

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 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

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

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

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Hardened Hearts and Enslaved Minds

Chuck Durham

Christmas time has arrived in our culture. This means a lot of things to different people. But one thing it incurs is the ardent animosity of the atheistic community. Four years ago, The Freedom from Religion Foundation placed a placard condemning religion (depicted in the photo) next to a Nativity scene which is annually displayed in the Legislative Building in Olympia, Washington. Dan Barker, co-founder of the group, said: "If there can be a Nativity scene saying that we are all going to hell if we don't bow down to Jesus, we should be at the table to share our views." Christine Gregoire, the state's governor at the time, and who claims to be a Christian, stated: "...that doesn't mean that as governor I have the right to deny their ability to express their free speech."

I am grateful for the rights our Constitution and Bill of Rights grant us as Americans. No matter how strongly we disagree with the atheist's placard, they have the right to display it. If they can be censored for expressing their views, then Christians could be censored for expressing their views as well. While the Bible does not teach that Jesus was born on December 25th, it does teach that He was born into the flesh on some date during the year! The atheist's attack is obviously aimed at Christianity (see Barker's quote). It does make one wonder how tolerant state officials would have been in singing the praises of "free speech" if this placard had been erected next to a Menorah (targeting the Jewish faith), or next to a display celebrating Ramadan (targeting Islam). Do you suppose the public outcry would have been such that the atheist's placard would have been removed? But in these times, Christianity is "fair" game!

So, let's take up the atheist's challenge. Isn't it interesting that the group claims "absolute" knowledge of all things "seen and un-seen." Mind you, the placard doesn't say, "There may not be gods, devils, angels, heaven, or hell." The placard says, "There are no gods, devils, angels, heaven or hell." They are claiming "omniscience," aren't they? They've seen everything and been everywhere in order to express absolute certainty. Philosophically speaking, you would have to know everything and be able to see all

things in order to claim there is no possibility for the existence of divinity and a spiritual realm. Otherwise, the one area that you didn't search could contain such persons or places. The atomic realm was hidden from view for centuries of time, yet it existed in reality. How arrogant for anyone to claim they have examined all areas and know none of these persons or places exist! Yet that is precisely what the placard infers by its absolute claims. The scoffers in 2 Peter 3:3-4 claimed "omniscience," but Peter reminds his readers that these unbelievers had not searched all the evidence ("the past Noahic flood").

Second, the placard claims that "there is only our natural world." If this is so, then it begs the question regarding how this "natural" world came into existence, doesn't it? All present-day astronomers claim that all matter, energy, time, and space came into existence at the Big Bang. Which means that all this "natural" stuff is not eternal; pre-existing before the Big Bang. It argues ultimately that this "natural" world came from nothing by nothing (if there was no Divine Mind that created it). Yet, in all the physical realities that exist, can anyone prove by the scientific method that something can arise from nothing; coming to exist by its own inherent, mindless power? Things just don't operate this way in our "natural" world, do they? What this means is that the laws which now exist in the "natural" world always demonstrate that there must be sufficient or adequate cause for something to be brought into existence. Nothing comes from nothing. Something comes from something (Hebrews 3:4). Yet, the atheist's placard would have men believe that although our world operates on a "something comes from something" basis, somewhere eons ago there was one exception to this rule when something came from nothing. Do you buy it?

Finally, the atheist's placard says: "Religion is myth and superstition." Really? What about the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb? It is based on eye-witness testimony. The same kind of testimony that anyone serving on a jury has listened to and rendered their judgment based upon it. The jurors were not present when the events witnesses claim to have "seen" or "heard" actually happened. Yet, if a juror cannot disprove the character or mental competence of the witnesses, he or she is obligated to accept their testimony as the truth. This is the very point the apostle Paul made to Festus in Acts 26:24-25.

Who really is hard of heart and enslaved?

~via *Twin City Bulletin*; College Station, Texas.

A Resurrected Life

David Smitherman

The gospel accounts of the life of Christ are unique in that they depict him as one having lived without sin. They even record Jesus himself as claiming sinlessness (John 8:46). Thus one cannot ignore the significance and implications of...

The Perfect Life of Christ. Some affirm that this perfect life was lived in order that it might be imputed to us for righteousness and use Romans 5:10 for proof. But, look at the context. Romans 4:25 speaks of the death of Christ and his resurrected life, ("delivered up... raised." Vs. 6,8,9 follows with repeated references to the death and blood of Christ. Then vs. 10, "reconciled to God through the death of his son" — "saved by his life." It is his life following his death — not vice versa — of which the apostle Paul speaks.

But this perfect life is not without significance for us. One thing it does is serve as "an example that ye should follow in his steps," (1 Peter 2:21-f). Then, too, it qualifies him to serve as high priest. The Hebrew writer argues that because of the perfect life he is a high priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities for he was tempted as we are, yet without sin, (Hebrews 4:14-15; 2:17-18). He "needeth not daily... to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins..." (Hebrews 7:26-28), for he "knew no sin," (2 Corinthians 5:21). Thus the significance of the perfect life is that it made Christ fit to be...

A Perfect Sacrifice. "A body didst thou prepare for me..." Hebrews 10:5 affirms. The context indicates that this was a body prepared in order that it might be sacrificed for man, rather than a life lived perfectly so that it might be imputed to him for his righteousness. The words in the context ("sacrifice" and "offering") seem to indicate this, and then vs. 10, ("the offering of the body of Christ"), seems to nail down this idea.

It was the sacrifice of Christ that was needed in order that our sins might be forgiven, (Hebrews 9:22), for in so doing he bore our sins, (Hebrews 9:26) and put them away, (Hebrews 9:28). And, it was his perfect life that made this sacrifice acceptable (Hebrews 9:12-14). Thus a body was prepared for sacrifice and as a consequence we have obtained our eternal redemption,

(Hebrews 9:21), our sanctification, (Hebrews 10:10), and our consciences cleansed (Heb. 9:14). As a result, Christ now lives...

A Resurrected Life. Having become the author of our salvation (Hebrews 5:8-10), He now sits on the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:12), appearing before the face of God for us, making intercession for the sins of the people (Hebrews 9:23-24; Romans 8:23-24; Hebrews 7:25).

The body sacrificed on the cross and the resurrected life is what effect our salvation and thus are emphasized in the scriptures. The perfect life before the sacrifice effects me only in that it made a suitable sacrifice for sin possible. It is forgiveness through mercy, not imputation of a perfect life, that brings salvation.

~via *Plain Talk*; Burnett, Texas.

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No Power But of God

Jim Ward

On my wall is a picture of a windmill silhouetted against the rising sun. Underneath are the words quoted above. I like the picture, obviously, or it wouldn't be on my wall. I often look at it and ponder its meaning. It stirs a sense of wonder in me at the power of God. (Yes, Romans 13 deals with civil authority, but it is still true that there is no power of any kind but of God.)

In the picture, the sun rises. By whose power? By that of the Father: "He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good" (Matthew 5:45). I see his power and Godhead in this universe, in the "things made." Then, when I see His nature and will in His word, I know I am doubly without excuse when I doubt Him.

In my mind I see that the windmill in the picture gently turns. But whose wind moves the blades? It belongs to our God, who "walks on the wings of the wind." He is the Lord of all nature. The power of Jesus to command the winds and waves struck fear and amazement into his disciples.

Then I imagine the water. The artist didn't show it, but it is there, I know. It rushes to the surface, cold and

life giving. It was that way on the farm of my boyhood. When the heat shimmered across the fields and burned into our bodies, we panted after the cold water from the windmill down by the small peach orchard. We drank in great gulps; we filled our hats and poured the water over our heads and down our shoulders. God's water! His gift to man. Little wonder that He connects us to Himself in the waters of baptism.

These gifts, these manifestations of power, make me trust God for the Power to redeem my soul from sin. Sun, wind, and water are the pledge of His power; Jesus, the pledge of His grace.

~via *Windows of Heaven*; Moulton, Alabama.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Bobbie Adcock
Margaret Vaughn
Mitzi Carruth
Reba Byram
Janice Cagle
Gilbert Hardy
Essie Hardison
Carl Hargrave
Peggy Pepper
Donald Cole
Abi Gilbert
Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez
Phillip Harwell
Ann Bush
Ben Hinkle
Analynn Tegg
Charles Burns
Matt Poff

Gayle Ball
Ella Melvin
Mot Dollar
Robert & Mot Beasley
Marjorie Dunnivant
Irene Inman
Gwen Bullock
Jeanette Weir
Ava Brooke Campbell
Eli Williams
Will Weir
Helen Rushing
Elizabeth Howard
David Richardson
Gene Carpenter
Pam Perry
Al Pollard
Una King Currier
Margaret Frost

In The Hospital:

Faye Allen; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 1758

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Mattye Murray, rm. 2 Dorothy Draper, rm. 97

Judith Groce, rm. 21	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Terry Camp, rm. 91	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Mable Crafts, rm. 98	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43

Limestone Health Facility:

Mildred Landers, rm. 103
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 20W

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Shut-In:

Hazel Brooks, at home
Wynell Casteel, at home
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We are rejoicing that ***Paul and Dale Adcock*** have let it be known that desire to be members of the church here at Market Street. We want to extend a warm welcome to them.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30.

GET TOGETHER AT THE CARTERS': ***Delmer and Margaret Carter*** are inviting everyone to come to their house on either Tuesday, Dec. 8th or Thursday, Dec. 10th for dinner and a good time spent with one another. The time to begin is 5:00 p.m. both days.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our sympathy to all the family of ***Louise Robinson***. She passed away on Tuesday night and her funeral was yesterday afternoon. She was an aunt to ***Stan Stanford*** and ***Della Johnson***. May the family find comfort and hope in the promises of God.

CONFESSION: This past Sunday evening ***Amy Hinkle*** came wanting to confessed unfaithfulness and asked for prayers for forgiveness. We appreciate the good heart and attitude of Amy. May we all encourage her as she has and will encourage us.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Nov. 29th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 138
Morning Worship 183
Evening Worship..... 131

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 118

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Russell Melvin
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Jason Conn..... Bart Brown
.....	Tommy Burns Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer	Steve Usery

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 6th:

Usher	Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, December 9th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	(1 Corinthians 15:12-20)
.....	Marcus Morris
Prayer	Dan Reed
Invitation	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	James Johnson

Sunday, December 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Keith Hinkle
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Norman Brown
Serving	Heath Dollar James Johnson
.....	Kenneth Adams..... Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 13th:

Usher	Danny Johnson
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams