

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

June 28, 2015

No. 26

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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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 Influence of a "Regular Member"

Sewell Hall

In response to my article on page 5 of the July issue of Christianity Magazine 1995, I received the following letter from Dave Morris, who was a member of the Romulus Michigan church when I was preaching there.

"I just had to respond to your recent article about Wednesday Night." It stirred all kinds of memories I thought I would share with you.

When I first obeyed the gospel in the late 60's, I never missed an assembly. I had all the initial zeal of a babe in Christ who at least understood that my sins were forgiven and I was excited and thankful for that. But as is often the case, my initial zeal waned and I began missing occasional Sunday night and occasional Wednesday night Bible Study.

It became a pattern that was noticed by L.A. Mott and Phil Morr who came to the house to encourage me. I know in my heart they were right and I would do better for a while, but then I drifted into the same pattern again. They failed to reach me. I figured it was "their job" as preachers at Romulus to talk to me about these things and I sort of dismissed their efforts.

What turned it around for me was one of the "regular members" who also noticed my attendance pattern and took the time to speak to me whenever I would miss any assembly. It was Alice Brown. My thinking at the time was that it really wasn't her job to do this; it was the preachers' job and, while I knew they were right, I was able to keep them at bay. I was impressed, however, that she cared enough to talk to me and was patient enough to listen to or endure my flimsy excuses.

We both worked at the Hydra-matic Transmission Plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and I was the maintenance electrician in the area where she worked. When I would miss an assembly, I could be sure she would request an electrician the very next day and I would be required to see her whether I wanted to or not. Pretty clever on her part, huh? She would invariably say, "Oh, there's nothing wrong with my machine, I just wondered where you were yesterday if anything was wrong?"

I remember one conversation in particular. She asked kindly where I was the previous day and I told her I was too tired to come. She said, "Can you imagine how tired Christ was carrying the cross?" And my cheeks burned with shame. I was okay after that. The point I wanted to make was how the genuine concern of a "regular member" can make a difference. I really miss Alice Brown!

Later, as our kids were growing up, they knew what we would be doing on Sunday nights and Wednesday evening. No exceptions. As you said, it was a matter of attitude and priority and I wasn't even sure if Hebrews 10:25 applied to those "extra" assemblies, but I knew it was important for me to be there for my own edification and for that of others, as well as an example to my family. All the kids had not obeyed the gospel, but the right pattern had been set for them.

My son, Larry, who preaches for our church in St. James, Missouri, had a marvelous attitude when he was still in high school. As I said before, in our family there was no decision making to be done as to whether we would or would not be assembling we just did it. Larry was on the track team and they had a track meet on Wednesday after school. He ran a cross country race and when he crossed the finish line, he didn't stop like everyone else, but kept on running until he got home just in time to leave for services. I don't remember now if he had time to take a shower or not, but he was in the car when we backed out of the driveway.

Another time, Robin was the "lead" in a drama production at school and the rehearsals were to be on Wednesday nights. She told them that she couldn't make the rehearsals because of Bible study and they were flabbergasted and upset. Robin held out, and they changed the rehearsals to another evening. I found this out later.

Alice Brown died several years ago, but many others besides the Dave Morris family would give significant credit for their faithfulness to the encouragement of Alice and her good husband, Burt. She was a modest lady who had no ambitions for public service, but for years to come, the light from her life will shine in the lives of those of us whom she influenced for good.

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

Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 5:00.

The Conversion of Cornelius

Randy Harshbarger

The conversion of Cornelius is interesting and important for several reasons. And the case of Cornelius has become the seed bed for much false teaching about the Holy Spirit, baptism, and the operation of the Spirit in the matter of conversion. It is true, as James D. Bates said: "... unless we study the word of God with honest hearts and diligent minds we may be misled ourselves and we may mislead others" (The Case of Cornelius, preface).

Most people after reading of Cornelius' credentials would probably conclude that he really did not need to be converted. To say that someone was a centurion was to say that he was an outstanding leader of other men. As leader of a band or cohort, Cornelius had responsibility for at least 100 Roman soldiers. Yet, all men, military included, need the salvation that only the Lord can provide. This military man was also exhibited humility of heart and life. Cornelius was a devout man, who feared God (cf. Acts 2:10; 8:2). Does this mean that he was a proselyte to Judaism and had imbibed the monotheism and ethics of the Jews? Perhaps not, since some in Jerusalem protested Peter's actions (Acts 11:1-3). Still, it is possible that Cornelius had been favorably influenced by his contact with the Jews. We can appreciate the religious tone of Cornelius' life.

Yes, this generous, praying man, who wielded a good influence over his household was lost; not because of these things, but in spite of all these things (Acts 11:14). The fact that he enjoyed a sterling reputation among the Jews (something that was not often true, given the relationship between the Jews and Romans), and even received a vision from the Lord, did not eliminate his need to hear the saving gospel. It is true that a good moral life and a good attitude provide fertile soil for the reception of the gospel; it is also true, that goodness alone does not and cannot save. Many folks today, who could never measure up to Cornelius, still do not believe they need to be saved. They believe they are already saved. Moral goodness alone cannot save; only the blood of Jesus can free one from sin.

Clearly, Cornelius wanted to hear further instructions from the Lord. "Forthwith therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now

therefore we are all here present in the sight of God, to hear all things that have been commanded thee of the Lord” (Acts 10:33).

Cornelius wanted to hear a message from God; he recognized that he was in the presence of God. He wanted to hear all the things the Lord wanted him to hear. What a wonderful audience it was, that Peter faced. They were eager to learn and to do God’s will.

No man, not even Cornelius can save himself. Our sin means we have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Good moral people need to hear the same command issued by Peter to Cornelius: “...he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:35).

None are good enough to merit their salvation. Any claim to self-righteousness says that Christ is unnecessary. The desire to hear God’s word says that we have sinned and that we need the Lord.

We may discharge our obligations to other men; until we meet the higher obligations we owe to God, we cannot be saved. Cornelius says: “Be receptive and obey.” Will we do it?

~via *The Stallings Drive Bulletin*; Nachogdoches, Texas.

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Strangers

Don P. Hooton

Just the word makes most people shudder. Our children have been told not to talk to or ever go with them anywhere. Maybe you’ve taught your kids this lesson in our wicked world.

It’s funny though. Christians are Strangers - really. When Peter wrote to Christians as they dealt with their wicked world, he called them resident aliens (1 Peter 1: 17; 2:11) and nonresident aliens (1:1; 2:11). The former word in Greek describes those who; “dwell beside others or live near others without the rights of citizenship.” In the latter, the word describes those who “are temporarily staying beside others who live in the land.”

Christians, when they become comfortable with

Christ – never really feel at home in this world anymore. It should be more than just a song we sing. You see the world does not know us (1 John 3:1) and even Jesus said that “the world hates you ... because I have chosen you” John 15:18-19). Why would we feel at home with that? One man wrote, “The measure of our discord with the world is our measure of our accord with the Savior.” And the Savior gave us something to get comfortable with Him. And that gift is His Word (John 17:14). So if you stand on the word, you’ll find the world more and more uncomfortable. Sometimes I’m afraid that what some think our world is becoming more Christian are really Christians becoming worldlier. We can’t have both.

So how comfortable is the world to you? Like a glove? Don’t make this world your home. Make the godly life the common path for you and be happy being strangers.

~via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Doris Lovell	Marie Nave
Ruth Legg	Arvid McGuire
Jeanette Weir	Essie Hardison
Irene Inman	Lona Killen
Buddy Pepper	Marjorie Dunnivant
Gwen Bullock	James Abernathy
Linda Ordonez	Bennie Pepper
Gene Carpenter	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Ray Kennedy	Pam Perry
Phillip Harwell	Eli Williams
Ann Bush	Ava Brooke Campbell
Michael Vaughn	Pat Goodin
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
Analynn Tegg	Helen Rushing
Matt Poff	Una King Currier
Ben Hinkle	Dan Williams
YaVawn Blakely	Elizabeth Ann Gray
Anita Willis	Donna Todd

In The Hospital:

Sharon Nave; Decatur General; rm. 450

Cecil Cox; Keestone – Florence; rm 105

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
 Helen Trousdale, rm. 43

Limestone Health Facility:

Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

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:

Hazel Brooks, at home

Wynell Casteel, at home

Carl Hargrave, in Hartselle at granddaughter's

Yvonne Sherbert, at son's home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

RACHEL DAVIS CLEM (1925 – 2015): It is with sadness that we note the passing of sister Rachel Clem. Sister Clem was a longtime member of the Market Street church. She had battled cancer for quite sometime and fought a hard battle. We have missed her presence among us. We want to express our deepest sympathy to all the family. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon.

CONFESSION: We rejoiced Wednesday evening when ***Jennifer Threet*** came forward repenting of sins and asking for prayers and help from her brethren. We appreciate the good attitude of Jennifer and may we all encourage her as she has and will encourage us.

BAPTISM: We rejoiced last weekend as ***Mot Beasley*** decided to be baptized. Mot had been baptized early in her life, and she began to have doubts concerning her baptism. Mot's desire is to please the Lord in all things, and she determined to be baptized. We are thankful for Mot and her good heart.

OUTOFTOWN: *The Greers:* James, Edwina, Levi and Laura Kate are now back home after being in Gatlinburg last week on vacation...***Nancy Hardison*** is in North Carolina visiting.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of June 21st

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 145
 Morning Worship 193
 Evening Worship..... 147

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 132

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Hunter Cox
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Tommy Coblenz
 Assisting Kenneth Smith
 Serving Landon Adams Heath Dollar
 Cody Kennedy Marvin Putman
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Steve Usery
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblenz
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 28th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, July 1st:

Song Leader Sermon In Song
 Bible Reading.....

 Prayer Tommy Coblenz
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Seth Todd

Sunday, July 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Tommy Coblenz
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Russell Melvin
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Bart Brown Seth Todd
 David Terry Kenneth Adams
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper Russell Melvin
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 5th:

Usher Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System Landon Adams