

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 22, 2015

No. 8

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

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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

Conspiracy Theorists

Gardner Hall

"Richard Nixon is a communist!" the man told me with certainty. "Why do you say that" I asked. "He went to China to talk to them. Must be one of 'em," was the response.

Another man told me something to the effect that all politicians, except for George Wallace, were either communists or communist sympathizers, and sometimes he wondered about George.

I remember hearing from many conspiracy theorists during my teenage years in north Alabama. They were certain that communists from the Soviet Union were about to take over America with the willing complicity of most politicians. Those politicians were attacked with all kinds of exaggeration, innuendo, and quotes out of context. Thousands were convinced that Nixon, Kissinger, and other politicians of the 70's must at least have been fellow travelers.

"Conspiracy Theorists" in the Bible

Some tried to paint the apostle Paul as advocating, "let us do evil that good may abound" (Romans 3:8). Paul was no softy, but his teaching on God's grace and his efforts to humble himself and avoid a harsh presence made him the object of unfair attacks, 2 Corinthians 11:7-15. Many were sure that Paul was the leader of a great conspiracy against truth. He was the subject of personal attacks on his physical presence and speech, 2 Corinthians 10:10.

Diotrephes could find fault in almost everyone, including the apostle John. He prated against John and other faithful brethren with "malicious words" (2 John 10).

The Difference Between Vigilance And Unfair Fault-finding

Aren't we to be vigilant and watch for signs of apostasy? Absolutely! "The devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Some arise from within the ranks of Christians "speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after themselves" (Acts 20:30).

Immodest clothing, ungodly entertainment, looseness on divorce, alcohol, dancing and other worldly practices are eating away at the moral fiber of the saints.

And yet in this battle it is possible to do more harm than good with reckless cries of wolf. Wild, unchecked and undocumented accusations distract the focus from the real enemy and cause brethren to “bite and devour one another” (Galatians 5:15), rather than directing their energies against Satan.

How can we distinguish between the vigilance that God commands and the ungodly fault-finders: Love for truth, fairness, and love for brethren.

The vigilant lover of truth will check out facts before rushing to judgment. If possible, he will contact a brother whose teaching is being questioned before launching a broadside. He realizes that he must understand a position before he can deal with it properly. If he feels he must expose compromising doctrine, he will present that doctrine accurately without trying to embellish it.

The fault-finder will pass along rumors. I once heard from a young Christian that a godly Texas preacher “believed in abortion.” Of course the young Christian hadn’t contacted the preacher, but I did. The preacher was aghast that such rumors were being circulated against him and sent me a cassette tape to pass on to the young man in which he plainly presented Bible teaching against abortion.

An older preacher harshly accused a group of editors of not wanting many scriptures quoted. If he had taken the trouble to look at the most recent copy of the magazine they publish, he would have seen over 200 scriptures referenced in just that one issue. However, fault-finders are seldom interested in facts or in fairly representing those who are the objects of their attacks. If they read their writings or listen to their preaching it is simply to find fault, and not to understand objectively what is being said. They pass along rumors and hearsay, which they may sincerely believe. However, the bottom line is that they don’t have enough love for the truth or their brethren to check out facts. They stir up those inclined to be suspicious, but actually are very ineffective in fighting worldliness and loose thinking.

While brethren bite and devour one another, Satan continues to sweep away disciples into the world. To fight him, God needs vigilant, sober, and loving servants – not hypercritical, fault-finding and unfair

conspiracy theorists.

-via *The Stonegate Standard*; Pasadena, Texas.

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“Two Are Better Than One”

Dan King

The Word of the Lord recognizes how much we need each other. The church was purposed in the mind of God before time because the All-wise saw the need for it in human relationships. Loneliness can be a terrible and destructive thing. Other human contact, especially if it is with likeminded people with a desire to do the right thing, can be entirely wholesome and good. This is what the church as an organization and agency in human society is mostly about. As the Scripture says: “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, and hath not another to lift him up” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

So, two are better than one because when one falls, the other can help him to stand again. We must remember this when we consider why the church must be a part of our lives, and why we must not let this precious cooperative relationship slip from us by abandonment.

Two are better than one because one may help to bear the burden of another. How many times have you heard someone say: “This is almost more than I can bear”. Often we can sympathize that what they must bear is nearly more than one person can deal with alone. But the wonderful thing is that we never ought to have to bear our burdens alone. Of course, we know the Lord helps us at such times. But it is a great boon to our souls to know that we have brothers and sisters in Christ who share our grief and pain, and help to love us through those trying times. As Paul wrote: “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). Observing the law of Christ involves sharing the burdens so heavy upon our fellow Christians.

Two are better than one because the prayers of one may benefit another. Those who pray for us are our “help-

ers.” They may be confined to a bed or wheelchair, but if they are supportive of the work we are doing through their prayers, then they are friends of the first order. Paul spoke of the prayers which Corinthians uttered on his and his fellow laborer's behalf, with fond appreciation and deep love: “Ye also helping together on our behalf by your supplication; that, for the gift bestowed upon us by means of many, thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf” (2 Corinthians 1:11).

Two are better than one because the great work of the gospel is too much for any single individual to accomplish. Paul spoke of the work that he and Apollos did together, even though they were at Corinth at different times and under wholly different circumstances. Still he viewed himself and Apollos as working together toward a common goal. Paul had converted the majority of those whom Apollos latter instructed: “I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:6). “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (Acts 4:32).

Two are better than one because there is moral and spiritual strength in numbers. The presence and encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ is a source of spiritual strength to those of us who attend the worship activities with regularity. One who is a member of the body of Christ feels that he is a part of something wonderful and good. There is a feeling of belonging to something important. And there is a feeling of being associated with someone, (Christ), Who is worthy of all of our praise and admiration. Being a member of the church is a thing to be thankful for, grateful for, and ever overflowing with thanksgiving because of. As Paul stated: “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Two are better than one because when we work together with one another in the church, we are working together with God. At times we tend to view the church as a wholly human relationship, a segment of the overall community or society that we live in. But it is not so. The church is His fold, His holy temple, His royal priesthood of believers, His blood bought and Spirit filled body. It was His intent that through this means men and women might enter into covenant relationship with the Father and serve as spiritual stewards in

common cause with the Lord Himself: “And working together with Him we entreat also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain” (2 Corinthians 6:1)

-via *Pepper Road Bulletin*; Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Anita Wheeler	Lona Killen
Sarah Collier	Joe & Mary Hinkle
Ruby Dean Ezell	Patsy Thomas
Gilbert Hardy	Robert Beasley
Carl Hargrave	Carol Dean
Irene Inman	Buddy Pepper
Marjorie Dunnivant	Essie Hardison
Gwen Bullock	Al Pollard
Matt Poff	Charles Burns
Ann Bush	Michael Vaughn
Helen Rushing	Ava Brooke Campbell
Dan Williams	Anita Willis
Pat Goodin	Analynn Tegg
Gene Carpenter	Una King Currier
Dorothy Casteel	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Eli Williams	Phillip Harwell
Irene Mitchell	Gabriel Brown

In The Hospital:

Mot Beasley; Crestwood Hospital, rm. 340
Crutcher Harbin; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm. 221

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
 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Please mark your calendars for this year at Market Street. First, our Annual Singing is less than two weeks away, **February 27, 2015**... Our spring Gospel Meeting which will be **April 26-30, 2015**. Bill Hall will be the speaker in this meeting... Also, our Vacation Bible School will be **June 15-18, 2015**... Our fall Gospel Meeting will be **September 13-17, 2015**.

RESPONSES: Last Sunday morning our hearts were touched as to **Bill & Doris Claxton** came forward as for prayers for strength and forgiveness. We appreciate the good hearts that Bill and Doris possess and their desire to please God. May we all be an encouragement to one another as we run the race of life.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Will Chumbley** in the passing of his grandmother, **Shirley Chumbley**, this past Thursday. The funeral will be on Friday in Rantoul, Illinois.

OUT OF TOWN: The Bradleys: *Steve and Marilyn* are in Texas.

ANNUAL SINGING: Our Annual Singing is quickly coming. I know that it will be truly an edifying and uplifting evening. I hope that everyone will be here. In connection with that remember to come early and we will need people assist with parking, ushering, etc. Remember to tell others to come and join us.

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 February 15th
Sunday: Bible Classes..... 120
Morning Worship 168
Evening Worship..... 116

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:

SSunday, February 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Nathaniel Adams Steve Usery
..... Stefan Fudge James Johnson
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 22nd:
Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, February 25th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading Romans 14:14-23
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer Marcus Morris
Invitation Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Sunday, March 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Bonnie Sutton
Serving Tommy Burns Mot Dollar
..... Bill Claxton Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 1st:
Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Marty Adams