

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 12, 2015

No. 15

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 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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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

Bible Simplicity

Dee Bowman

The gospel of Jesus Christ is to be preached to every person (Mark 16:15-16). For that reason it must be simple enough for every person to understand. The idea that the gospel is mystical, difficult to understand is just not so. The word of God is simple enough for one to “know the truth” and by it be free from sin (John 8:32). A person can “be not unwise, but understand what is the will of the Lord” (Ephesians 5:17). In fact, Paul said what he had written in a few words can be understood by each reader (Ephesians 3:1-3). And was it not Jesus Himself who prayed “sanctify them by thy truth, thy word is truth”? It would be sad indeed for Jesus to say, “he that rejecteth me and receiveth not my word hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48) if man couldn’t understand that word in the first place. Simple, right?

What the Bible says about faith can be understood. The Bible affirms that faith is the result of hearing the word of God preached (Romans 10:17), not some irresistible force that comes from some sudden “inner feeling” or by putting your hand on the television and “accepting Christ as your personal Savior.” In fact, one could not even know if there is a Savior if the word of God had not first testified to it. John closed his gospel by saying, “Many other signs truly did Jesus in the midst of his disciples which are not written in this book; but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ and that believing, ye might have life through his name” (John 20:30-31). Faith, the faculty for seeing the unseen, comes from testimony and evidence and in no other way.

As such, it is “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). And let me add one other thing: you will search in vain to find one passage of scripture in all the Bible that affirms that a man is saved at the point of faith alone (James 2:24). Bible faith always obeys. That’s simple enough, isn’t it?

What the Bible says about the church can be understood. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “...upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” In Acts 2:47, we are told “...and

the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved.” The first passage affirms that the Lord intended to build His church, the second necessarily implies that He did so. Now when it had been accomplished, whose church was it? What name should it wear? Is it not Christ’s church? The term Church of Christ is not just a name to distinguish one denomination from another. It denotes possession. It states to whom the church belongs. The term Church of Christ is intended to describe the saved belonging to Christ, the ekklesia, (“called out”) which belongs to Christ.

Further, we are told in the book of Ephesians that the church is the body of Christ. If the church is the body in Ephesians 1:22-23, is it not the body in Ephesians 4? And if there is only one body in Ephesians 4, does that not mean there is only one church? Remember, too, that you are not in the church to be saved; you’re in the church because you are saved. The church is the saved. Isn’t that simple?

What the Bible says about baptism can be understood. I’ve always been amazed that men have had so much trouble over whether or not baptism is essential for salvation. Can we just not understand what the Bible says about baptism? For instance, in Acts 2:38, Peter told the people on Pentecost, “repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins...” How hard is that? Can’t we understand that? If I said, “the student that works hard and passes all his courses will be graduated” does that mean all one has to do is work hard to graduate? You mean he doesn’t have to pass all his courses? And when Saul was told in Acts 22:16, “arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,” why is that so hard to understand? Does baptism wash away sins or not? Nobody says it does it without faith, but how come we have so much trouble seeing that salvation can’t come by faith only either? And when Romans 6 says that we “...are buried with him by baptism,” how is it some can argue that sprinkling is baptism? Is that that hard? How can a burial be accomplished by sprinkling?

And please be advised, these are not statements that set forth “Church of Christ doctrine,” they are just actual statements about baptism from the Bible. And if they don’t mean anything, how can we be sure if the statements about faith or repentance, or remission of sins mean anything? I aver that these statements can be understood by any person who is honestly searching for what the Bible says about baptism. Isn’t that simple?

What the Bible says about falling from grace can

be understood. Most of the denominational world subscribes to the Calvinistic doctrine that says that once a man has been saved he cannot so sin so as to fall from grace. Where is that in the Bible? Where does the Bible say once saved, always saved? Do you mean to tell me that there is no sin, no illicit manner of life, no blasphemy that will cause a man to lose his soul once he has been saved? The word of God says that the grace of God can be received in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1); that grace can be turned into lasciviousness (Jude 4); that it can be frustrated and made void (Galatians 2:21); and that you can fall from it (Galatians 5:4). And what could Peter have meant when he said, “IF ye do these things ye shall never fall”? What is the IF if it’s not IF? What does IF mean if it’s not IF? That’s certainly simple enough, isn’t it?

Admittedly, the Bible is difficult in some places. Some passages take time and serious investigation to understand. But not so those things so necessary to salvation. Even the simplest person can understand and act upon the commands having to do with being saved.

-via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



Our Identity

Randy Harshbarger

The search for identity is not a new one. It is perhaps inherent in man that he wants to know “who he is.” Many search for long-lost relatives seeking a link with their past. We hear much these days about “self-image.” We are told that many people have a “low” self-image. These feelings of inferiority may stem from economic, social, educational, or racial disadvantages; whatever the reason(s), it all contributes to feelings of worthlessness.

Our children are taught in school that they are just “animals” who evolved from “lower forms of life.” Then, there is the “I’m O.K., you’re O.K.” mentality, which says: “I love me. I am not conceited. I’m just a good friend to myself. And I like to do whatever makes

me feel good.” Psychology Today might approve, but what would the Lord say? What does He say about who we are? If we are Christians, how then should we describe ourselves? Do we use the selfpossessed mantras of modern society? As followers of Christ, how are we defined; how do we live our lives?

Jesus makes it clear that those who follow Him must turn from self and turn to Him. “And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34). Jesus said that He “must” go to His cross, and that we “must” follow Him. If He is to be our Savior, then we have no choice about the way we will live our lives. Daily consecration is a must (Luke 9:23). Jesus had His cross; we have ours.

Every man condemned to die by crucifixion was compelled to carry his cross. The cross beam, or patibulum, was strapped to the condemned man’s shoulders; he was then paraded through the streets, subject to the jeers and ridicule of the masses. When Jesus was carrying his cross to Calvary, he stumbled under its weight; then Simon of Cyrene was pressed into service (Mark 15:21). Bearing our cross as we follow Jesus can only mean that we put ourselves into the position of a condemned man on his way to execution.

Our cross is not a cantankerous husband or an irritable wife. Our cross symbolizes death to SELF. We do not face the threat of physical death, but we do “crucify” the old man of sin. Paul said: “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14). The cross of Christ helps us lose our fondness for the world. Having died to sin, we continue to die to self. For the Christian, life is the relentless pursuit of Christ and His will.

We must turn from the idolatry of selfcenteredness. Jesus values all people. He died, even for the publicans and sinners and Samaritans and Gentiles and Pharisees. Yes, he died even for you and me. What Christ desires of each of us is our heart. Selfish ambition, power, and comfort are traded for sacrifice, service, and suffering. In Christ we are new creatures. Having put on the new man, we have been... created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:24). Unworthy? Yes! Worthless? No!

-via *Stallings Drive Bulletin*; Nachogdoches, Texas.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

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

In The Hospital:

Beverly Sutton; Vanderbilt Med. Ctr., Nashville

Ray Kennedy; Huntsville Hospital, CICU

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

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Marlon Meals** and all the family in the passing

of Marlon's father, *Marshall Meals*. His funeral was Thursday afternoon at Spry Funeral Home. He was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

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.

J. C. CONN (1925 – 2015): It is with sadness that we noted the passing of brother *J. C. Conn*. Brother Conn had been a longtime member of the Market Street church. In recent years, brother Conn's health had decline to the point that he was unable to be at services and we have missed his presence among us. We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Opal and all the family* in the passing of J.C. Conn. His funeral will be this afternoon at 3:00 at Spry Funeral Home Chapel. The burial will be at Roselawn Cemetery.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Cartwright church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Tuesday evening. *David Cox* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Jones Road church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. *Chuck Bartlett* will be the speaker in this meeting...The *Ardmore church* in Ardmore is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speakers for this meeting are: *Sunday morning – Bobby Graham; Sunday evening – Scott Richardson; Monday evening – Jeff May; Tuesday evening – Greg Gwin; Wednesday evening – David Cox.*

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of April 5th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 140
Morning Worship 207
Evening Worship..... 118

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 107

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 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

Wednesday, April 15th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... 1 Corinthians 1:1-
..... Danny Johnson
Prayer Landon Adams
Invitation Jotdan Lovell
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Sunday, April 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Marty Adams
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Bart Brown
..... Cody Kennedy James Johnson
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 19th:

Usher Marvin Putman
Work Sound System Terry Andrews