her child into the world (John 16:21).

2. Suffering may test us. Job was tested. Abraham, when en route to Mt. Moriah in Genesis 22, must have suffered unbelievable agony as he approached the place where he would face the ultimate test in offer Isaac as a sacrifice. We are admonished in James 1:2-3: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (NKJV). The chastening (suffering, discipline) of Hebrews 12:6-11 is shown as a way God demonstrates that we are truly His, and by which He chooses to make us better.

In the end, whatever makes us better servants of God, whatever draws us nearer and closer to God, is not evil, but good. May God help us to use the most painful experiences of life to depend more fully on Him.

~via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabaama.

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When God Is Not Retained In Man's Knowledge

Stacy Crim

"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

"...Have ye not read, that He who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:4-6).

From these two passages we learn:

- Marriage is honorable
- A man is to cleave a woman
- Two become one flesh
- One's Father and Mother are to be left

- God has joined the male and the female together
- Man is not to put asunder what God has joined together.

Consider these statistics...

Over 12 million unmarried partners live together in 6,008,007 households. – U.S. Census Bureau. "American Community Survey: 2005-2007."

The number of cohabiting unmarried partners increased tenfold between 1960 and 2000. – U.S. Census Bureau. "American Families and Living Arrangements: 2000."

The number of cohabiting unmarried partners increased by 88% between 1990 and 2007. – U.S. Census Bureau. "American Families and Living Arrangements: 2007"

It is clear from these statistics that millions of Americans simply do not care about the law of God. Marriage is no longer honorable, men almost effortlessly now put asunder what God has joined together in quick and no fault divorces. Men burn for men and women for women. It seems to me history is repeating itself as God is once again is giving man over to reprobate mind. Please consider how haunting Romans 1:20-32 is in our generation here in America.

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they become fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptive man, and to birds, and four-footed beast, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet, And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which

are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whispers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents. Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” (KJV)

Unrighteousness will continue to follow mankind so long as they do not “like to retain God in their knowledge.” It is time for multitudes of people to repent and turn back to God.

-via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.



Jesus Was A Follower

Jonathan Perz

Great emphasis is placed, and rightly so, that Christians must be followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself tells us, “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:38). Again He says, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). However, Jesus did not just issue an edict, He demonstrated what it means to be a follower, for He Himself was first and foremost a follower!

Seven of the most profound words in all of Scripture define exactly what it means to be a follower. These words were uttered by Jesus in the garden, just prior to the suffering He would endure to save us from our sins. He said, “...not My will, but Yours, be done...” (Luke 22:42). This is the heart of a follower and Jesus embodied this spirit under some of the most awful circumstances a man could imagine.

Jesus’ teaching demonstrated this essential spirit in every way. Explaining His purpose as a light sent into the world, Jesus says, “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave me a command, what I should say and what I should

speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak” (John 12:49-50). Should it be any different for those of us today who claim to follow Him?

Regarding His actions, Jesus says, “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me” (John 5:30). Along those same lines He later says, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:38).

Clearly, Jesus not only tells us to “follow Him” ... He shows us what it means to be a follower. Do you embody this spirit in your walk with Jesus Christ? Based on your words and deeds, who is it that you are really following?

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Fay Ferguson	Buddy Pepper
Gilbert Hardy	Crutcher Harbin
Gwen Bullock	Robert & Mot Beasley
Ruth Lawson	Dianna Felker Ritter
Gene Carpenter	Dorothy Casteel
Ava Brooke Campbell	Alex Reed
Elizabeth Howard	David Holt
Joey Hinkle	Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Analynn Tegg	

In The Hospital:

Carl Hargrave; HealthSouth-Huntsville; rm. 219
Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.
Michael Vaughn; Kindred Hosp. - Rehab; Webster, Texas

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 Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63	Deannie Britton; rm. 66

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36	Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E
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Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

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

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

CONFESSION: We rejoice that **Sandy Terry** came forward Wednesday evening asking for prayer for forgiveness and strength. We appreciate Sandy for her desire to please God. May the Lord bless her as she trust in Him and lives her life in Him. May we all encourage her as she will encourage us in our work together is serving the Lord.

NURSING HOMESINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the **Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care**. Come to sing, you will enjoy it and you will encourage the residents there.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate **Blake Jackson & Mallory Bauer** who were united in marriage last Friday night, July 25th in Decatur. We wish for Blake and Mallory a long and happy life together.

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 July 27th

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	148
	Morning Worship	189
	Evening Worship.....	114
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	117

Bible Study



Roles in the Home

Focus on the Men's Roles

August 8, 2014 — 6:00 p.m. – The Usery Home

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Joel Hamm
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Jason Conn..... Cody Kennedy
.....	Delmer Carter James Johnson
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 3rd:

Usher	Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, August 6th:

Song Leader	Marty Adams
Bible Reading.....	Romans 1:1-15
.....	Keenoin Currier
Prayer	Todd Williams
Invitation	Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer	Ronnie Locke

Sunday, August 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Steve Usery..... Bart Brown
.....	Kenneth Adams..... Stefan Fudge
Closing Prayer	Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Dan Reed
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 10th:

Usher	Paul Hasting
Work Sound System	Marty Adams