

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

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

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

Volume VII

April 26, 2015

No. 17

Please Join Us For Our

Gospel Meeting

April 26 - 30

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday - 9:45 am; 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**

Not Our Workmanship, But His

Bill Hall

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

When one is baptized he becomes a new creation, but he is not the creation of any man. He is the workmanship of God.

He is not the workmanship of the person who converted him – not primarily, anyway. Man can teach, influence, persuade, and baptize; but only God can cleanse, forgive, raise a person to sit with Christ in the heavenly places, and give him new life. He is God’s creation – God’s workmanship. Just as surely as no man could create an “Adam,” just that surely no man can create a new creature in Christ.

Neither is one self-made. In Christ, one does not lift himself “by his own bootstraps.” Christianity is not a “do-it-yourself religion” – not in the fullest sense. One does not effect his own salvation through his own merit. Rather, in obedience to the gospel and faithfulness as a Christian, he places himself as clay in God’s hand, to become the work of the divine Potter, who molds, shapes, and perfects him that he might be fashioned in the image of His Son.

He is the workmanship of God because his salvation is “by grace...through faith,” “the gift of” God (Ephesians 2:8-9). If one’s salvation were of meritorious works, he would not be the workmanship of God. This is the primary thrust of the passage.

The workmanship of God exists as a monument to the greatness of the Potter; as a beautiful painting is a monument to an artist, so a mature and perfected Christian is a monument to the marvelous power of God. Such a person is a product of God’s grace and exists for “the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14; 3:14-19). That God could take a Peter, a John, a Saul of Tarsus, an Aquila, a Priscilla, a John Mark, and mold him or her into the lovely vessel each became is a manifestation of His greatness. That He could do the same for people this writer has known and observed equally manifests His greatness. That He can and will do the same for me if I will but submit myself to His care in humble obedience, trust, and prayer is the great-

est marvel of all.

The workmanship of God must be handled with care. Such a person is special, precious, priceless to God. As one is cautious in handling a family heirloom or rare piece of pottery fashioned by the hands of a master, so we must be cautious in our treatment of that creation which is the work of God. “Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food,” Paul warned the Romans (Romans 14:20). That person toward whose tender conscience you are showing little regard or whose soul you are placing in jeopardy is the work of God. Love that person. Appreciate him. Be tender toward him. Recognize his value. Handle with care!

The workmanship of God must never be content until it is brought to perfection. “Finish then thy new creation,” Charles Wesley wrote in his familiar hymn, “Love Divine.” In keeping with this, Paul could express his confidence in the Philippian Christians, “That He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6-7).

Only those who remain in the Potter’s hands until brought to completion and perfection become vessels of honor. All others become marred and fit only for destruction (2 Timothy 2:19- 21).

Let no man, then, boast of himself. Selfrighteousness has no place in the heart of a Christian. If any man boast, “let him glory in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:31) and “in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14). We are His workmanship.

-via *Mediate On These Things*; Woodlawn, New York.

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Look Out For The Hook!

Allen Dvorak

I enjoy fishing. Just being close to a river or lake can make my reel hand twitch. But I stand in awe of those fishermen whose tackle boxes look like a division of the Smithsonian Institute. They are constantly in search of the best temptation for their favorite fish, the bait with the right motion, smell, colors and size. As one whose tackle box usually is a jumbled repository

of rusted hooks, small bits of dried worms, broken reel parts, itinerant fishing weights and sundry pieces of fishing line of various weights, I admire the angler who, at a moment's notice, can lay his hand upon the exact lure for the current time of day, depth of water and expected prey.

Satan is an accomplished angler. He is a tempter (see Matthew 4:3) and James explains how temptation leads to sin. He writes, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:14-15). Satan makes use of our own desires to tempt us, dangling the bait of anticipated pleasure in front of us. We sin when we yield to the temptation; we "take the bait" and the body acts to fulfill our sinful desires. Satan reels us in. Many times I have fished without success. Sometimes I knew that fish were present, but I couldn't find the right bait or the right presentation of it.

Nothing I cast before them was of particular appeal and so we ate beef instead of fish at the next meal. Satan understands that not all of us are tempted by the exact same bait. For some, physical pleasures (alcohol, illicit drugs, fornication, i.e., the lust of the flesh) are the lure which captures the attention. For others, fame or power is the bait that entices (the pride of life; see 1 John 2:16). Understanding, however, the relationship between our own desires, temptation and sin is invaluable in the battle against temptation. The fish that won't bite doesn't get caught. The person who guards his thoughts and controls his desires may be tempted, but he avoids sin.

The manufacturers of lures understand that the most effective lure closely resembles the real thing, the customary, savory and harmless food of the fish. Satan's baits employ similar deception. Have you noticed that sin frequently seems so good, promising pleasure and satisfaction? It is only after we have seized the bait that we realize that we have been taken captive. What fish enjoys the feel of the hook? Be careful; Satan is a tireless angler. He is apparently not discouraged if he doesn't catch me on the first cast. He changes baits. Sometimes he attempts to wear down my resistance by repeated presentations of the same bait. The good news is that, despite his fishing ability, the Scriptures assure me that I can win against temptation (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9).

-via *Mining The Scriptures*; Madison, Tennessee.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Beverly Sutton
Sarah Collier
Barbara Allfrey
Lona Killen
Essie Hardison
Gwen Bullock
Carl Hargrave
Linda Ordonez
Michael Vaughn
Al Pollard
Anita Willis
Matt Poff
Charles Burns
Ann Bush
Helen Rushing
Analynn Tegg

Addison White
Buddy Pepper
Jennifer Threet
Irene Inman
Marjorie Dunnivant
Robert & Mot Beasley
Ray Kennedy
Ava Brooke Campbell
Pat Goodin
Elizabeth Kate Miller
Dan Williams
Una King Carrier
Gene Carpenter
Cecil Cox
Phillip Harwell

In The Hospital:

Eli Williams; M.D. Anderson – Houston, Texas

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

Limestone Health Facility:

Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E Elizabeth Ann Gray, r. 104

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

Yvonne Sherbert, at son's home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Gayle Ball** and all the family in the passing of Gayle's nephew, **Tommy Woodward**. His funeral was Wednesday in Tuscaloosa. . .Also, we want to express our deepest sympathy to **Ronnie Locke** in the passing of his brother-in-law, **James Coggins**. He passed away on Friday and there will be a graveside service at Roselawn Cemetery this afternoon at 2:00.

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.

OUR MEETING THIS WEEK: Today we begin our Gospel Meeting with Bill Hall preaching. Brother Hall will be speaking to the High School class and up this morning during the Bible class period, the worship period this morning and our worship this afternoon. The meeting will continue through Thursday evening. Remember to tell others about the meeting and invite them to join us. Nearly 2000 invitations have been distributed by hand and over the Facebook. I know that those who come to hear brother Hall will be taught and encouraged in living lives that will please God.

The Song Leaders for the weeknights of the meeting will be as follows: Monday – Tommy Burns
Tuesday – Stefan Fudge
Wednesday – Tony Thomas
Thursday – Hunter Cox

Remember to pray for the meeting.

VBS MEETING: We will meet this afternoon for a Vacation Bible School meeting at 4:00. The VBS will be June 15-18. We will be discussing the curriculum that we plan to use this year and make general plans. I hope that all of our teachers can be there.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of April 19th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 131

Morning Worship 183

Evening Worship..... 124

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 110

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching Bill Hall
Lord's Supper
Presiding Mike Ogles
Assisting Norman Brown
Serving Stefan Fudge..... Danny Johnson
..... Heath Dollar Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Keith Hinkle
Preaching Bill Hall
Lord's Supper Mike Ogles
Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 26th:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Matry Adams

Wednesday, April 29th:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
Bible Reading.....(No Reading Meeting)
.....
Prayer Dan Reed
Invitation Bill Hall
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Sunday, May 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Ronnie Locke
Serving Landon Adams Jason Conn
..... Terry Andrews Steve Usery
Closing Prayer Arvid McGuire

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Larry Mithcell
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 3rd:

Usher Marvin Putman
Work Sound System Matry Adams