

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

July 5, 2015

No. 27

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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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

True Believers

L. A. Stauffer

"True belief" is biblical to the core and calls on disciples to die for the Lord's cause.

"True Believers" is the expression often used to describe followers who believe implicitly in a person or cause. It denotes believers so committed that they will die for their faith. Call them "religious nuts" or "fanatics," but don't call them weak-minded or cowards.

True believers are not plagued with doubts. Nor are they intimidated by threats. They know no fear, and no consequence for their belief deters them from the course they have set for themselves. They will keep the faith, they will fight any battle, and they will finish what they have determined to accomplish.

True believers are best exemplified in this twenty-first century by many followers of the Moslem faith. The believe in Allah, they are confident that he has spoken through the "prophet" Mohammed and they are dedicated to leaders who purport to teach the ways of Mohammedanism.

When leaders tell them to strap on dynamite belts and blow themselves to bits in a crowded restaurant or the lobby of a prominent hotel, fly a plane into a skyscraper, or take up weapons of warfare and enter battle, true believers unhesitatingly follow orders – even knowing that they will die.

They follow their leaders because they believe in the cause and in the promises that are set before them. If their leaders promise them a "materialistic" heaven of drinking, partying, and sex, they believe unequivocally. That faith may bring death, but they revel in the goal they seek to accomplish on earth and in the fruit of these earthly promises in heaven.

As detestable as these methods and promises may be, the principle of true belief is biblical to the core. Disciples of Christ are to be men and women of faith, but not the "faith alone" of reformation theology. It is the "obedience of faith" Paul taught in the book of Romans and James

detailed in his epistle to Christians of the Dispersion (Romans 1:5; 16:26; James 2:14-26).

It is a “disciplined” faith of “disciples” who have been called to deny themselves and take up their cross to walk in the footsteps of their Teacher—Jesus (Luke 9:23). As their Master dedicated Himself unto His Father’s will even unto death, so they must love not their lives even unto death. They take up their crosses to die both inwardly and physically for the Lord’s cause (see Galatians 2:20; Revelation 2:10; 12:11).

True believers of Jesus are not called to brandish “carnal weapons” of warfare, but to arm themselves with righteousness and truth in a spiritual battle against the spiritual host of wickedness. Their goal? To bring every thought into captivity of obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3,4; Ephesians 6:10-17). No cause has ever been so noble.

True believers are not here to thrust men through with flashing metal swords, blow them to smithereens with powdered explosives or shoot solid projectiles into their bodies. Jesus brought to this world a “sword” – an idea that divides families and communities and nations, a scheme of human redemption that removes sin both through forgiveness and in development of character. It creates a body of people that knows no compromise and fights every false way (Matthew 10:34-39; Colossians 2:8).

True believers of Jesus are staunch, steadfast, and unmovable (1 Corinthians 15:58). They commit themselves to a body of truth -- the scriptures; they contend for the authority of those scriptures; they promulgate the teaching of scriptures; they fight the good fight of faith by insisting that all men believe and obey the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16,17; John 8:32; Matthew 7:21; 1 Timothy 6:12).

True believers of Jesus, however, are not belligerent; they are not unloving and hateful; they have no agenda to destroy antagonists of truth; they live in harmony alongside unbelievers and the disobedient; they let the light of righteousness and holiness shine in love, goodness, gentleness, kindness, and peace that by their good works they may win infidels and carnal men (Galatians 5:22,23; Romans 12:18; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Matthew 5:16).

True believers of Jesus have no promises of material prosperity, physical pleasures, or worldly indulgences

to offer prospective believers. They, indeed, look unto a recompense of reward, but it consists of “spiritual” treasures in heaven that know no decay or defilement. Heaven is a home for glorified saints who receive spiritual bodies, a paradise of rest from their struggles and labors in a sinfilled world, an escape from sickness and suffering and pain and dying, a fellowship of just and righteous men and women who have been perfected by the grace of a merciful Creator (Matthew 6:19; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 14:13; 21:3,4; Hebrews 12:22-24).

The principal issue for every Christian is the decision to believe--truly, actually, really, genuinely. Where this faith resides lives fanatical zeal. Not a fanaticism that is insane, misguided, erratic, and unpredictable. But a zeal that is devoted to God, to Christ, to the scriptures, and to the life they have called all men to live. Yes, it will seek to teach and convert; it will seek to inculcate obedience to truth; it will compromise with no other way -- be it Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism, or Mohammedanism. And, yes, true believers will die for this cause, but not in the murder and destruction of others. They will live peaceably with all men, but with the understanding that truth matters and that truth is found in the life and teaching of Jesus the Messiah as taught in the Bible (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:4).

True believers of Jesus believe that He is “the Way, and the Truth, and the Life” -- and that there is no other way to the Father but through Him in His church. They will zealously follow Him and devotedly defend Him -- even unto death (John 14:6; Ephesians 5:27; 1 Corinthians 15:24)!

~via *Biblical Insights*; Vol. 3 No. 9, September 2003

Gospel Meeting

September 13-17, 2015

(Sunday through Thursday)

Gardner Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

Cosmetic Religion

Dan S. Shipley

In the seven “woes” pronounced by Jesus in Matthew 23 are to be found the most severe and scathing rebukes recorded in the entire Bible. In His condemnation of these hypocritical scribes and Pharisees, Jesus likens them unto whited sepulchers, “...which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.” Then He continues, “Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but inwardly ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity” (v.27, 28).

Because men are impressed and influenced by outward appearances (1 Samuel 16:7), and because we all like the approval of others, we must be very careful not to play the role of the hypocrite. Our righteousness must be more than appearance, it must be a way of life. We must develop a consistency of character that is not altered by circumstance or companions. We must avoid the mistake of these scribes and Pharisees and not allow ours to become a cosmetic religion—the kind that is seasonal and superficial and dependent on appearances. And the place to begin cultivating Christ-like character is in the heart and in the home.

Let’s face it! What a person is at home is what he is! Nowhere is true character more obvious—no pretense, no false airs here. And nowhere is a demonstration of spiritual character more needed! Every wife needs the kind of husband who will heed God’s admonition to love her “as Christ also loved the church” (Ephesians 5:25); who will have regard for her needs, her interests and her feelings. Many neglected and mistreated wives wish their husbands were at home what they appear to be in public.

Likewise, men have few earthly blessings to enrich their lives more than a godly wife; one who manifests respect and subjection “as unto the Lord” (Ephesians 5:24,33). Her chaste behavior, shamefastness, sobriety; her meek and quiet spirit and other such qualities reflect an inward adornment highly valued by the Lord (1 Peter 3; 1 Timothy 2)—and by the discerning husband! How regrettable that some women have neglected such adornment in favor of the outward. Regardless of what wives seem to be in public, when they cease to be “keepers at home,” they cease to please the Lord (Titus 2:5). When women become indifferent to God given responsibilities

to husband and home, their religion merely becomes a part of their outward adornment—and the entire family suffers for it.

Consequently, children are hurt immeasurably by parents who practice cosmetic religion. Even little ones recognize the disparity between home and “church-building” conduct—and, in later years will not likely forget it. Parents would do well to begin every day with a vivid and fresh recollection that God wants them to rear their children for heaven! None helps or hinders their eternal welfare more than mother and daddy. But mark it well! Bringing up a child “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” is impossible!—for parents who do not live for the Lord. We must put away religious hypocrisy! Let us make a start—from the heart—beginning at home—today.

~via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Doris Lovell
Jeanette Weir
Irene Inman
Buddy Pepper
Gwen Bullock
Linda Ordonez
Gene Carpenter
Ray Kennedy
Phillip Harwell
Ann Bush
Michael Vaughn
Al Pollard
Analynn Tegg
Matt Poff
Ben Hinkle
YaVawn Blakely
Anita Willis

Patsy Thomas
Essie Hardison
Lona Killen
Marjorie Dunnivant
James Abernathy
Bennie Pepper
Elizabeth Kate Miller
Pam Perry
Eli Williams
Ava Brooke Campbell
Pat Goodin
Charles Burns
Helen Rushing
Una King Currier
Sharon Nave
Elizabeth Ann Gray
Donna Todd

In The Hospital:

Marie Nave; Athens Limestone Hospital; rm. 310
Ross Melvin; Madison Hospital; rm. 402

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 Arvid McGuire, rm 109A

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Limestone Lodge:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 20W

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

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.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to ***Della Johnson*** and all the family in the passing of Della's uncle, ***Dan Williams***, this passed Wednesday morning. His funeral was on Friday afternoon at Limestone Chapel.

OUT OF TOWN: ***The Todds: Seth, Summer, Isabella and Weston*** have been in Florida on vacation this past week...***Polly Leopard and Stephanie Brown*** are in Hondrous visiting with friends...***Nancy Hardison*** is in North Carolina visiting...***The Coxes: David, Kerry, Tyler and Hunter*** along with ***Ida Nell Griffen*** and ***Caleb Hodges*** are in Barbados for a Vacation Bible School and Gospel Meeting this week.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of June 28th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 146
 Morning Worship 191
 Evening Worship..... 140

Wednesday:

 Bible Classes..... 120

Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Tommy Coblentz
Preaching Russell Melvin
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

Wednesday, July 8th:

Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Bible Reading..... (1 Corinthians 7:1-7)
 Seth Todd
Prayer Dan Reed
Invitation Marty Adams
Closing Prayer Steve Bradley

Sunday, July 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Joel Hamm
Assisting Mike Ogles
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Cody Kennedy
 Steve Usery Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer Keith Hinkle
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 12th:

Usher Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System Marty Adams