

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 VII

February 8, 2015

No. 6

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
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

For His Glory

Steven Harper

Christians, by definition, are followers of Christ, and wear His name by choice. God has not pre-selected us individually, without regard to our desire to serve Him or not, so we live for Him by choice. God is not going to drag anyone into heaven against their will, kicking and screaming all the way. The sad reality is, if we miss heaven, it is because we really didn't want to go.

As Christians, it is the responsibility of each individual to live up to the standards our Lord has established. As John put it, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:6); in other words, if we claim to be one of His disciples, then we should live as He lived. By our lives – by our words and deeds – others will judge the whole of Christianity [its message and its people], fair or not.

As disciples, we are exhorted to live a godly, righteous life for that very reason. Peter admonished the early Christians, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:11-12). If we live a righteous life that is shown by our honorable conduct, others may glorify God because of what they observe in us. It is the fact we are "sojourners and pilgrims" - not citizens of this world - that we live this way; it is the worldly that pursue those fleshly lusts.

Jesus said the same thing, in the Sermon on the Mount, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). We are to be a positive influence on the world around us, and our lives are to be an example of godliness and love for others, to the point others will find reason to glorify God because of what they see us do, and the life they see us living. Let us note here and now that we live a godly life and do the good works not merely to be seen of men (cf. Matthew 6:1-4), but that others might give

God the glory.

Fight For His Glory. Let's think about our spiritual warfare; how do we engage the enemy? Do we do it with honor and in a way that demonstrates we are guided by righteous motives and righteous goals? Do we "do unto others before they do unto us," or do we "Repay no one evil for evil" (Romans 12:17)? The way we engage in the spiritual battle will reflect on the Lord! If the world sees us stoop to the same crass, boorish behavior that is so common in the world, they will not be glorifying God; they will likely think we are no better than anyone else or - more likely - that we are hypocrites.

When we engage in spiritual battles, our aim is not to "zing" someone else, but to win their souls to Christ; sarcasm and rude behavior will not bring anyone to Christ! Let us "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12), and let us fight it well, according to the pattern our Lord left for us, and that He intended us to follow (1 Peter 2:20-23).

Live For His Glory. As we noted earlier, Jesus and Peter have both exhorted disciples to live in a way that brings glory to God and Christ. If we learn anything from those words it is that our manner of life does matter. Some simply do not make the connection between their beliefs and their manner of life and observers would never judge them to be followers of Christ because they live as the world lives. In such cases, no one will glorify God by observing their manner of life!

Whatever our thinking may be that leads us to live worldly lives even as we wear the name of Christ, we should know that our behavior is a direct reflection on Him whose name we wear. Even early disciples were warned against worldly behavior, with a reminder that they would not escape God's judgment if they practiced it (Romans 2:3), and that God's name was actually blasphemed – not glorified – because of it (Romans 2:24). This is a warning all disciples should heed, for our manner of life will either bring glory to Christ's name, or it will bring shame, when others observe us.

Take Time To Give Him Glory. As disciples, we are of those who have realized our sin and have given ourselves over to God's service because we know our forgiveness and ultimate salvation will be because of His great mercy and grace. We, of all people, should know of the love of God, demonstrated when He sent His Son to die for us (Romans 5:8), and the love of Christ that moved Him to surrender Himself willingly for us

(Ephesians 5:2; 1 John 3:16). As John wrote, "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

But how deeply do we love Him? Considering the fact He was willing to give us His Son, it would seem only reasonable that we return the love to the same degree. No, we cannot give our children to Him to demonstrate our love, but we can give ourselves. In fact, that is what He wants from us (Romans 12:1). Furthermore, our love for Him should be demonstrated in our regular worship of Him, for that is the very definition of worship – the reverent love shown to God.

How often do you show God you love Him through your worship? I am not one who argues "all life is worship" because true worship is a purposeful act where the one offering takes the time to think about his or her actions and words, that God might truly be glorified by such. True worship comes when we think about what the Lord has done for us and determine to show and tell God how much we love Him because of it.

If you love the Lord, show Him how much you love Him by keeping His commandments (John 14:15), but show it also by taking the time to glorify Him in worship. Honor Him from the heart (Matthew 15:8; John 4:23-24).

~via *I Press*; Lancaster, California

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Understanding

Carl Witty

"You understand it one way, I understand it another way." Sound familiar? Many people take this approach to understanding the Bible. Does God expect a common understanding of His will for us? Evidently He does. On Pentecost, the apostle Peter preached the crucified Christ to the assembled Jews, and concluded his sermon with the words "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36). A considerable number of those in Peter's audience understood his message so clearly that they were "pricked in their hearts and said to Peter and the rest of

the apostles, ‘men and brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37). They certainly understood the true accusations brought against them by Peter, and wanted him to tell them what to do. They were penitent believers in Jesus as the Christ. Peter’s answer, vs. 38-39, was easy for them to understand; “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” Verse 41 notes that about 3000 people understood Peter’s sermon and instructions and were baptized. A common understanding about Jesus caused them to obey the same gospel in the same way.

Let’s apply this principle. If every man were to understand God’s will in his own way, if there were no common understanding, is God the author of the confusion that follows? Consider Proverbs 3:5 - “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.” If God could make His word understandable, but would not, would this not reflect on His goodness? If God would make his word understandable, but could not, would this not reflect on His power? I believe that God has both the power and the love for us that caused Him to reveal His will so that we may understand. Micah the prophet proclaimed: “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

Our attitude toward God’s word is so important and essential to understanding. In the book of Daniel, Chapter 10, verses 11 and 12, we learn that Daniel “set his heart to understand.” In Nehemiah 8 we have the account of Ezra and his helpers reading distinctly God’s Law to the people, and causing them to understand.

On the basis of the principles, we can confidently affirm that God commands understanding – Ephesians 5:17. “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” We must worship with understanding – 1 Corinthians 14:15 – “I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also, I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

Our study of the word will help develop our understanding – Psalms 119:104 – “Through thy precepts I get understanding”, vs. 130 – “The entrance of thy word giveth Light; it giveth understanding unto the

simple.” The sentiment of the Psalmist should permeate our prayers. In Psalms 119, he repeatedly asks God to “give me understanding” (verses 34, 73, 125, 144 and 169).

Finally, the study and comprehension of the character and mission of Jesus is the key to understanding the revelation of God’s will. The evangelist Philip asked the Eunuch, Acts 8:30, if he understood what he was reading: (he was reading from the prophet Isaiah), and the Eunuch asked for guidance, Philip told him about Jesus, and the result was understanding and obedience! May our desire for the understanding of God and His Will take us unerringly to the story of Jesus.

-via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Lona Faye Jackson	Lona Killen
Sarah Collier	JoAnn Gilbert
Carol Dean	Alvis McLemore
Mot Dollar	Carl Hargrave
Doris Lovell	Irene Inman
Buddy Pepper	Marjorie Dunnivant
Essie Hardison	Robert & Mot Beasley
Gwen Bullock	Crutcher Harbin
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
Ann Bush	Ava Brooke Campbell
Michael Vaughn	Anita Willis
Pat Goodin	Analynn Tegg
Gene Carpenter	Una King Currier
Dorothy Casteel	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Eli Williams	Phillip Harwell
Irene Mitchell	Gabriel Brown
Helen Rushing	Dorothy Casteel

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 39
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 42	

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36	Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E
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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

FAY FERGUSON (1937 – 2015): We are saddened to note the passing of sister **Fay Ferguson**. Sister Ferguson passed away this past Thursday morning in the Athens-Limestone Hospital. Sister Ferguson had fought a long battle with cancer. Sister Ferguson often expressed her love and appreciation for the church at Market Street. We will miss her presence among us. Her funeral was Saturday afternoon at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery.

BIBLE STUDY ON THE KINGDOM: Remember there will be a Bible study at the **Gathering Place** on this afternoon following our afternoon service. We will be studying the **Kingdom of God**. I hope everyone will be able to be present.

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 February 1st

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 124
Morning Worship 171
Evening Worship..... 127

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 106

Fourth Annual Singing

February 27, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Steve Klein



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Keith Hinkle
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Ronnie Locke David Terry
..... Cody Kennedy Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer Norman Brown

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 8th:

Usher Steve Usery
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, February 11th:

Song Leader Marty Adams
Bible Reading Romans 13:8-14
..... Dan Reed
Prayer Tony Thomas
Invitation Tommy Coblenz
Closing Prayer Kennon Currier

Sunday, February 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Hunter Cox
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Mike Ogles
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Bart Brown Danny Johnson
..... Landon Adams Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Landon Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Mike Ogles
Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 15th:

Usher Marvin Putman
Work Sound System Terry Andrews