

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

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No. 41

Will You Swallow Anything?

Oliver Murray

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

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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

The shark is a large fish that swims in ocean waters and has an equally large appetite. In fact, so large is his appetite that he swallows almost everything that he can get into his mouth without even knowing what it is. A small fish called the urchin fish, when he encounters a shark, will roll himself into a small ball. The shark will of course swallow the urchin, but in this case the shark is the loser. This urchin fish is a parasite, and once inside the shark's stomach he unfolds and begins to prey on the shark from within its stomach, eventually destroying his victim completely.

What a stupid thing it is for the shark to "swallow" something without first knowing what it is, but after all, aren't there people in the religious world like that? Many swallow the traditional religion of their relatives without ever first checking to see if that is what the Bible really teaches. Many simply swallow what their church or denomination practices and teach simply because "that's the way it's been done or taught for years." Many swallow what their preachers and teachers teach without any concern as to whether the Bible teaches it or not, so long as it "sound's good."

Modernism and liberalism are running rampant, not only in the world, but also among churches of Christ. More and more we hear of congregations who are accepting the "new hermeneutic," that is, the new way of interpreting the Bible. The old way of commands, apostolic example, and of necessary inference, is a thing of the past, no longer acceptable to "modern and more intelligent thinking." As a result, more and more we hear of denominational "baptism" (whether it's sprinkling, pouring, etc.) being accepted. We are hearing of women being allowed to serve in roles in worship and organization that the Bible strictly forbids. The Lord's Supper is no longer served each Sunday, but on Wednesday or any other day. Eldershops are being dissolved because members no longer recognize them as having authority to "rule" and making decisions - except as those decisions are first corroborated by "prominent men" in the congregation or by the "deacons." We hear of more and more churches of Christ simply becoming "community churches," serving simply the social needs of the

community (tax seminars, “arts and crafts” groups, etc.).

Let’s examine carefully what we “swallow,” because, like the shark, it may be too late afterwards. Similar to the shark who has few enemies that can destroy it from without, God’s Kingdom cannot be destroyed from forces within. Satan’s forces, as powerful as they may be (and they are powerful), are simply no match for the spiritual forces and strength of the Lord Jesus Christ and of His Word. Paul said, “...If God {is} for us, who {is} against us? But in all these things we over-whelmingly conquer through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:31, 37). God’s people can only be destroyed from **within!** That’s what is happening in many congregations today.

We need to be “examining the Scriptures daily, {to see} whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). We are responsible to not “swallow” anything that anyone says, it matters not who or what they are. We will be held individually accountable to God for the errors we have allowed to come into our minds and into the church!

-via *Family Items*; Athens, Alabama.



The Slave of Sin

W. Frank Walton

Jesus said, “Whoever commits sin is the slave of sin” (John 8:34). Our Lord says that any sin, if continued in, becomes an addictive tyrant. We might be tempted to envy rich and famous sinners who seem to lead a glamorous life. Yet, we must remember, “The way of the transgressor is hard” (Proverbs 14:34).

On illustration of this is the tragic example of the famous Hollywood actor, Charlie Sheen. He is currently undergoing a divorce from His third wife. Why? Morality in Media reports, the divorce was filed “after an alleged alcohol and drug - fueled rampage at New York City’s Plaza Hotel. The rampage began after his 22 year old ‘porn star date’ for the evening allegedly refused to have sex with him until he paid her \$12,000.” MIM (moralityinmedia.org) found that his second wife divorced him for his persistent use of prostitutes, even around his children, which he had promised to give up. Yet, he refused to give up his use of pornography.

In fact, his second wife in court reportedly found disturbing his use of websites that featured homosexuality and children porn. Also, the divorce court record says, “Respondent belonging to several sex search type sites, which he looked for women to have sex with...”

What has come of this? It is reported that Mr. Sheen has hired a “sober coach” to live with him, to basically keep him from doing drugs and alcohol. Sadly, MIM observes, being a Hollywood celebrity “outrageous behavior often serves to increase and actor’s popularity and promote a career. According to the NY Post, a CBS ‘network insider’ told the Post that Sheen’s bosses were ‘quietly thrilled,’ thinking that his behavior will boost ratings for ‘Two and a Half Men’ [a TV sitcom]. And sure enough, according to the LA Times, ratings for the program had soared.”

This morally disgusting episode conveys several lessons. Sinful fantasies became increasingly addictive and deviant, which led to a wrecked marriage. Satan seeks to destroy man by snaring him in the love of and addictive practice of sin, which both corrupting and unfulfilling. The apostle Peter warned about those “having eyes full of adultery...promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved” (2 Peter 2:14, 19). Even worse, our sin-sick society gives “heartly approval to those who practice them” (Romans 1:31).

What the wretched slave to sin needs is a Deliverer. His name is Jesus Christ! “If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). The Savior defeated Satan, sin and death by His death and resurrection (Gen. 3:15, Col. 2:13-15, John 12:31). His loving grace and miraculous resurrection show there is a divine power at work in the universe that is far greater than all the horrid evil that was arrayed against Him.

The power of penitent faith in Jesus connects us to the Savior who lifts us up above the world’s enticements to walk with Him in truth. He said, “If you abide in My word, then you are my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Baptism into Christ for the remission of sins empowers us to be “raised to walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:38). Jesus Christ, our perfect friend and guide, is the best “sober coach” a recovering sinner could ever have! “We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

-via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama

Successful In Family

Mike Thomas

I hate failing. Whether it is writing an article, helping others, doing yard work, or even playing golf, I want to do my best. Nevertheless, as hard as I try to succeed in everything I do, I come up short many times. Emphasis on many.

For whatever failures I struggle with in life, there is one area of life I do not have to fail in: my relationship with my family. I can provide a loving, godly, caring example to them. I can love my wife and be faithful to her as a fellow-heir of the grace of life (1 Peter 3:7), as I hold her each day and assure her of my dedication. I can show my children the love God in how I treat them. My daughter will never receive a new sports car from her father, but she can be shown how to exercise faith in God from someone who loves her with all his heart. I may not be able to teach my sons how to throw split-finger fastball, but I can encourage them each day and show them what it means to have integrity. I can hug all of them every chance I get, as well as my parents and other family members. No man has to be a failure in how he treats his family.

Indeed, any man can succeed in his home if he will sacrifice himself and take on Christ's spirit of service (Philippians 2:5). He may not be able to shower his family in material blessings, but he can give them what matters most in a solid foundation of love and stability in a home that keeps God's will first. God has not called His people to be of a specific financial level, but He has been very specific in how the home is to be arranged and who is to lead the family in demonstrating Christ. "Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them" (Colossians 3:19). "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discourages" (v.21). Every man is capable of doing that well. Not perfectly, obviously, but well. A commitment to excellence in love is always possible.

The world is deficient in godly leaders at home. Too many men abandon their responsibilities or neglect their families for other interests. Too many women fail to submit to their men or give them a chance to lead (Colossians 3:18). Too many children do the same (v. 20). God demands repentance in situations like this. Too

much is at stake to fail in this area of life. The character of the family is greatly influenced by the character of the man and will often imitate his example. If he is selfish, unloving, bitter, a fault-finder in others, or is a cheat in business matters, they will likely follow his lead. But, if he is humble, honest, generous, and of righteous conviction no matter the circumstance, they are likely to imitate that as well. Truly, "the glory of children is their father" (Proverbs 17:6). Because of this, families need to see the love of God in a man who is dedicated to them as a sacrificial leader. Failure is not an option.

-via *The Stanley Avenue Bulletin*; Andalusia, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Mot Dollar	Fay Ferguson
Carl Hargrave	Carol Dean
Betty Pepper	Marjorie Dunnivant
Crutcher Harbin	Robert & Mot Beasley
Gwen Bullock	Pat Goodin
Michael Vaughn	Adam Davidson
Ruth Lawson	Una King Currier
Gene Carpenter	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Dorothy Casteel	Ava Brooke Campbell
Phillip Harwell	Charles Burns
Shawn Felker	Dianna Ritter
Eli Williams	Analynn Tegg
Anita Willis	Kim Pressnell
Ann Bush	Marcelino Ordonez-Zetino
Fred Yarbrough	

In The Hospital:

Buddy Pepper; Huntsville Hospital; rm. 473
Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Irene Inman, rm. 81	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Nelva Reed, rm. 75	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63	Mable Crafts, rm. 100

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:

Wynell Casteel, at home

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 *Tommy Burns* and *all the family* in the passing of his grandfather, *Ruben Burns*, this past Thursday. His funeral will be this afternoon at Limestone Chapel.

NURSING HOME SINGING: 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 Vaughns: Phillip and Margaret* are still in Houston, Texas and will be home this week... *The Whites: Jason, Joy, Addison and Mason* have been in Florida on vacation this week... *Helen Blankenship* is in the mountains this week on vacation.

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 Oct. 5th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 129
Morning Worship 172
Evening Worship..... 127

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, October 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Tommy Coblenz
Assisting Norman Brown
Serving Kenneth Adams Heath Dollar
..... Marvin Putman Cody Kennedy
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblenz
Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 12th:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Terry Andrews

Wednesday, October 15th:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading Romans 5:12-21
..... Dan Reed
Prayer Joel Hamm
Invitation Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer Tony Thomas

Sunday, October 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Norman Brown
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Ronnie Locke
Serving Bart Brown Nathaniel Adams
..... James Johnson Stefan Fudge
Closing Prayer Keenon Carrier

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 19th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Landon Adams