

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) 233-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz (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

Volume VI

November 30, 2014

No. 48

Traditions In The Church?

Josh Creel

"That's just your tradition!" Oh the dreaded words, an accusation many of us have heard (or soon will) regarding various practices in our local congregations or "churches of Christ" in general. Our first reaction is typically defensive, after all none of us want to be labeled "traditionalists" or be grouped with the Pharisees, traditionalists condemned by Jesus (Mark 7:1-8). However, a study of the Scriptures reveals that some traditions are good, so let's see if we can take the stigma off the word.

Paul exhorted the saints in Thessalonica to "stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us," (2 Thessalonians 2:15). Simply put, a tradition is something you receive and then hand down to someone else. In this sense, Paul spoke of the entire gospel message as a "tradition"; Paul "received" his message from the Lord (Galatians 1:12) and in turn "handed down" the gospel to those who heard him (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:15). This "tradition" continued as those who heard the gospel from Paul and passed it on to others (2 Timothy 2:2). We should add the examples of Jesus and His apostles to this "tradition" seeing as how we are exhorted to imitate His life (cf. John 13:34-35) and the examples of the apostles as they followed the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:1; cf. Philippians 3:17; 4:9). These "traditions" must be kept!

This points us to the first criteria in evaluating our traditions; are they authorized by Jesus and/or His apostles? Let's use our assemblies as an example. That Christians should meet for worship and encouragement should not be disputed (Hebrews 10:24-25). But when should these meetings occur? We know it was the practice of the early church to meet frequently (Acts 2:46), but particularly on the first day of the week. Paul tarried in Troas to meet with the disciples on the first day (Acts 20:7) even though he was hurrying to Jerusalem (Acts 20:16). He commanded that the collection be taken on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) and a logical conclusion would be that the first day of the week was when

the church in Corinth should have been coming together to take the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20). So, an authorized tradition would be for churches to meet frequently and particularly on the first day.

However, we have developed traditions that did not originate with Jesus or His apostles; should these be rejected? For instance, every church I've ever worshipped with had two assemblies on Sunday and one on Wednesday. While we do not read of that tradition in the New Testament, it is still authorized as it falls in the general authority of the passages listed above. Likewise, church bulletins, Bible classes, gospel meetings, preacher training programs etc. are not specifically described in the pages of the New Testament, but would be authorized in Jesus' command to teach (Matthew 28:20). Once we have established that these traditions are authorized by our Lord, we should judge them by a second criteria: are they helping us achieve God's purpose? For instance: increasingly more congregations have an extended period of worship on Sunday instead of twice. Some of these congregations have an extended period of worship on Sunday morning with the purpose of devoting more time to the Lord's Supper. Some also set aside Sunday evening as opportunities for Christians to evangelize the community. Those traditions are not the same as where I worship, but they have been deemed as best for those congregations in their service to the Lord. Which tradition is better? Neither, so long as both are authorized and serve the Lord's purpose.

One criteria remains: are our traditions law? I hope you see from this article that some of our traditions must be viewed as law, that is they are directly authorized by God and must be kept. Partaking of the Lord's Supper on Sunday is not a man made tradition, but God authorized. Teaching baptism from remission of sins is not church tradition (of human origin), but part of God's authorized plan of salvation. It is in the other areas where we must be careful lest we fall into the condemnation of the Pharisees. The traditions of my congregation may not be the same as the traditions of your congregation. That's ok, so long as they are both authorized by the Lord and effectively serve His purpose.

Yes, your church has traditions. All churches have traditions. My only prayer is that we do not break from the traditions handed down by the Lord and that we judge all traditions by the key criteria: are the authorized by the Lord and do they serve His purpose?

-via *Biblical Insights*; Orlando, Florida.

When Our Lives Are Challenged

Dennis Carrow

As a nation we unite in remembering the events of 9/11/01. With deep emotion we are forced to revisit the attack and the killing of the innocent. With confusion, grief, and anger the images of ten years ago are placed before us.

When our lives are challenged we are brought low, we grieve, we pray for relief, have a moment of reflection, we question, we blame, we move on, we forget, then... we remember. When our lives are challenged deeply we are also changed. From the ashes of 9/11 many who were challenged also changed from pacific to activist. Young men and women enlisted to serve as protector and defender of our country. The answer to the challenge was a change - one willing to die for a cause greater than themselves.

When we are forced to face the reality of injustice we awaken to the need for principles of truth and righteousness. We learn that we cannot trust in the foundations built by men. There is a temporal nature to many of the things that we think are indestructible. As difficult as destruction and loss is to face, we are forced to rebuild - but this rebuilding must be one of faith. What we learn through tragedy and loss we certain realities that we otherwise would never choose to learn.

As Job questioned God's presence during his time of loss and tragedy God placed before him a challenge, God asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" (Job 38:4). While in the moment of trial we question many things, God reminds us that He is over all; He knows all things.

When we walk away from an event that challenges our faith, we will be changed. As for Job, His faith was strengthened. Job stated, "I have heard of you with the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you." (Job 42:5). The attitude that prevailed just after the 9/11 attack was one of prayerful humility. We were awakened to our need for God and the temporal nature of things.

The questions we ask during moments of tragedy are answered in things we already know. Through loss Job's perspective shifted in such a way that He understood God's sovereign care. God has put "eternity in our hearts," but we can become so caught up in the

temporal we forget. So, prayerfully, on an occasion that we remember a tragic act of injustice and loss we will be reminded of the lessons that event taught us.

Those lessons are central to our walk of faith. We must refuse to allow the events of this life to blur our vision of the eternal plan of God. Those lessons are as follows...

1. **Life is a gift.** Job 1:21... The quality that enabled Job to endure life's incredible difficulties was his view of how he entered this life, and how he would depart this life - empty handed. Job viewed everything he possessed in this life as a gift.

2. **Time is relative.** Ecclesiastes 3:11-12... While we measure our days in minute increments, and many of those moments are beset with pain and worry - God has made everything beautiful in His time. Being created in His image we have eternity in our hearts and we yearn to be clothed with immortality. This is the essence of the hope which saves us.

3. **Chance is a part of life.** Ecclesiastes 9:11... Interestingly our text is 9/11, and this passage informs us that time and chance happens to us all. While we position ourselves in life for good things to happen, we plan and prepare in wisdom. However, bad things do occur in this life, and they can befall us.

4. **God is near.** Acts 17:24-27... One of life's greatest blessings is the knowledge that God is near. His sovereign will reign supreme. Even in the midst of injustice and cruelty that exists in this life - God desires that men seek Him. God's desire is that all men come to knowledge of the truth and repent.

5. **Men make choice.** Joshua 24:15... Within the scope of God's sovereign will is man's ability to choose to accept or reject Him. God does not force man to submit to His will. Through the sacrifice of His Son He manifests His love for us. Through raising Jesus from the dead we have assurance of our salvation. However, we must choose to accept or reject His gracious provisions.

6. **Some men choose evil.** Acts 17:32... As free moral agents some men reject the gospel and become fools. These men engage in evil behaviors just as those who perpetuated the crimes of 9/11. Sadly, as men choose evil many who are innocent suffer at their hands.

7. **Some choose good.** Acts 17:34... The gospel message continues to be preached. Many who see the frailty of human life awaken to their need for salvation.

They believe in the resurrection of the Christ and become followers of Him.

8. Some men continue to search. Acts 17:32... For some, though they were shaken by the events of 9/11 - possibly even contemplating confessing faith in Jesus and obeying the gospel - decided to continue to think about the temporal nature of this life, the principles of righteousness, and their need for God. It may be that for the past ten years they have thought about it. (ref, Acts 24:25). What will it take or will it be too late?

It is my prayer, and the desire of Almighty God, that we awaken to our true spiritual need, and to understand that this need can only be met by our Lord Jesus. As we remember an event that woke us up to the frailty of this life may it also awaken us to the need to be in Christ - recognizing that faith, hope, and love are the only things in this life that we can possess that no man can take from us.

-via *What Is True*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Doris Lovell
Irene Inman
Carol Dean
Gwen Bullock
Marjorie Dunnivant
Ann Bush
Al Pollard
Jimmy Stanford
Pat Goodin
Gene Carpenter
Dorothy Casteel
Eli Williams
Phillip Harwell
Shawn Felker
Anita Willis

Buddy Pepper
Mot Dollar
Carl Hargrave
Crutcher Harbin
Robert & Mot Beasley
Michael Vaughn
Una King Currier
Matt Poff
Analynn Tegg
Marcelino Ordonez-Zetino
Elizabeth Kate Miller
Ava Brooke Campbell
Charles Burns
Dianna Ritter

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

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.

BARBADOS: There will be a vacation Bible school in Barbados on July 6-18. I will be going down on July the first week for the VBS on July 6-10. I am looking for people that would be interested in going to help teach the VBS. We would probably plan to leave July 3 or 4 and return July 11th. If you would be interested in doing this and helping the brethren in Barbados, please let me know. I know that you would thoroughly enjoy the week.

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 30th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 137

Morning Worship 188

Evening Worship..... 112

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 110

Men Privileged To Serve:

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

Wednesday, December 10th:

Song Leader Todd Willams
Bible Reading..... Romans 9:1-13
..... Dan Reed
Prayer Keith Hinkle
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Sunday, December 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Norman Brown
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Tommy Coblentz
Serving Mike Ogles..... James Johnson
..... Keith Hinkle Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 14th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Terry Andrews