

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

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No. 19

Doing Things Exactly Right

Jim Deason

The scene is the small village of Kiriath Jearim about 8.5 miles west of Jerusalem. It is the time of David (1Chronicles 13:1-10). The ark of the covenant was taken by the Philistines more than 50 years earlier but they didn't keep it long. God's severe judgment upon them led them to send the ark back to Israel where it ended up in the house of Abinadab. David determined to transport the ark to Jerusalem. It was a time of great celebration. He placed the ark upon Abinadab's new cart, driven by Uzza and Ahio but something went terribly wrong. The oxen upset the cart and the ark was about to fall when Uzza stretched out his hand to steady it. In His burning anger, God struck Uzza "because he put out his hand to the ark; and he died before the Lord" (1 Chronicles 13:10).

Why was God angry with Uzza? Why did he die? Because Uzza (and David) ignored clear instruction from God relative to transporting the ark (cf. Exodus 25:9, 12-15; Numbers 4:5,15). Aaron and his sons were to cover the ark and the sons of Kohath carry it. Specific warning was given: If you touch the holy objects, you will die! Uzza did. God is serious about men listening to His word and carrying out His instructions. We can never be too impressed with the need to do things exactly right.

What God Has Always Wanted

God has always wanted men to obey His will exactly and completely. He instructed Noah to build the ark of gopher wood, 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. It was to have a window, a door, and three levels within. "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did" (Genesis 6:22). Noah built the ark exactly as God instructed him. By doing so, he saved his house (Hebrews 11:7).

Moses told Israel, "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2). The Lord said to Joshua, "be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or

to the left..." (Joshua 1:7). Man has never been left to his own devices, to find his own way, or to serve God on his own terms (Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12). God has spoken! And when He speaks, we need to listen and heed!

God will not tolerate additions to His word. "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9).

God wants us to do all that He asks. King Saul made the mistake of sparing Agag, the Amalekite king, after God instructed him, "...go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him..." (1 Samuel 15:3). Samuel's commentary on Saul's actions was clear, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22). Because of his disobedience, Saul lost his kingdom (1 Samuel 15:22).

God does not give us the prerogative to substitute what we want for what He says. The sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, "offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them" (Leviticus 10:1-2) and perished for their disobedience.

Where Do We Apply These Lessons?

We can require neither more nor less in the plan of salvation than what God requires. The Bible teaches that the alien sinner must believe (Mark 16:16; Acts 16:31), repent of his sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30), confess Jesus to be God's Son (Romans 10:9,10; Acts 8:36-37), and be baptized for the remission of his sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16). I cannot assure folks they can be saved by doing anything less. I cannot tell people that they are forgiven at the point of faith. Faith is not all that God requires. Neither can I choose to add to God's conditions of pardon.

We should neither preach or practice more nor less concerning the worship of the church than what God sets forth. In the New Testament, when God's people assembled to worship on the first day of the week they partook of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7), there was preaching (Acts 20:7), prayer (Acts 2:42), singing (1 Corinthians 14:15; Colossians 3:16; Ephesian 5:19), and they gave to support the church's work (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). We dare not do less (omit prayer?). We cannot do more (add instrumental music?). We must obey God exactly.

We should preach or practice neither more nor less concerning the work of the church than what God sets forth (evangelism, edification, benevolence). Dare we omit the work of evangelism (hmm!)? There is a growing need for benevolence in our country and across the world, dare we say "no?" Should we burden the church with other work (recreation, entertainment, etc.) while these needs go unmet?

As with David and Uzza, we have clear instruction from God which will "equip us for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We would be well advised to heed it.

-via *Biblical Insights*; Vol. 12 No. 5, May 2012

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Self-Justification

Don Truex

The New Testament is constantly up to date. It has proven time and again that the nature and attitudes of mankind simply have not changed. Consider the account of Luke 10:25-29. A lawyer asked the question, "*Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*" Jesus turned the question back to the man so that the lawyer might be "enlightened." *When the lawyer said that the man should love God and his neighbor, the Lord answered him, "This do and you shall live."* The insincerity of the man's question was revealed in the following verse: "*But he, wishing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, and who is my neighbor?*"

This incident vividly portrays the attitude of so many in regard to divine instruction. Let a man be faced with duties and responsibilities imposed on him by God and excuses and attempts at self-justification often abound. We must understand that "seeking to justify himself" is merely a polite way of expressing one's self-condemnation.

If we would devote as much thought toward spiritual service as we devote to self-justification and the manufacturing of excuses, our potential would be limitless. Yet, rather than recognizing the task before us and getting about the business of accomplishing it, we

vainly try to make allowances for our deficit thinking and performance. Often, one spends more time in the attempt to justify himself for failure to perform a task than would have been required to do it, and do it well.

In the religious realm, man often attempts to justify himself for not having obeyed the Lord by pointing an accusing finger at the supposed “hypocrisy” of some who are members. Others point to the lack of spirituality of their father or mother, grandparents, (or anyone else in their genealogy who will suit the purpose) and excuse their own rebellion because of the “profound” influence these had upon him. However, when you tear away the sham and pretense, the reason for their disobedience is obvious: They simply do not want to obey, yet they do desire to absolve the guilt of their conscience “wishing to justify” a lust for prominence, power, and praise, a man may speak of his profound intellect and broad experience. Oh, he may never do so in boisterous terms or ambitious claims. Instead, the words are subtle and with an air of seeming embarrassment. The naive are deceived. God Almighty and the spiritually mature have seen this ploy before and are not impressed. The thirst to dominate is a very repulsive thing. Its fruit is dissension. Its end is disappointment, both for the protagonist who must live with his unrequited and ungodly lust, and his followers who inevitably become disillusioned with the unceasing tension and turmoil.

“Wishing to justify himself,” a man may claim that he would love to aid the work but is just “too busy” to accept any further responsibility. Yes, he is too busy if that is the case. I realize we have a host of secular obligations which must be fulfilled. Yet, if our priorities are not properly aligned, if Christ has been relegated to the back seat of our lives, and if our influence for good is destroyed by materialistic ambition, then we must suffer spiritually as does the church of which we are members.

A family “wishing to justify” themselves explained to me that they just can’t attend services, for their children don’t seem to be interested in religion. What is the source of this disinterest? Does it not spring from a lethargic, indifferent, and callous attitude observed in their parents? Let’s be consistent in the matter. A child in the second grade comes home from school and announces he is no longer interested in education. Will the parents take this in stride, announce this as fine, and that the entire family will now follow a course of

secular ignorance? Spare me, please.

A careful analysis discloses that one of the fundamental differences between the sincere child of God and the hypocrite is the attitude manifested toward faults and shortcomings. The hypocrite is always ready with an excuse in an attempt to “justify himself,” failing to realize that rationalization will never obtain justification. The Christian, on the other hand, recognizes his fault, confesses, seeks forgiveness, and makes a change in his life.

In which category do you belong?

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Paul Hasting	Sarah Collier
Beverly Sutton	Jeanette Weir
Buddy Pepper	Barbara Allfrey
Lona Killen	Irene Inman
Essie Hardison	Marjorie Dunnivant
Gwen Bullock	Carl Hargrave
Ray Kennedy	Jimmy Stanford
Phillip Harwell	Helen Rushing
Linda Ordonez	Ava Brooke Campbell
Michael Vaughn	Pat Goodin
Al Pollard	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Anita Willis	Dan Williams
Matt Poff	Una King Currier
Charles Burns	Gene Carpenter
Ann Bush	Analynn Tegg

In The Hospital:

Arvid McGuire; Huntsville 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	Matty 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
Helen Trousdale, rm. 63	

Limestone Health Facility:

Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E	Elizabeth Ann Gray, r. 104
Earl Davis, rm. 109	YuVawn Blakley, rm. 92

Limestone Manor:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 84 Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

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

WORK GROUPS: Work Group two will be meeting this evening after our evening service.

GRADUATES: It is the time of year that schools have their graduation exercises. This year **Keenon Currier** is a graduate among us. He is graduating from **Athens High School** the week after next. There will be a reception honoring Keenon at the Gathering Place in New Haven next Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30. Keenon's graduation invitation for the congregation has been placed on the on the bulletin board in the foyer.

CONFESSION: We are rejoicing this week over **Kenia Adams** coming forward last Sunday evening to confess and repent of sins. We rejoice that Kenia has been restored to God and His people and appreciate her desire to please God. May we all encourage Kenia as she has and will encourage us in our lives in serving God.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Julie Meals** and all the family in the passing of Julie's grandmother, **Leota Mitchell** this past Sunday. Her funeral was on Tuesday afternoon and she was laid to rest in the Mitchell Cemetery at Anderson.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of May 3rd

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 120

Morning Worship 180

Evening Worship..... 122

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 116



June 15 – 18, 2015

(Monday through Thursday)

10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Keenon Currier David Terry
..... Bill Claxton Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 10th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, May 13th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading..... (1 Corinthians 3:1-15)
..... Keenon Currier
Prayer Marty Adams
Invitation Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Sunday, May 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting Mike Ogles
Serving Danny Johnson Bart Brown
..... Marcus Morris Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 17th:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Landon Adams