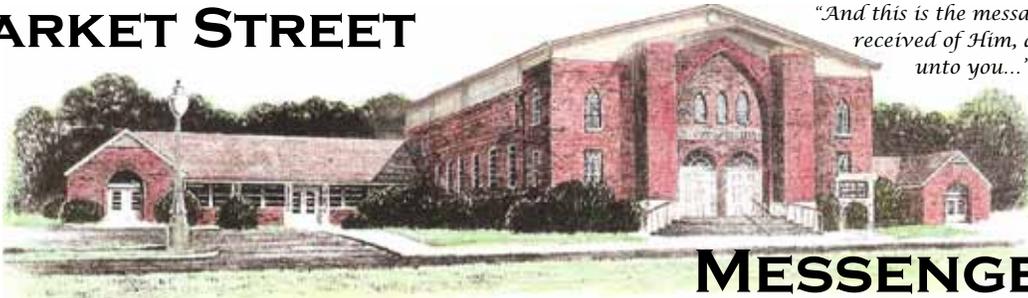


MARKET STREET

"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 30, 2014

No. 48

The Restoration of Giving

Harold V. Comer

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

This is a day of religious fund raising and money promotions. With all of the emphasis on pressure and gimmicks, there is a great need to restore the New Testament pattern of giving. The first century practice would correct many of the abuses that have become so obvious and distasteful in religious groups today.

I propose that the New Testament church had a specific pattern of fund raising which it was commanded to follow. That pattern called for freely given contributions, contributed upon the first day of the week.

Few people deny the fund raising abuses that exist today. Churches take up repeated collections at any excuse. Stewardship committees solicit members with high pressure techniques seeking larger pledges. Some churches tax members and to set what each member's contribution will be.

Some groups have repeated bake sales, rummage sales, fund raising suppers, car washes, candy promotions, and solicitation of non-members. Denominational groups build large endowments and investment resources with contributed funds. Congregations operate rental properties for profit.

Some preachers are always preaching on money and repetitively push for increased giving. Some preachers appeal to materialistic desires with promises of wealth, assuring you that your contribution will be returned in actual dollars and multiplied ten times or even one hundred times.

In churches of Christ a congregation would sell tapes for profit with the stated purpose of supporting its TV program. An institutional radio program offers prizes and gifts if you will send in a minimum contribution. "Special" contributions are taken up on Wednesday evening or during a meeting. Some preachers continually "harp" on giving.

If you are tired of a calloused, materialistic emphasis on money, you need to go back to the New Testament and ask if God cared enough about the financial affairs of His people to command anything specifically about how the necessary money matters were to be carried out. Did God

command anything on this subject?

Only Contributions Commanded

In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 the apostle Paul commanded, "...as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

In 2 Corinthians 8:7 Paul referred to the grace of giving. He said, "...see that ye abound in this grace also." In 2 Corinthians 9:7 Paul commanded, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." In Acts 4:32-37 the church at Jerusalem practiced sacrificial giving in its hour of great need.

Note that the passages show that contributions were commanded. Paul says that his words were an order or a command. God cared enough about their financial processes to specify one way to do it. When an authority specifies a certain way, that command excludes doing it any other way unless that other way is authorized elsewhere. No other commands are given about congregational fund raising so anyone who wants to go back to the New Testament pattern today should expect to have a contribution but should expect to stop there.

The contributions were specified for the first day of the week. The laying by in store was not laying some money by at home because then there would have to be collection or collections when Paul came. The contributions were to be given upon the first day of the week.

That is why churches that are determined to follow the New Testament pattern do not take up collections every night during a gospel meeting or on Wednesday evening. I'm sure that many could use the money well but a continual emphasis on money is finally distracting to their spiritual purpose of saving souls. When churches continually stress money they begin to look like pagan religions where salvation and redemption are purchased with one's silver and gold (1 Peter 1:18).

Occasionally, congregations depart from this pattern because of needs that are "special" purposes to them. An institution or a "missionary" wants a special collection, the pattern is bent and an unscriptural precedent is set as the congregation takes up a "special" Wednesday night contribution.

Paul also specified that the contributions were to be given freely and cheerfully. Churches that use high

pressure to squeeze more money out of people than they are willing to cheerfully purpose in their heart and give are violating the original plan. They show little concern in restoring the first century pattern for fund raising.

If we restore the New Testament pattern of giving we are going to have to teach commitment of ourselves to God (2 Corinthians 8:5). We are also going to have to teach on giving and encourage brethren to give liberally (2 Corinthians 9:13). Yet that is different from a constant emphasis on church budgets, needs and financial matters.

If New Testament churches are to support themselves by the contributions of their own members, that excludes them from door to door solicitations or street corner appeals. A church that is seeking to restore the first century practice will not allow itself to be drawn into sales and fund raising promotions. It will not be drawn into apartment management or farm management by keeping farms or apartments that might be given to it.

If you appreciate the simplicity of the contribution practices of Paul and Peter and the rest of the apostles, and the congregation where you attend doesn't follow those, then there are probably other areas where they have departed also and you need to give thorough consideration to all of their practices, examining them and comparing them to the original pattern.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.



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

True Compassion

Edwin L. Crozier

In Matthew 14:10 Herod beheaded John the Baptist. In vs. 13, “When Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself” (ESV). Jesus’ cousin, friend and forerunner had died. Naturally, though Jesus knew John was in a better place, He was saddened. He wanted to withdraw, no doubt to meditate and pray. Certainly, the martyrdom of John caused Jesus to look ahead to His own coming execution. For whatever reason, Jesus wanted to withdraw and be by Himself.

However, the crowds had different plans. Instead of letting Jesus retreat for some alone time, they followed Him on foot. When He arrived at the shore of what was supposed to be a desolate place, He found a great crowd.

What would we have done?

Would we have gotten back in the boat? Would we have commanded the crowds to disperse? Would we have simply asked them to leave and give us a day alone? After all, we have to look out for number one. If we go too far in this service thing, we could burn ourselves out.

That, however, is not what Jesus did. Matthew 14:14 says Jesus had compassion on the crowd. He healed the sick among them. No doubt He talked with them and taught them.

Only after bestowing compassion on the crowds did Jesus finally dismiss them and go up on the mountain to have His alone time (Matthew 14:23).

That is so not me. I get home from the office. I’m tired, mentally exhausted, sometimes stressed, almost always upset because I am behind on some project or other (usually the Fall Focus or Bible class material). I just want to retreat into my cocoon for some down time. I want to go into my man cave, watch TV, read a book, take a nap or whatever. I want everyone to leave me alone.

However, Marita and the kids usually have other plans. The kids want to wrestle, play a game or tell me a million stories about what they did that day. Marita wants some adult conversation, help with something

or just wants me to get the kids out of her hair.

What do I do? Will I be like Jesus? Will I have compassion on my family and seek to meet their needs before I retreat to be alone? Or will I selfishly put them off as I seek ways to mentally justify my self-centeredness?

No doubt there are more applications we can make of this story. This is merely the one that hit me the strongest. Let’s think twice before putting off someone else’s needs in favor of our own. Let’s put on the mind of Christ and put others first (Philippians 2:3-4).

-via *Franklin Church Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Buddy Pepper	Irene Inman
Mildred Lambert	French Barksdale
Mot Dollar	Carol Dean
Fay Ferguson	Carl Hargrave
Gwen Bullock	Crutcher Harbin
Marjorie Dunnivant	Robert & Mot Beasley
Ann Bush	Michael Vaughn
Al Pollard	Una King Carrier
Matt Poff	Pat Goodin
Gene Carpenter	Marcelino Ordonez-Zetino
Dorothy Casteel	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Eli Williams	Ava Brooke Campbell
Phillip Harwell	Charles Burns
Shawn Felker	Dianna Ritter
Anita Willis	Analyynn Tegg

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 42	Mable Crafts, rm. 100
Ruth Brackeen, rm. 61	

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

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.

OUT OF TOWN: The Hinkles: Joe and Mary are in Florida visiting with their son, Joey and his family...

Ida Nell Griffin is in Ohio on vacation this week...

The Williams: Todd, Julie, Matthew and Philip are out of town this weekend... **The Rogers:** Mark, Kim and Peyton have been in Verion this week.

RACHEL GRUBBS (1924 – 2014): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister **Rachel Grubbs** this past Sunday night. Sister Grubbs was a longtime member of the Market Street church. In the several years her health had declined and was unable to attend. She moved to live in a health facility in Huntsville about 3 to 4 years ago. She love the church at Market Street and was always glad to hear about the work that is going on. Sister Grubbs presence among us has been missed and are saddened by her passing, but we have a great hope for her. There was a graveside service on Wednesday afternoon at the Roselawn Cemetery. We extend our deepest sympathy to all the family.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Mot Dollar** and *all the family* in the passing of his sister-in-law, **Nancy Dollar Lamar**, this past Tuesday. There was a graveside service at Roselawn Cemetery on Saturday afternoon.

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 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 week of November 23rd

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 135

Morning Worship 176

Evening Worship..... 112

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 110

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Dan Reed
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Tommy Coblenz
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Landon Adams Heath Dollar
..... Cody Kennedy Bill Claxton
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblenz
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 30th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, December 3rd:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
Bible Reading Romans 8:26-39
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer Tommy Coblenz
Invitation Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Sunday, December 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Norman Brown
Serving Jason Conn. David Terry
..... Paul Hasting Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 7th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams