

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

November 16, 2014

No. 46

"Judge Not, That You Be Not Judged"

David A. Cox

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) 233-2081

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

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

Often when talking to people about religious matters and what the Bible teaches, someone will quote Matthew 7:1 which says: "Judge not, that you be not judged." They will explain that we are told not to make judgments concerning the right or wrong of various practices in religion. Is this what this verse is teaching? What does the Bible say about judging?

First, to make such a statement about this verse is taking a passage out of its context and making it say something that the passage does not teach. In Matthew 7 we read, *"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged: and with what measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye; but do not consider the plank in your own eye?" Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank in your own eye, and then you will see clearly remove the speck from your brother's eye"* (Matthew 7:1-5). As we read this passage all will admit that it prohibits judging, but does it prohibit all judging or a certain kind of judging? From the context, it is obvious that a particular type of judging is under consideration and not all judging. In verse 2, Jesus teaches that how we will judge will determine how we are judged. Jesus then talks about the judging of a brother, not based on the righteousness of a matter, but a fault-finding type of judgment. He speaks of the fault-finding brother having a worse problem but not seeing his problem and finding the slightest problem with his brother. This kind of judging is wrong! Jesus calls the one that judges in this way a hypocrite. This hyper-critical, fault-finding type of judging should never be seen among followers of Christ. Rather, lives of Christians should be characterized by love. The description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:3-8 should be seen in the lives of Christians, and such love will eliminate the hypocritical, fault-finding type of judging that is condemned in Matthew 7.

What about judging in matters of religion. Should a Christian do this? Notice Jesus continues to say, "Do not give not that which is holy

to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and tear you into pieces” (Matthew 7:6). We see that immediately following this passage concerning the fault-finding judging, Jesus tells his disciples to make a judgment. Jesus here taught not to give that which is holy to the dogs. Judgment would be required by the disciples determine what is impure and unclean. In verse 15, Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:15-16a). Who are the wolves? How do we know who they are? Jesus said we “know them by their fruits” and that required the disciples to make judgments concerning righteousness. Remember that Jesus is teaching them to make these judgments in the same chapter that He said “Judge not, that you be not judged.”

Obviously some judgments are to be made. The church at Corinth was told to judge a matter concerning a man that was among them that is involved in sin. In fact, Paul said that he had “judged already” concerning the matter (1 Corinthians 5:1-5). Paul is asking them to make a “righteous judgment” that Jesus taught that we should make (John 7:24). What is “righteous judgment”? It is judgment that is based upon the commands of God. The psalmist said, “for all your commandments are righteous” (Psalm 119:172b).

May we all learn what Jesus was teaching in Matthew 7 about judging. That is that we should not be involved in fault-finding, hypocritical judging and recognize that Jesus did teach that we are to make judgments based upon the Word of God.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Splendid Discontent

James W. Adams

If there is one peccadillo that characterizes this generation it is the mania for change. Change for the sake of change is thought to be a mark of liberation from “tradition” and of intellectual sophistication. Ella Wheeler Wilcox, though not necessarily advocating change for the sake of change, paid tribute to the desire for change when she wrote, “The splendid discontent of God with chaos made the world; and from the discontent of man, the world’s best progress springs.” However, she failed to note that not all of man’s discontent is “splendid.”

A more practical and perceptive statement statesman, inventor and author said, “All human inventions have their inconveniencies. We feel those of the present, but see nor fear those of the future, and hence we often make troublesome changes without amendment and frequently for the worse” (Benjamin Franklin). It can be and often is “from bad to worse.” Someone has likened this to a “farmer burning down his barn to get rid of the rats.”

While change is the law of growth, it is not always benign. Not all growth is healthy nor progressive. One can blow up a balloon to several times its normal size, but balloons often burst under pressure to which they are thus subjected. The result is destructive, not constructive.

Our generation has seen more changes than another in human history, but the “discontent” that has produced them has not always been “splendid,” hence many of the changes have been malignant rather than benign. This is not only true in the secular realm, but professed churches of Christ have likewise undergone radical changes that have not always been benign and constructive but malignant and destructive.

Advocates of changes, the discontented, in congregations have the obligation to give an adequate reason why changes should be made. Of first consideration would be whether or not the current situation meets the demands of Scripture. If not, change is not only advisable but essential. Second in importance is whether the proposed changes would bring the situation into harmony with Scripture.

The question of Scripture having been settled, the proposed changes should meet the demands of expediency. Are they viable? Are they more effective in accomplishing the objectives of a congregation's work and worship? Are they spiritually motivated, or merely an effort to accommodate the pressures of modern subjectivism, emotionalism, and anarchism in religion? Do they constitute an abdication to the devotees to novelty, or will they actually promote edification and soul-saving influence upon the believer and the unbeliever.

No Christian should cling to the old simply because it is old. Neither should the new be desired because it is new. Many things are old because they have been tried, proven, and not found wanting. Things are not right because they are old, but often are old because they are right. On the other hand, things are not wrong because they are new and different.

The old and the new should both meet the demands of Scripture and expediency, and the decision to change or not to change made on this basis. If "discontent" issue in benevolent change, it is indeed "splendid" If it merely bows to the spirit of novelty, it is neither benign nor progressive, only "worldly." The philosophy of the poet, Wilcox tempered by that of statesman, Franklin, would seem to be safe course in religious matters as well as secular.

The point of this article is well illustrated by three classes of persons noted in the Scriptures. The scribes and Pharisees were opponents of change by reason of their devotion to their purely human traditions. Jesus rebuked their attitude by saying, "No man having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith: The old is better" (Luke 5:39). On the other hand, the philosophers of Athens "spent their time in nothing else, but to tell, or hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21). The right attitude is exemplified by Cornelius, the Gentile Centurion, who said, "Now therefore are we all present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God" (Acts 10:34).

-via *Gospel Power*; Anderson, Alabama.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together



Fourth Annual Singing

Friday, February 27, 2014 — 7:00 p.m.

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Nancy Abernathy	Buddy Pepper
Paul Hasting	Irene Inman
Mot Dollar	Carol Dean
Fay Ferguson	Betty Pepper
Carl Hargrave	Gwen Bullock
Marjorie Dunnivant	Robert & Mot Beasley
Crutcher Harbin	Michael Vaughn
Ann Bush	Pat Goodin
Una King Currier	Matt Poff
Gene Carpenter	Marcelino Ordonez-Zetino
Dorothy Casteel	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Eli Williams	Ava Brooke Campbell
Phillip Harwell	Charles Burns
Shawn Felker	Dianna Ritter
Kim Pressnell	Analynn Tegg
Anita Willis	

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 42	Mable Crafts, rm. 100

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

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.

GOSPREL MEETINGS: The **Jackson Drive church** in is engaged in a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday night. *Tony Hudson* will be the speaker in this meeting...The **Pettusville church** in Pettusville is having their meeting this week through Wednesday with different speakers. The speakers will be as follows: Sunday morning – *Matt Lammon*; Sunday evening – *Bill Hall*; Monday – *Jason Shackelford*; Tuesday – *Paul Smithson*; Wednesday – *Matthew Carter*.

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.

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 week of November 9th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	147
	Morning Worship	190
	Evening Worship.....	133

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 111



**The Market Street
church of Christ Website at:
MarketStreet-church.com**

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Norman Brown
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Ronnie Locke
 Serving Kenneth Adams.....Mike Ogles
 Cody Kennedy Jason Conn
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 16th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System Terry Andrews

Wednesday, November 19th:

Song Leader Jerry McGlocklin
 Bible Reading..... Romans 8:1-11
 Keenon Currier
 Prayer Steve Usery
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer James Johnson

Sunday, November 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Marcus Morris
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Keith Hinkle
 Assisting Steve Usery
 Serving Nathaniel Adams..... James Johnson
 Marty Adams..... Marvin Putman
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Keith Hinkle
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 23rd:

Usher Delmer Carter
 Work Sound System Landon Adams