

# 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

January 24, 2016

No. 4

## *Justifying Self*

**David A. 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  
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[MarketStreet-church.com](http://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*

Luke 10, we read of a lawyer that stood up and asked Jesus the question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 25). In answer to his question, Jesus ask, "what is written in the law?" The lawyer answered in verse 27, "Thou shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and will all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as thyself." Jesus then told him that he had answered correctly, and if he did these things, he would live. After Jesus answered the lawyer, Luke records, "But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor?"

How often does this happen in life? When children know what their parents' rules are, but will try to justify themselves after disobeying. In the workplace, someone does something that the boss has told them not to do; they begin to justify themselves by acting as if they did not understand what was expected. Not only do people try to justify their actions in these situations, but also in their relationship with God. Someone will be shown how their life is out of harmony with the will of God and they may in effect say, "I know that is what the Bible teaches, but I ..." An example of this in the Scriptures. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve know they were not to eat "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:17). But Eve was tempted to eat and ate of the forbidden fruit and then gave to Adam, and he ate. When God asked Adam about eating of the fruit of the tree that he had told them not to eat, Adam replied, "The woman thou gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat" (Genesis 3:12). Notice Adam tried to justify his sin by pointing to Eve, the woman that God had given to Adam. Eve tried to justify herself when asked about eating the forbidden fruit, said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat" (Genesis 3:13). There are other times in scripture that we see men justifying their actions before God, but it is the first. God was not pleased with self-justification then, and Jesus was not satisfied with the lawyer justifying himself in Luke 10.

We must understand that Jesus is not seeking people to justify

themselves in their own eyes; rather he want followers to “deny” themselves and follow after him (Luke 9:23). To deny self-means that our interest will change. The apostle Paul exemplified this in his life as he wrote to the Philippians concerning the things of this life that he gave up to be a Christian, a follower of Christ. Paul said, “... I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but rubbish, that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3:8). As followers of Christ, we should no longer seek our own good, but the good for the cause of Christ. There will be no room to justify self for we will have crucified self. The lives which we live will be lives that show Christ living in us (Galatians 2:20). To “crucify” takes humility. We must humble ourselves to the will of God. Paul reminds us of the example Jesus. Writing to the Philippians Paul said, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8). Notice Paul says that Jesus “humbled himself, and became obedient.” Seeking self-justification is not humbling of one’s self, but is the opposite. Self-justification will cause one not to submit to the will of God and therefore not receive the forgiveness of sins that the promised (Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9).

In Matthew 7:22, Jesus pictures those that will appear before him at the judgment that will seek to justify themselves as they say, “Lord, Lord, have we prophesied in your name, and cast demons in your name, and done many wonderful works in your name?” Jesus response to them is not a commendation, but a rebuke. “And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (v. 23). Jesus is still the same and will not accept self-justification for those who live are no in harmony with the will of God.

Is your life in peace with God? Or, are you seeking justification for the sins you have committed? You are the one who is responsible for your soul. God will only receive those whose lives are in agreement with His will (Matthew 7:21). Don’t seek self-justification, but humbly submit to the will of God.

## *Studying The Bible*

**Michael W. McLemore**

The divided state of the religious world is at the very least puzzling. The existence of hundreds of different “churches” in America attests to the fact that there is rampant confusion and disagreement in the religious world as to what is true and what is right before the Lord. What are faithful Christians to do when issues arise which divide?

Shall the issues be ignored in the hope that they will somehow go away? That will not work. It never has. Shall we wait to see how many will stand on one side or the other and then cast our lot with the majority? Shall we make our decision based on what great and good men think about it? Shall we support a position on the ground that “we have always done it that way?” Surely, these are all false standards. May I suggest some simple but basic rules to help us decide what is right and wrong in God's sight?

### **Respect The Authority of The Scriptures:**

The word of God should always be man’s standard of authority in all religious matters. “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17 NKJV). The phrase “in the name of the Lord” in this passage refers to the inherent authority of the name of Jesus Christ. An individual must be able to produce positive authority from God's word for everything he preaches and practices in order to glorify God.

Jesus Christ revealed God’s word in a manner that mankind can understand. Paul believed man could understand the truth if he would read and study it - “You have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation he made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)” (Ephesians 3:2-4). In essence Paul is saying we can “understand” as much as he understood concerning the truth. What a wonderful promise!

### **Handle Accurately The Word of Truth:**

The New American Standard Bible’s translation

of 2 Timothy 2:15 relays Paul charge "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." An individual must study the Bible to find the truth on any and every religious subject. We must consider all that the Bible says on a subject. If more than one passage deals with a matter, then honest study requires we regard the sum total of all God said about it before reaching a conclusion.

**Resolve To Follow Whatever Course Truth Demands:**

What is the benefit of finding truth on any given subject unless we are determined to accept it, regardless of the cost? We must be as the man who found the pearl of great price and sold all he had in order to obtain it.

When an individual has closed his mind to any alternative other than the one he has chosen, then it is very easy for him to see and yet not see, to hear and yet not hear. Jesus Christ warned about the danger of a closed mind. "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them" (Matthew 13:15).

-via *The Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama.

**Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:**

Mot Dollar	Gayle Ball
Ella Melvin	Janice Cagle
Eli Williams	Donald Cole
Gene Carpenter	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Annalynn Tegg	Al Pollard
Matt Poff	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Ben Hinkle
Phillip Harwell	Una King Carrier
Margaret Frost	

**In The Hospital:**

*Betty Christopher*; Huntsville Hospital, rm 657

**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

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The *Eastside church* is beginning a gospel meeting today, and it will continue through Tuesday evening. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in this meeting.

**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 and join us. If you are on Facebook, please share the event and send invitations

# News & Notes...

**THE SICK:**

Opal Conn	Sherry Davis
Beverly Sutton	Dana & Lucian Baker
Angie Hinkle	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Robert & Mot Beasley
Reba Byram	Shelby Kirkland
Irene Inman	Jeanette Weir
Gilbert Hardy	Ann Bush
Shaun Carruth	Ray Kennedy
Shayna Tollison	

to you friends to join us.

**GRENADA:** The church here is now helping with the support of **brother Ernest Roberts**, who preaches in St. Georges, Grenada. As was announced on Wednesday night, brother Roberts is needing surgery on his eye. The cost of the surgery will be \$10,000. There has been a fund set up to raise the money. If you would like to assist brother Roberts you can go to the fund. It is "Sight for Ernest Medical Fund." The link to the fund is:  
<https://gofund.me/g8kcpkck>

Or, if you want you can give the money to one of the elders or me, and we will deposit the money into the fund.

**PLACED MEMBERSHIP:** We rejoice over the decision that **Heather Hammonds** has made to join us in the here at Market Street. We want to extend a warm welcome to her. She will be in Work Group 3.

**OUT OF TOWN: The Bradleys:** *Steve and Marilyn* are in Texas... **Harvey Nixon** is in Ohio and Michigan with his work... **Mike Ogles** has been out of town with his work.

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

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

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of Jan. 17th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 138  
 Morning Worship ..... 188  
 Evening Worship..... 131

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 94

## 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 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 Wulfekuhl  
 ..... Seth Todd ..... Marvin Putman  
 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

### Wednesday, January 27th:

Song Leader ..... Marty Adams  
 Bible Reading ..... (2 Corinthians 1:1-11)  
 ..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
 Prayer ..... Hunter Cox  
 Invitation ..... David Cox  
 Closing Prayer ..... Keenon Currier

### Sunday, January 31st:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements ..... Terry Andrews  
 Song Leader ..... Tyler Cox  
 Prayer ..... Tommy Coblentz  
 Preaching ..... David Cox  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Assisting ..... Joel Hamm  
 Serving ..... Jason Conn. .... James Johnson  
 ..... Tommy Burns ..... Tony Thomas  
 Closing Prayer ..... Mike Ogles

#### Evening Worship

Announcements ..... Terry Andrews  
 Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge  
 Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
 Preaching ..... Chuck Richardson  
 Lord's Supper ..... Larry Mitchell  
 Closing Prayer ..... Russell Melvin

### Other Assignments for Sunday, January 31st:

Usher ..... Keenon Currier  
 Work Sound System ..... Nathaniel Adams