

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) 233-1017

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

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

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No. 36

Not Whether but Which

Lawrence Kelley

The proposed amendment to the state constitution defining marriage as being between one man and one woman and denying a legal status similar to marriage for those not married has spawned a lot of interesting debate. Many oppose the amendment for pragmatic reasons claiming it will hurt the elderly and children, but others oppose it because of its "obvious religious significance." The latter argue that such an amendment amounts to legislating morality and restricting the personal freedoms of non-traditional lifestyles. This kind of argument is becoming more common as our nation becomes more deeply divided between religious conservatives and secular liberals.

In this debate the secularists are generally presented as defenders of personal liberties and the religious conservatives as those wishing to impose their beliefs on others thus restricting individual freedoms. What troubles me is that many Christians accept this as an accurate description of what is going on. We need to understand that the legislation of morality is not a matter of whether, but of which. By this I mean that the imposition of beliefs upon others within a given society is unavoidable. The question is not whether morality is going to be codified in law, but which or whose morality it will be? By nature man must submit to some law, absolute freedom is not possible.

In view of what has taken place in Massachusetts and the extension of rights to partners in same sex relationship elsewhere requiring employers to give the same benefits to an employee's homosexual partner as to an employee's wife or husband is no less an imposition of morality than what is showing up on the ballet November second.

Another illustration of where all this could end up would be laws protecting homosexuals from discrimination in any way including employment and housing. This sounds like a pure expansion of personal liberties, but we need to see that guaranteeing the liberty of one group necessarily limits the liberties of another. In the two instances mentioned above it would limit the freedom of employers and landlords in deciding who to

hire and who to lease their apartment to.

But let us make this particular application. Such laws would actually force the elderly Christian widow Schwartz to rent out her garage apartment to a homosexual couple. If she refused she would be prosecuted as a criminal. So again, all law is imposed morality. The only question is which morality shall be imposed. This seems to be obvious enough, yet it almost never gets addressed. The secularists are consistently pictured as the champions of liberty and the Christians as the repressive moralists.

Nowhere are the secularists more outspoken about how the "religious right" wants to intrude into other people's business than in the legal struggles over abortion. Here again we typically see pro-abortionists portrayed as the guarantors of liberty. They fight for reproductive rights and the right to privacy. This would all be fine except for the fact that over 40 million innocent Americans have been executed without a trial or any regard for their fundamental right to life. In order for mom to retain some of her liberty, baby has to forfeit all of his. Since this sizeable group isn't around to vote and since they are so easily tossed out in the bio-hazard trash bins nobody seems to notice just how repressive the so called "pro-choice" crowd is.

Another example is that teaching creation science in government schools is forbidden because of its "religious" content. Yet the belief that man is a product of blind evolution forces is taught as a fact. The fundamentalist fervor with which the evolutionary model is defended makes clear that what is going on in this debate is not a matter of neutral scientific fact versus a religious dogma, but is a conflict between two religious worldviews. In this case the secularists require that children be catechized in their religious propaganda and that those who oppose it will have to either swallow it or take their children elsewhere, but they will still require that you pay for them to teach what you believe is a harmful lie. Who is imposing their beliefs here?

Christians should not accept the idea that since their beliefs are religious they should be kept private. All societies are governed by what that society believes. A society that believes God will look different than one that does not or that believes that His existence is irrelevant to the way we live and organize as a people. Law, ethics, education, morality etc. are religious at their foundation and that which comes from God and

is based on His word is superior to whatever counterfeits man may cook up. Our nation was largely based on Biblical principles and God had blessed us. Our rejection of God in order to accommodate unbelieving and idolatrous worldviews has and will result in falling under His curse. The wicked shall be turned into Hell and all the nations that forget God (Psalm 9:17).

While all of this seems to be self evident I think it is important for Christians to remember that genuine national righteousness cannot be attained by external legislation. The growth of the kingdom comes by gospel persuasion. As the church faithfully worships, evangelizes and adorns the doctrine in everyday life we should expect to see the need to pass new laws decline. I do not believe that Christ calls us to retire from the hurly burly of public life, but He does warn us against putting our trust in anything besides Him. We may work, pray, and vote that politics be saved, but we may never come to believe that politics can save us.

~via *The Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama.

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The Anger of Jesus

Dennis Carrow

The title of this article is not a topic we often give much consideration. It is not pleasant to think about, and easily pushed to the back of our minds. Some have gone so far as to think there is no such thing as our merciful, loving Savior being angry. However, a careful examination of scripture shows us that anger is one of the attributes of Christ. But the anger of Jesus is not like our anger. In Mark 3:5 we read, "He looked around at them with anger, grieved at the hardness of their heart." Interestingly we see the Lord's anger associated with His grief. Our anger is often associated with bitterness.

God desires all men to be saved, and He is grieved when men reject the truth. (ref. 1 Timothy 2:4) But, we are also admonished to "behold the goodness and severity of God" (Romans 11:22). We are reminded that one motivational aspect that prompts us to respond to the gospel is "knowing the terror of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:11). In fact, the inspired apostle states

based upon this knowledge of terror we persuade men.

The literal meaning of the word anger is nostril countenance. It is that which proceeds from an internal disposition which steadfastly opposes someone or something based on extended personal exposure, i.e. solidifying what the beholder considers wrong (unjust; evil).

The Scriptures and historical evidence enlighten our understanding of God's wrath or righteous indignation. Consider Genesis 6:6, "God regretted He made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart." Thus we read of the cataclysmic flood. Additionally, "the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from heaven" (Genesis 19:24).

Casting Out the Money Changers

In all four gospels we have recorded an event in which Jesus displays what we generally envision as anger. John 2:13-16 reads, "The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.'" This account is a unique discourse that reflects our Lord's displeasure with the misuse of that which is sanctified. Interestingly Jesus' anger is often associated with how he views those who fail to accept personal responsibility for their actions.

In Matthew 15:8-9, when Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah, "in vain do they worship Me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men," He is addressing how the Jews had invoked their own tradition by saying what they should have provided for their parents they give to God. His displeasure involved the inappropriate use of money - failing to meet individual obligations.

We read this kind of language from the pen of the apostle Paul by inspiration of the Holy Spirit when he writes of those who fail to provide for their own as being "worse than unbelievers" (ref. 1 Timothy 5:8, 16). What were they doing? Charging the church for things that they were personally responsible.

It should greatly concern us as we consider the direction of so many individual Christians as they are

willing to allow the church to pay for all kinds of social activities. Think: if I must refuse to allow the church to pay for the needs of my familial indigent widow, how can I allow the church to pay for a place for my son to play basketball?!

A Line of Distinction

The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God (James 1:20). We can rationalize all kinds of emotion, but we must always reject bitterness and envy (ref. Hebrews 12:14-15). Ephesians 4:26 acknowledges that we possess the human emotion of anger, but states, "be angry and do not sin." We are admonished, "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap coals of fire on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21).

Our Lord does not express anger. In fact we are told that the Lord shall return from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

In light of the fact that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness (Romans 1:18), let us serve Him with reverence. Accepting responsibility for those things He has called us to do in all humility and faithfulness.

~via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Mot Dollar	Betty Pepper
Marjorie Dunnivant	Fay Ferguson
Buddy Pepper	Carl Hargrave
Gilbert Hardy	Crutcher Harbin
Gwen Bullock	Robert & Mot Beasley
Ruth Lawson	Una King Currier
Gene Carpenter	Dorothy Casteel
Ava Brooke Campbell	Alex Reed

Phillip Harwell	Charles Burns
Eli Williams	Analynn Tegg
Elizabeth Kate Miller	Kim Pressnell
Dianna Ritter	Michael Vaughn

In The Hospital:

Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.

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

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:

Wynell Casteel, at home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

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.

OUT OF TOWN: ***The Williams:*** *Todd, Julie, Matthew and Philip* are in Sulligent this weekend... ***The Reeds:*** *Dan and Scottie* are in Idaho on vacation... ***The Wulfekuhls:*** *Russ, Lisa and Ali* are in Colorado on vacation this week... ***The McLemores:*** *Alvis and Ann* have been in the mountains this week.

NEW DIRECTORY: The new directories are out this morning. Please get your copy today. If there are any errors, please let us know, so they can be corrected.

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.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of August 31st*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 145
Morning Worship 191
Evening Worship..... 123
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 123

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 7th

Morning Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Tommy Coblenz
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Tommy Burns Marvin Putman
.....	Paul Hasting..... Jason Conn
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 7th:

Usher	Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, September 10th:

Song Leader	Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading.....	Romans 3:19-31
.....	Nathaniel Adams
Prayer	Steve Usery
Invitation	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	James Johnson

Sunday, September 14th

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Norman Brown
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl Ronnie Locke
.....	Cody Kennedy Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer	Dan Reed
Preaching	Marty Adams
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 14th:

Usher	Danny Johnson
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams