

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

March 22, 2015

No. 12

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 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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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

Why Do People Suffer?

Gary Ogden

Mankind has wrestled with this question for the ages. Sages (wise men) have sought to come up with a suitable answer and those answers have raised more questions than ever. Most want to not only wrestle with the problem of suffering but with the question of the existence of God himself.

The atheist is sure that since the innocent suffer then there must not be a God. Others who would believe in God have offered suggestions that He is not all-powerful, at least when it comes to eliminating suffering in the world. Still others argue that God is not all-loving since He obviously allows evil and suffering to prevail, even upon the righteous. Some would even go so far to say that man is alone in his struggle against evil and that God is actually his adversary.

Some ancient and modern religious thought try to explain it all by saying that evil is only an illusion. That's a basic tenet of Hinduism. Christian Science, founded by Mary Baker Eddy, teaches that evil and suffering have no real basis, that it is all an illusion. In fact, everything is an illusion. I once engaged a Christian Scientist in a conversation, and as he patted his rather large abdomen, he exclaimed, "That's just an illusion." I asked him if someone plunged a knife into his "illusion" would he bleed? He said, "Yes, but even blood is an illusion." I wasn't smart enough then, nor now, to deal with his "delusions"!

Modern thought and ancient philosophy cannot deal adequately with the problem of suffering as it pertains to the existence and actions of God Almighty. Only the Bible properly deals with the existence of God and the existence of suffering. But I've got to say, that when you get through reading everything the Bible has to say about God and suffering, you will still have questions. The Bible tells us all we need to know, but perhaps not all we want to know. There will always be questions about which we will never know the answers.

The God revealed in the Bible is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and all that is in it. "In the beginning, God created the heavens

and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The Bible makes no argument for the existence of God; it just plainly states it. It declares more than once that God is invisible, but His everlasting power and divinity can be “seen” though the things that have been created (Romans 1:20).

It becomes clear that God created man as free moral agent, capable of making choices. Now, if God is all-powerful, The Almighty God, He could have created robot-like beings that always did precisely what He said. He could have created an environment in which man would have had no temptation and lived in paradise on earth eternally. But God chose to let man choose between right and wrong and to suffer the consequences for the wrong choice. It has been that way from the beginning and continues to the present day.

Pain and suffering are the consequences of man’s choice to disobey God (Genesis 3). Woman suffer the pangs of childbirth because sin was introduced into the world. Argue with God all you want, but The Almighty God can do whatever He pleases. He can make it so that people suffer consequences for their wrongdoing. Through the prophet Isaiah, God declared. “I form light and create darkness; I bring prosperity and create evil (disaster, calamity). I, the Lord, do all these things” (45:7).

God brought a cataclysmic flood on the earth because mankind chose to rebel against Him. Shall I argue that God does not exist because multitudes died? Shall I suggest that God is not just or loving because the whole world perished except Noah and his family? Not me, not today, not ever!

When disaster strikes, shall I raise a fist in defiance against God and question His providence? Again, from the prophet Isaiah we hear this declaration: “Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker – An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands?’” (Isaiah 45:9).

People are always wanting to blame someone else for their wrong choices and God gets His fair share of blame. It doesn’t occur to many that much suffering comes as a result of our own choices. Poor diet and bad habits practiced for forty years can produce horrible diseases and distresses today. We might not have known they were bad choices, but that doesn’t change the consequences.

If a reckless driver, drinks or does drugs, and totals

the car and causes much suffering for self and others, that obviously is the result of wrong choices. No one would have the right to say, “Why did God let this happen to me?” Some would do as Job’s wife insisted that he do, “Curse God and die.” That is never a good option!

Now what about Job? Why did he have to suffer? What about others righteous people that are subjected to suffering? Did Job suffer just so God and Satan could see which one would win the argument Satan raised? I seriously doubt that!

Why God allowed Satan to inflict Job is never completely answered, as far as I can tell. You read the whole book of Job and you won’t find a satisfactory answer to that question. What you will find are mere men wrestling with the question and God saying that He is ultimately in control. We do learn that tribulation produces patience (James 1:2-4; 5:11), so good can come out of suffering!

If I can never adequately answer all the questions about God, or why He lets some things happen, I can still abide in complete trust in Him. Even if He were to explain it all, I have no reason to believe that I could understand it. Romans 11:33 sums it up: “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of god! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”

Ultimately, it is not what suffering does to us that is important. It’s what suffering does for us that truly matters.

-via *Pepper Road Bulletin*; Athens, Alabama.

Gospel Meeting

April 26-30, 2015

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday– 7:00 p.m.

Bill Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

P.O.V. and the Bible

Glen Young

A businessman was interviewing applicants for the position of divisional manager. He asked each applicant the simple question, "What is two plus two?"

The first interviewee was a journalist. His answer was "twenty-two."

The second applicant was an engineer. He pulled out a calculator and showed the answer to be between 3.999 and 4.001.

The next person was a lawyer. He stated that in case of *Jenkins v. the Commissioner of Stamp Duties*, two and two was proven to be four.

The last applicant was an accountant. The businessman asked him, "How much is two plus two?"

The accountant got up from his chair, went over to the door, closed it then came back and sat down. He leaned across the desk and said in a low voice, "How much do you want it to be?"

The Lord prayed that all believers would be one; consider what He says; "That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21). He knew that religious division would cause the world to reject the way of truth. Divisions, which result from varied biblical interpretation, causes countless harm to Christianity.

There are those who exhibit the same type approaches to Bible study as the journalist, the engineer, the lawyer and the accountant in our story.

The journalist looks beyond the obvious; others assume the question is a mathematical problem; but not the journalist. He seeks out an answer different than all others and admires his acumen at finding a truth(?) that others cannot.

The engineer prides himself in exactness. The answer must be analyzed to its most rudimentary level.

The lawyer appeals to the laws of men as the standard for his answer. He sees only the wisdom of men, a wisdom by which he judges everyone and everything.

The accountant's point of view is that public opinion

is the determining factor. The answer is based upon the present circumstances. Times change, therefore, answers to questions must also change to fit the time, common knowledge, and/or public opinion.

Just as each of the applicant's point of views colored their answer to a simple question, our point of view will color our understanding of biblical teaching. Biblical Truth is singular, so when disagreement occurs, regardless of the subject, someone is wrong, maybe both. This ought to be an incentive to a more thorough investigation of Scripture. It should also restrain us from rushing to judgment about brethren who may disagree with us.

The point of view we bring to Bible study determines how we interpret a given passage of Scripture. Hence, it is the responsibility of each individual to approach Bible study with this knowledge and the determinate self-discipline to overcome personal prejudices. Can we accomplish this important task and therefore understand the singular truth contained in the God-breathed, verbally inspired Scriptures. The answer is yes if we have a good and honest heart. The problem is not in the Scripture; the problem is in man's obstinate desire to please oneself rather than to please God.

When we are challenged on our positions of faith, use the challenge to "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" (2 Corinthians 13:5). Never shy away from investigating your personal motives. You may find prejudices that will keep you from Heaven.

-via *The K.S.R. Sowers*; Harvest, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Sarah Collier

Wayne Vaughn

Shelia Barrett

Irene Inman

Joe & Mary Hinkle

Essie Hardison

Gwen Bullock

Linda Ordonez

Eli Williams

Buddy Pepper

Beverly Sutton

Lona Killen

Robert & Mot Beasley

Carl Hargrave

Marjorie Dunnivant

Michael Vaughn

Ava Brooke Campbell

Elizabeth Kate Miller

Al Pollard	Irene Mitchell
Matt Poff	Charles Burns
Ann Bush	Gabriel Brown
Helen Rushing	Phillip Harwell
Dan Williams	Anita Willis
Pat Goodin	Analynn Tegg
Gene Carpenter	Una King Carrier

In The Hospital:

Louise Melvin, Madison Hospital, rm. 311
Cecil Cox, ECM Hospital – Florence, rm. 273

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
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 42	Geraldine Mitchell, rm. 73

Limestone Health Facility:

Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

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

POSEY MEETING: I had the privilege this past week to be with **Posey church** in western Franklin County near Red Bay. The Posey church at is made up of many younger families. The meeting was very enjoyable, and it was good to see the good work that the brethren there are doing. The preacher there is *Donny Amos*, his wife is *Janice*, and it was to be with them again. Donny has been preaching at Posey for a couple of years. I missed being here with you and glad to be back home.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **JoNell Campbell** in the passing of her daughter, **Charlotte Kellum**, this past Thursday. The funeral was Saturday afternoon at the Spry Funeral Home.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of March 15th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 128
 Morning Worship 171
 Evening Worship.....
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 101

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Mike Ogles
Assisting	Marty Adams
Serving	David Terry
.....	Marcus Morris
.....	Marvin Putman
.....	Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer	Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Mike Ogles
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 22nd:

Usher	Delmer Carter
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, March 25th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Romans 16:1-16
.....	Jason Conn
Prayer	Terry Andrews
Invitation	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	Arvid McGuire

Sunday, March 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Tony Thomas
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Dwaine Allfrey
Serving	Hunter Cox
.....	Landon Adams
.....	Tommy Coblentz
.....	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Preaching	Dan Reed
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Steve Usery

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 29th:

Usher	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams