

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
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 VII

January 4, 2015

No. 1

Why Do People Reject God?

Kyle Pope

In Acts 13:38-46 we read about Paul and Barnabas' work in Pisidian Antioch. After some of the Jews began to oppose them Paul describes the people as having judged "themselves unworthy of eternal life" (Acts 13:46). This doesn't mean that they didn't want eternal life. Everyone wants eternal life (if they recognize the need for it). But, they didn't recognize that Paul offered the only means to eternal life. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life (Acts 4:9-12). The Jews in Antioch didn't like the message he brought, and in so doing, they made a choice for themselves that they were unworthy of eternal life. They probably didn't realize that this was their choice. They may have thought that they were holding on to the way of eternal life. Yet, by refusing to accept the only true way to life, they "judged themselves unworthy of eternal life."

Today people do this same thing for a number of reasons. One reason is fear. It is a frightening thing to follow God. It calls on us to trust the unseen. It calls on us to fight powerful foes. It is easy to have misplaced fears. This was Israel's problem. God had delivered them from Pharaoh. He had conquered oceans and deserts and hunger, but when they were called on to be conquerors themselves, they didn't think they could do it (Numbers 14:1-11). God describes their reaction as rejecting Him. Fear is rejection. Yet, sadly this kind of fear ignores what man should truly fear (Luke 12:4-5). We must hold an awe for the fact that God will judge us. This "fear of God" is a choice. Yet, men choose to hate knowledge and refuse to choose the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:20-29).

Why would anyone do this? Some do so because of ignorance. That is how Paul describes it to the Ephesians (Ephesians 4:17-19). Such souls are the very souls we should seek the most, because they do not know the truth. Perhaps, if they could only learn the truth, their hard hearts might melt. Others cling to tradition. Jesus condemns this and identifies it as a cause for some people's reaction of God (Mark 7:5-9). These kinds of traditions are religious; people simply do what they have always done. They do what their family has always done in religion. Our family may

or may not be a good measure of truth.

Some traditions have nothing to do with religion. They are simply what the flesh chooses to do. Following Jesus may demand spending our time differently than we would choose. It may mean we must deny certain pleasures. These are traditions which concern what we do with our bodies or put into our bodies. This kind of tradition leads many to reject God because of the love of pleasures (2 Timothy 3:1-4). Paul teaches that this is love of self, focused on the love of pleasure. These people are not just drug users, the fornicators, or the alcoholics. Sometimes lovers of pleasure are people that look very kind and self-controlled. However, they will not follow Christ because they choose to follow the dictates of their heart (Jeremiah 13:8-10a). The heart is fickle. The heart is selfish. The heart is only as sound as the content it has received within it. The heart is not a reliable standard. Yet, many follow it. The heart can convince us to accept as true what is in fact a lie. It leads us to love the lie and to love being deceived (Jeremiah 9:5-6).

In every individual there may be an infinite number of reasons, or combination of reasons why people reject God. Yet, when all is said and done we must recognize that when those around us do this a couple of things are going on: first; they are failing to truly look and listen (Matthew 13:10-17). The good and honest heart will not be blinded by its own preconceptions. Second, the only one who rejects God does so by choice. Joshua taught the people that one must choose for his or her self whether to serve the Lord (Joshua 24:14-15). The task of Christians is to do all that we can to help the souls around us come to obedience to the gospel. However, all we can do is lead them to the truth; they must listen and make the choice for themselves. Some will - some will not.

~via *Biblical Insights*; October 2012; Vol. 12 No. 10.



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

The Stench of Sin

Greg Chandler

Taking out the trash is one of the most mundane of household chores. Recently, however, something happened to turn this episode into a memorable event. After removing the trash from the house, I prepared to place a new trash bag in the can. As I took out the new bag and gave it a shake, a pleasant aroma filled the air. This was a non-so-subtle reminder that I am a resident of a first-world country - scented trash bags! In an effort to tone down the stench emitted from the household's throwaways, clever entrepreneurs have sought a way to mask the smell and thus tone down an otherwise unpleasant aromatic experience. Yet, for all the air fresheners that may be used, trash still stinks.

Sin is a great deal like a scented trash bag. Clever efforts are made to mask its true identity, yet its stench is still present and its rottenness will ultimately be known. The Lord used this idea as He described the religion of the Pharisees. He stated, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" (Matthew 23:27-28). No matter what efforts are made to hide sin, the Lord understands what is in the hearts and sees the rottenness it creates.

Satan works with great skill to make what stinks smell pleasant. Post-modernism's full acceptance and tolerance provides real-time examples of the success he enjoys in this skill. Consider the various statements that have become very much a part of the common vernacular: "My body, my choice," "You only live once," and "marry the one you love" are only a few examples of the clever cover for ungodly activities. Death of the unborn, flippancy toward a responsible life, and homosexuality are all offenses against the God of Heaven. Yet, if posed in different terms, what is rotten suddenly sounds acceptable and perhaps even pleasant. Millions will fall to these clever fallacies because they do not understand that the father of lies has masked these soul-destroying actions and made them appear right and good.

Within the pages of the Bible, God clearly illustrates

the danger of sin. The Apostle Paul told Roman Christians that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). What may look good on the surface will surely bring about an eternity that no one desires. Sin, no matter how attractive on the surface, is rebellion against God, and those in open rebellion will have no part with Him in eternity. Those who fall for the allure of sin will find their wages in a place totally devoid of goodness. The Apostle Paul described this to the Thessalonian Christians when he wrote, “they will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might” (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

In light of the Lord’s warnings, it is imperative that we not fall prey to the clever schemes of the devil. No matter how good sin looks, no matter how socially acceptable it may become, no matter how pleasure it may deliver, sin is still sin. Avoiding sin requires spiritual maturity and the self-control to state that we will stay on the Lord’s side no matter how alluring the temptation may be. Narrow way living requires the spiritual diligence to think before acting so that the devil is never given a foothold and the opportunity to deceive.

Perhaps it is time to take out the trash in your own life. Through the devil may mask the stench of sin for a while, its true nature will ultimately be revealed. Cleared of the devil’s garbage may we say, as did the Apostle Paul, that we “are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved” (2 Corinthians 2:15a).

~via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, 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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Carol Dean
Ruth Legg
French Barksdale
Betty Pepper
Buddy Pepper
Irene Inman
Gwen Bullock
Carl Hargrave
Al Pollard
Michael Vaughn
Pat Goodin
Gene Carpenter
Dorothy Casteel
Eli Williams
Phillip Harwell

Fay Ferguson
Lona Killen
Doris Lovell
Mot Dollar
Marjorie Dunnivant
Robert & Mot Beasley
Essie Hardison
Crutcher Harbin
Ann Bush
Anita Willis
Analynn Tegg
Una King Currier
Elizabeth Kate Miller
Ava Brooke Campbell
Charles Burns

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
Moveline Thomas, rm. 109-A

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86
Jerry Gilbert, rm. 84

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.

SINGING: There will be a singing at the *Oneal church* on Saturday, January 10th at 7:00p.m.

CONFESSION: We rejoice that *Gilbert Hardy* came forward last Sunday morning asking for prayers for

forgiveness and strength. We appreciate Gilbert for the good heart and his desire to please God. May we all encourage us in our work together in serving the Lord.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Essie Hardison* in the passing of her sister, *Alleen Christopher*. She passed away last week and her funeral was last Sunday 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 two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE NEW YEAR BEGINS: This past week we ended the year 2014 and began the year 2015. For many years brother *A. J. Rollings*, an evangelist at Market Street for many years, would recite this poem each year as the old year would be finishing and the new year would be coming in. We appreciate the truths that are told within this poem and commend the thoughts of it to you. May we all do better with the time that is ahead of us.

I came to my teacher with quivering lips,
My task undone;
"Teacher hast thou another sheet for me?
I have spoiled this one,"

She took the old sheet, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad face smiled,
"Do better this time, my child."

I came to the Father with a quivering heart,
The old year done;
"Father, hast thou another year for me?
I have spoiled this one."

He took the old year, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad heart smiled,
"Do better this time, my child."

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of December 28th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 129
Morning Worship 186
Evening Worship..... 129

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 130

Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 4:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Tommy Coblenz
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Norman Brown
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Tony Thomas Danny Johnson
..... Landon Adams Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Norman Brown
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 4th:

Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, January 7th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
Bible Reading..... Romans 111-1-10
..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Sunday, January 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Terry Andrews
Assisting Jerry McGlocklin
Serving David Terry Tommy Burns
..... Cody Kennedy Jason Conn
Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Arvid McGuire

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 11th:

Usher Marvin Putman
Work Sound System Landon Adams