

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 VIII

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No. 3

The Identity of the Lord's Church

Tyler D. Cox

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 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

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says "...upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." In Acts 2, the Lord's church is established and about 3,000 souls were added to the church that day. The identity of the church has been distorted by the world in which we all live today. However, the Lord's church still exists, it is the only church purchased by Jesus' blood, and its characteristics create an identity that is holy to God.

Autonomous. Elders are the leaders of the local church and in turn, they lead in accordance with God's will (1 Peter 5:1-2). As a result, the elders do not report to a board, papacy, or some other earthly headship. The elders of one local church will not have rule in the work of another local church. Autonomy will often result in no two local churches being exactly alike. However, local churches will be very much alike in the teaching and application of the truth and the differences that exist will never compromise the truth!

Seeks Authority. The Lord's church will always look to the God's word for authority, for God's word is truth (John 17:17). The Lord's church will speak where the Bible speaks and it will be silent where the Bible is silent, not adding or taking away from the truth. Every practice of the church is done based on the fact that authority is given for it, and not based on the premise that we like it, we think it's a good thing to do, or because it feels right. By seeking authority for what we do as the Lord's church, we will have assurance that we're pleasing to God.

Shows Love. Love for God and love for each other will always be found in the Lord's church. In the Law of Moses, Jesus said the whole Law and the Prophets depended on the commandments of loving God and loving your neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40). We must show love in order to be of God and know God, since love comes from God (1 John 4:7). It's possible that sometimes, we may be at odds with a brother or sister, but we must be reminded if we hate our brother, we cannot love God (1 John 4:20-21). Showing love goes beyond our words. We must

be ready to do difficult things and make difficult decisions in order to demonstrate our love to God and to our brethren. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

Seeks the Lost. The gospel, or the good news, of Jesus Christ is exactly what it says it is: Good news! In life, when we receive good news, we will often share it with others unless we are instructed to keep it a secret. The gospel should be treated the same way and be readily shared, since the gospel is for all. The Lord instructed his disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). No one is perfect; we all have sinned and we all need forgiveness to be right with God (Romans 3:23, Ephesians 1:7). It’s not only the preacher’s job to seek the lost, but the responsibility of any member of the Lord’s church. We’re told that if we turn a sinner from the error of his way, his soul will be saved from death and multitude of sins will be covered (James 5:20). As a part of the Lord’s church, we must take advantage of every opportunity to seek those who are lost.

Diverse, but Complete in Christ. The body of Christ is amazing, and only God can create this body in spite of the differences we see on the surface. As people, the differences that exist between each member of the Lord’s body are inevitable. For instance, the job I have may be different from another member, I might be from a different part of the country than the member who sits three rows behind me, or I may come from a completely different walk of life than most of the members in my congregation. On the other hand, there is some spiritual diversity within the Lord’s church. For instance, some Christians are mature in Christ while others may be babes in Christ, or the talents that one Christian has may be more or less than that of another Christian. Regardless of what physical and spiritual differences may exist between members of a local church or between all of the local churches that comprise the one, universal church, we can put aside these differences and all be one in Christ (Galatians 3:27-28). Through all of the strengths and weaknesses we possess as Christians, we are made complete in Christ.

I’m so glad to be a member of the Lord’s church. Are you?

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Mirages

Dee Bowman

In the semi-arid country of West Texas, on a typical summer afternoon when the sun bathes the plains with sunshine, one can see for miles. The prairies stretch out like a huge carpet toward the distant horizon.

To even the most unimaginative mind, the lake-like mirage is often clearly visible in the distance, shimmering like a rare jewel which has been carefully placed so as to ingratiate the scene. The mirage is so brilliantly clear that it has often been called “fool’s gold for the thirsty.” It was often the motive for one to take just one more step toward “cool, clear water,” as the song says.

A mirage is an optical illusion. Atmospheric conditions become such as will reflect the sun’s rays against the land so that a pool of water appears – a pool of water which is not really there. Mirages have fooled many people. Some who are lost in the desert are said to have been driven to insanity because of these visionary illusions.

The devil is an expert at the art of optical illusions. He creates beautiful, attractive mirages for people. He can even make people put their complete confidence in what is no more than a mirage, something not really there. In doing so, he causes men and women to spend a lifetime running after what is merely a semblance of the real. There can be no doubt that these people see something; but most times it is merely an illusion, and when the person arrives at what he thought he saw, he finds it merely a figment, a cleverly placed deception.

For instance, the thought that peace can come from the accumulations of this world’s goods is a mirage. Riches hold out the promise of security, but when a person puts his trust in them, he’s seeing something that’s not there. The riches may look like the means for the tranquility, peace, and happiness we all seek, but that promise is just an illusion, a trick devised by the devil to keep us from putting our confidence in the promises of God for the joy, the peace and a quietude we’re seeking. Trust in uncertain riches is like putting our confidence in a distant mirage – in things that will never satisfy (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11).

Revenge is a mirage. People who feel they have been wronged by someone oftentimes become bent on retaliation. They have the notion that if they can

just avenge their injury somehow, they will be happy again. But there is no satisfaction in revenge, no true joy in a “pay-back” mentality. One who believes such is deluded; he follows after a mirage. “Render to no man evil for evil” (Romans 12:17). “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (vs 19). Many is the person who ends up frustrated, even embittered by thinking that happiness can be found by “getting even.” It’s a mirage. It won’t work.

The modern, fun-loving “jet-set” society would have us subscribe to a kind of life which, according to their thinking, is the “good life.” They have fomented the philosophy that “you only go around once, so live life with all the gusto you can,” as one commercial use to say. Consequently morality is thrown into the wind and restraint into the river. That’s a mirage. No person can find lasting pleasure in merely surrendering himself to his own lusts and passions.

First of all, there is no end to such efforts. One excitement must be continually replaced by a new, even greater one in order to gain a new satisfaction. And so the process goes on and on and on. There is no lasting pleasure in living life without restraints. The fact that “you only go around once” should actually be good reason to make sure your future is secure as you go around (Hebrews 9:27). To think otherwise is to be seduced by a delusion, a mirage.

Why, please tell me, would we dare place our hopes, our desires, our aspirations on the world when it’s plain to see that “the world passeth away, with the lusts thereof”? (1 John 2:17). How do we expect to find any substance in a life that is regulated by a mirage of what we think about things? Don’t be deluded by what seems to be. All that glitters is not gold. We must not be defrauded by what life seems to offer, but be impressed with what is real, what is permanent, that which has everlasting value.

-via *Redeeming The Time*; Athens, Alabama.

Beacon of Truth
Radio Program
Every Sunday Morning
on WVNN
770AM – 92.5 FM

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

JoAnn Gilbert
 Doris Lovell
 Reba Byram
 Allison Usery
 Irene Inman
 Gilbert Hardy
 Shaun Carruth
 Shayna Tollison

Nikki Ogles
 Mitzi Carruth
 Shelby Kirkland
 Christian Usery
 Robert & Mot Beasley
 Jeanette Weir
 Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Mot Dollar
 Ella Melvin
 Eli Williams
 Gene Carpenter
 Linda Ordonez
 Annalynn Tegg
 Matt Poff
 Elizabeth Howard
 Phillip Harwell
 Margaret Frost

Gayle Ball
 Janice Cagle
 Donald Cole
 Betty Hamm
 Charles Burns
 Al Pollard
 Ava Brooke Campbell
 Ben Hinkle
 Una King Currier

In The Hospital:

Ray Kennedy; UAB Hospital – Birmingham

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Judith Groce, rm. 45	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
Faye Allen, rm. 75	

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 or Away From Home:

Hazel Brooks, at home
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Wynell Casteel, at home
 Marjorie Dunnivant, in Huntsville in assisted living
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter’s home in Hartselle

Essie Hardison, at home
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

CONFESSIONS: We rejoiced last Sunday morning the good hearts demonstrated by **David Terry** is coming and confessing his sins and asking for prayers...Also, over **Frances Bowers** asking for prayers and forgiveness. We appreciate David and Frances and the desire they have to live the kind of lives that God desires that we live. May we all encourage them as they have encouraged us.

ANNUAL SINGING: Our **Fifth Annual Singing** is rapidly coming. I know that the singing will be truly edifying and uplifting evening. I hope that everyone will mark **February 26th** on your calendars. Remember to tell others to come join us.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice over the decision that **Harvey & Pat Nixon** have made to join us in the here here at Market Street. We want to extend a warm welcome to them. They will be in Work Group 2.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Bradleys:** *Steve and Marilyn* are in Texas...**Harvey Nixon** is in Ohio and Michigan with his work...**The Celblentz':** *Tommy and Marcella* were out of town last weekend, but are now back home.

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

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 Jan. 10th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 139
 Morning Worship 191
 Evening Worship..... 131

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 120

Fifth Annual Singing

February 26, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Steve Klein



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
 514 WEST MARKET STREET
 ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Kenneth Smith
 Assisting Tommy Coblentz
 Serving Cody Kennedy Bart Brown
 Keenon Currier Kenneth Adams
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 17th:

Usher Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System Terry Andrews

Wednesday, January 20th:

Song Leader Marty Adams
 Bible Reading..... (1 Corinthians 16:13-24)
 Russ Wulfkuhl
 Prayer Hunter Cox
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Sunday, January 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer Marcus Morris
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
 Assisting Norman Brown
 Serving Charles Vaughn Russ Wulfkuhl
 Seth Todd Marvin Puyman
 Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Dan Reed
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 24th:

Usher Steve Usery
 Work Sound System Landon Adams