

# 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

April 5, 2015

No. 14

## 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

**Visit Us On The Web**  
[MarketStreet-church.com](http://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*

## *The Problem of Evil*

**T. Doy Moyer**

Of the arguments made against God and the Bible, the problem of evil and suffering stands out as perhaps the strongest of the attacks. Its purpose is to set up a moral dilemma that is supposedly unanswerable. It pits God against the Bible and argues that there is an inevitable contradiction. The reasons why this has been such a difficulty include:

1. It is an apparent proof of atheism because it is attended with demonstrable evidence.
2. It is a universal problem. Everyone has questions about why bad things happen to good people, and virtually everyone will experience pain.
3. It is a practical problem. Real people suffer real pain. It is not just philosophers debating God's existence. It is ordinary people grappling with why a good and loving God would allow them to hurt.

In days of Gideon, the Israelites were being oppressed by the Midianites. Their crops were being destroyed and the people were suffering. God assured Gideon that He was with him, but Gideon replied, "Oh my Lord, it the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us?" (Judges 6:12-13). This is the problem posed by suffering.

The Bible affirms that God is both all-powerful and all-loving. This is the reason for the problem, and the argument basically may be stated as follows:

1. Evil exists.
2. If God exists, who is supposed to be all-powerful and all-good, then He would be powerful enough and good enough to abolish or prevent evil.
3. Since evil exists, then God is either not all-powerful or all-good; therefore, the God of the Bible does not exist.

So then how may Christians approach this? Our purpose here is not to get caught up in big terms and philosophical debates. We want to be able to show people that even though evil exists, God, who is all-powerful,

still loves them completely. When someone is in pain, asking why God would let it happen, we need to be able to show that in spite of the pain, God is still there, and He cares. Following are some suggestions to trigger thought on this. Space does not permit a comprehensive look at the issue, so these thoughts are suggestive.

First, think about what evil is, and why it exists in the first place. In the context of this issue, "evil" generally refers to "bad things" that happen, as when one suffers pain or loss. Death is one example, and the Bible helps us understand why these things exist. Evil entered the world because of sin, and sin is the result of people making the wrong choices. So God is not directly responsible for suffering and death at all. He created the circumstances that allowed for it, but an understanding of human free will is essential to this issue. The abuse of free will resulted in the entrance of suffering into this world (see Genesis 3).

Second, if someone is seriously trying to use "evil" to argue against God, then let the person define what the standard of "good" and "evil" is. One cannot have it both ways. If "evil" is a problem, then it is a problem only because there must be some standard by which it can be judged. Yet this is the very thing they argue against. So when one brings up "evil," it presents an opportunity to point to the Standard of good. The atheist who thinks he is setting up the unanswerable dilemma is unwittingly putting himself in a spot. We are very willing to talk about good and evil. It gives us opportunity to talk about God more.

Third, if God is all-powerful, He is also all-knowing, and we are not. So we must allow for the fact that there are reasons we do not know or understand, but God does. If, in His wisdom, He allows for suffering to exist, He is not under obligation to explain Himself (see the book of Job!). We should not use our lack of knowledge to make foolish arguments about God.

Fourth, the most compelling answer to the problem of evil is Jesus Christ. Jesus is God, and He came to this earth and suffered for sin. The great passage in Romans 8 (vv.31-39) answers any question about God's love and power. What Paul essentially says is that, because of what God has given in Jesus, there is nothing that should be able to convince us that God does not love us. No amount of pain or suffering will argue that God does not love us, for He demonstrated his love completely through the sacrifice of Jesus. An

answer to the problem of evil would be incomplete without going back to Jesus himself.

Finally, there will be a day of reckoning. God will convincingly demonstrate His power over all evil in the final judgment. So there is a time coming in which all things will be dealt with according to God's righteousness and justice. Evil will not win out in eternity (see Revelation 20:11-15).

There is so much more that can be considered. These thoughts are intended to provoke further thoughtfulness and study. It is also helpful, for example, to consider the actual benefits that come to one who overcomes evil and suffering. But as in all these matters, you are urged to search them out, study them, and finally put your trust in God, who is all-powerful and all-loving. Jesus can give us the comfort and strength we need to overcome any trial (Hebrews 2:18).

-via *The KSR Sower*; Harvest, Alabama.

∞

## ***You Are Still Lost***

**Norman Midgett**

False hope! It abounds everywhere. For those who do not want to obey the gospel of Christ and still hope to be saved they have company, both ancient and modern.

God does many good things for the heathen who are lost but woe be unto them if they mistake this goodness for salvation. Here are some examples.

Jesus said. "... for he maketh the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). God does this for the unjust. When he has done it they are still as unjust as before. They may have the sun and the rain but they still have their sins. Paul confirmed the same thing in Acts 14:17 when he said, "And yet he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave you from heaven rain and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness."

Even if you have a bountiful crop in your garden or you have a good job and can buy all the good food you

want that does not mean you are saved. The heathen have gladness and joy and life often go their way and the obstacles are so few. Woe to the man or woman who interprets this to mean they have the fellowship of God and are saved.

There are those who think God has answered their prayers and because of this, falsely believe God has saved them. Such would be a tragic conclusion to draw. I may not always know how God works but I do know this: "We know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and do his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31). In Proverbs 28:9 God said, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination."

The prayers of Cornelius had gone up "for a memorial before God" (Acts 10:4), but even after the angel of God told him this, Cornelius would have been a very mistaken man if he had concluded he was a saved man. We know this is true because shortly thereafter the Holy Spirit told Peter to go to the house of Cornelius and speak to him "words" by which he and his house would be saved (Acts 11:14). What God does with your prayers has nothing to do with how he deals with your sins.

And finally the greatest thing God has done for you while you are an alien sinner is to have Christ die for you. "But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Just because he died for you does not mean you are saved else we have universal salvation.

Many good things have come from God to the alien sinner. Do not mistake any of these as signs of your salvation. There is only one thing that will save you. That is your faith in and obedience to the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8). Until you obey the gospel, all the rain, sun, fruitful seasons, and gladdened hearts will not save you. You are still lost. It is time you let go of these false hopes and obey the gospel where there is real hope. Confess your faith in Christ, repent of your sins, and be baptized for the remission of those sins (Matthew 10:32, 33; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). You will be lost no longer and you will still have all of these blessings plus many more. Take your stand with Christ today not just with his blessings.

-via *Portage Progress*; Portage, Indiana.

**Remember Our Service  
This Afternoon at 5:00.**

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Sarah Collier	Buddy Pepper
Beverly Sutton	Peyton Rogers
Jennifer Threet	Shelia Barrett
Carl Hargrave	Marjorie Dunnivant
Irene Inman	Robert & Mot Beasley
Essie Hardison	Gwen Bullock
Michael Vaughn	Linda Ordonez
Eli Williams	Ava Brooke Campbell
Al Pollard	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Matt Poff	Una King Currier
Charles Burns	Gene Carpenter
Ann Bush	Gabriel Brown
Helen Rushing	Phillip Harwell
Dan Williams	Anita Willis
Pat Goodin	Analynn Tegg

### *In The Hospital:*

*Tommy Woodward*; Birmingham Hospital

*Jimmy Stanford*; Huntsville Hospital

### *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:*

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mattye Murray, rm. 2
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 21	Terry Camp, rm. 91
Cecil Cox, rm. 77	

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Lona Killen, rm. 105  
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  
J. C. Conn, at home  
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** *Gayle Ball's* nephew, *Tommy Woodward*, has been diagnosed with abdominal cancer and is in very serious condition in Birmingham. Please keep Tommy and the family in your prayers.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Patsy Thomas and all the family* in the passing of Patsy's brother, *David Day*. The funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

**OUT OF TOWN: The Burns:** *Tommy and Susan* have been out of town this week... **The Coblentz':** *Tommy and Marcella* are back in town after having been in Charleston, South Carolina this past week... **The Thomas':** *Tony and Patsy* are in Tuscaloosa this week due to the passing of Patsy's brother.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **Helton Drive church** in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Greg Chandler* will be the speaker in this meeting... The **Piney Grove church** south of Tuscumbia is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Lonnie Oldag* will be the speaker in this meeting... The **Chapman Acres church** in Huntsville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. *Sunday morning – Everette Conn; Sunday evening – Dwight McGee; Monday evening – Billy Randolph; Tuesday evening – T.J. Smith; Wednesday evening – Steve Klein; Thursday evening – Lonnie Oldag; Friday evening – John Gibson...* The **First Street church** in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is beginning a series of meeting on Friday, April 10th and it will continue through Sunday the 12th. The speakers will be as follows: *Friday night – David Cox; Saturday night – Shane McGregor; Sunday morning – Clay Woods & Blake Edwards; Sunday afternoon – Don Miller.*

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for week of March 29th

<b>Sunday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	126
	Morning Worship .....	172
	Evening Worship.....	125
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	102

Please Join Us For Our  
**Gospel Meeting**

April 26 – 30, 2015

Schedule of Services

Sunday – 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist – Bill Hall

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

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, April 5th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements .....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader .....	Tyler Cox
Prayer .....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Norman Brown
Assisting .....	Ronnie Locke
Serving .....	James Johnson ..... Steve Usery
.....	Nathaniel Adams ..... Bill Claxton
Closing Prayer .....	Tommy Burns

*Evening Worship*

Announcements .....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader .....	Stefan Fudge
Prayer .....	Dan Reed
Preaching .....	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper .....	Norman Brown
Closing Prayer .....	Arvid McGuire

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 5th:

Usher .....	Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System .....	Landon Adams

**Wednesday, April 8th:**

Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....	Romans 16:17-27
.....	Terry Andrews
Prayer .....	Marcus Morris
Invitation .....	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer .....	Jerry McGlocklin

**Sunday, April 12th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements .....	Marty Adams
Song Leader .....	Stefan Fudge
Prayer .....	Norman Brown
Preaching .....	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting .....	Marcus Morris
Serving .....	Jason Conn..... Keenon Currier
.....	Tommy Burns ..... Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer .....	Bonnie Sutton

*Evening Worship*

Announcements .....	Marty Adams
Song Leader .....	Joel Hamm
Prayer .....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching .....	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper .....	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer .....	Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 12th:

Usher .....	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System .....	Nathaniel Adams