

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. 17

Traditional vs. Contemporary

Carlton G. McPeak

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) 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

Evangelist

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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

Some churches advertise two types of worship services; namely, traditional and contemporary. As best as can be determined, the purpose for these alternative worship styles is to appeal to the mature in age while at the same time appealing to the young.

Usually when we put "traditional" up against "contemporary" we intend to convey the idea that one is out of date while the other is what is current. The traditional is out of style while the contemporary is the current style. The traditional is for the "legalistic" while the contemporary is for the more "free" thinking.

Let's spend a few minutes meditating about this concept of traditional versus contemporary as it relates to our worship services. Should they be opposites? Should there be two alternatives to worship? Should one be for the young while the other is for the "senior citizens"?

It is understood that as one grows older they want to keep things like they have always done them. It is also understood that they younger want to change what the older have done. But, why should there be a division when it comes to worship? Why would a congregation want to segregate it's membership over a very important reason for their very existence?

One of the things which we might want to consider is, "Is the traditional worship service, contemporary?" By that it is meant, is it relevant to the purpose for the worship? Is it stimulating to those in attendance? Does it cause us to worship God in the manner which He desires?

Another thing to consider is, "Is the contemporary service, traditional?" By that it is meant, are the things which God wants in our worship to Him included in the service? While the service must appeal to the younger minds, have we left out what God wants left in?

Our worship service should not be "dry" and have no emotion. However, our worship should not be all emotional and full of "feeling" and not have any time to think and reflect upon whom it is that we are

assembled to worship. There must be balance struck between the two.

The New Testament is very definitive in what God wants during the worship service. Luke tells us what the church in its infancy did when they assembled; namely, they “continued in the apostles teaching, and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer” (Acts 2:42). These items of worship seem very simple; we might even say that they are traditional. However, when we give the proper thoughts and reflection upon what is being done with these elements of worship, they can be done in a very contemporary way.

Something else for us to meditate upon is how are we going to worship God when we get to Heaven? Are we still going to be segregated? Are we going to be debating what we should do for eternity when we are in the presence of God? Or, are we going to be united and worshipping God according to His directions?

We should not be discussing whether our worship service should be traditional or contemporary. We should be working together so that we can all worship in the tradition of the apostles with the contemporaries of our modern day, just like it was in the New Testament.

-via *The Transformer*; Lake City, Florida.

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Grace That Saves

Glen Young

The New Testament scriptures proclaim the grace of God time after time on its pages. These same scriptures affirm “For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men,” (Titus 2:11). God’s grace is inextricability bound to salvation. No one has ever been nor can be saved without the grace that comes from God. Therefore, it is essential for anyone who desires to go to Heaven to carefully study the teaching of God’s word on this subject. Because of the false ideas about the grace of God, we need to prepare ourselves to discern between truth and the claims of men relative to grace.

The temptation we face is the tendency to go to

extremes. On one side of the issue is the teaching that the unmerited favor (grace) of God is given without conditions. The other extreme teaches that man must live a sinless perfect life thus advocating salvation by works. Neither position is correct, yet, there is some truth to each. Some areas of this discussion are rather difficult to reconcile but the truth is there and we are obligated to seek for it.

Paul, in writing the Ephesian letter, instructs us in the nature of grace by affirming it is a gift from God that cannot be obtained by meritorious works (Ephesians 2:8-9). He adds additional information to the nature of grace by saying, “But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). The plan by which humankind would regain paradise lost was devised in the mind of God before the foundation on the universe was laid (Ephesians 1:3-6). This plan culminated with the death of Jesus on the cross (Hebrews 9:14 & 22).

It is a disservice to those who are seeking the truth about grace to become stuck in the fact that grace exists. While this is a part of the truth about grace, it is not the whole of the truth about grace. Paul continues his discourse on grace in Titus by saying, “instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world” (Titus 2:12).

Grace instructs (teaches) us to do certain things (works). This is Grace instructing, not man, not a church of Christ preacher, but Grace. Grace has given us the inspired Scripture of God, which is able to completely furnish men to the good works demanded by the Father (2 Timothy 3:16-17). There is a preponderance of evidence, which overwhelming proves that for men to receive the free gift of salvation, they must humble themselves to obey (human effort) the Law of Christ (Hebrews 5:7-9; Galatians 6:2).

Does this mean that God owes salvation to those who obey Him? No, a thousand times no, for all have sinned (Romans 3:23)!

When a person commits one sin, they become separated from God (Isaiah 59:2), without hope. The condition of the individual is now one of being a law-breaker, which will never change though, one, might live the balance of their life never committing another sin. This need for cleansing is where God's grace enters. It does for man what man cannot do for himself,

namely, change his state from being a lawbreaker to being declared guiltless.

Grace that saves is the gift from God of a plan for the redemption of sinful man. A plan that teaches sinful man to turn from his sins by repentance (Luke 13:3). A plan that teaches lost humankind to obey the Lord by walking in the ways commanded by the inspired man who gave us the New Testament. A walk which includes immersion in water for remission of sins from which one arises a new creature who then continues his walk in complete obedience to the Lord (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4).

-via *The Word at Westside*; Tunnel Hill, Georgia.

suggests a broader application than is here given. Jesus said to His disciples, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16). Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of us would trim our lamps, provide needed oil, and let our lights shine for Christ, not only insofar as attendance is concerned, but also in every other relationship of the Christian life.

-via *The Ephesus Exhorter*; Athens, Alabama.

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Our Lights Are Always Needed

A. J. Rollings

Once a traveler came to a French village. Night was approaching and people were hurrying through the streets. The traveler noticed that each person was carrying a tiny bronze lamp. Upon inquiry, he received the reply: "These people are going to the village church to worship. When the church was built it was decided that each member would bring his own light to the night service. There is no other way to light the building, and everyone goes to make the church brighter. Each one realizes that if he is not there the church will be darker."

The traveler determined to visit that church and was interested to observe that every seat has a place to hang the lighted lamp, and that as more and more of the members came the entire building became brighter and brighter.

Do we realize that the church is darker when you and I stay away from worship? Our "light" is needed not only on Sunday evening, but also at all services. Solomon said that words fitly spoken are like apples of gold in pictures of silver. The story above, it seems to me, strikes a needed cord, and emphasizes a lesson which must needs be emphasized again and again. It

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Joe Hinkle	Mary Hinkle
Betty Pepper	Cornelia Pepper
Peggy Smith	Joy & Loretta Warner
Doris Claxton	Kenia Adams
Doris Lovell	Bobbie Adcock
Irene Inman	Patsy Thomas
Reba Byram	Gilbert Hardy
Shaun Carruth	Anna McClung
Linda Jones	Wayne Gooch
Ann Bush	Cynthia Smith

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Jeanette Weir	Ella Melvin
Mot Dollar	Gayle Ball
Janice Cagle	Eli Williams
Gene Carpenter	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Annalynn Tegg	Al Pollard
Ray Kennedy	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Ben Hinkle
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Daniel Ogles
Staley Jackson	Anita Willis

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 10-A	William Thomas, rm. 70
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97

Mattye Murray, rm. 2 Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
 Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 18
 Terry Camp, rm. 82 Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
 Gayle Mills, rm. 15 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
 Mable Crafts, rm. 98

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 100 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at 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

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Marvella Adams** and all the family in the passing of Marvella's aunt, **Faye Craig**. Her funeral was Tuesday afternoon at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Bradleys:** Steve and Marilyn are in Texas... **The Burns:** Tommy and Susan have been out of town this week on vacation... **The Ogles:** Mike and Nikki have been out of town with Mike's work... **The Princes:** A.J. & Andrea are in Auburn this weekend... **The Mitchells:** Larry & Peggy are out of town this weekend... **Louise Melvin** is out of town this week.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: This past week we have been engaged in our spring meeting with **Buc Chumbley** preaching. Buc preached some great lessons that will help all of us as we strive to live lives to please God. We averaged 159 for the meeting.

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.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of April 17th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 171
 Morning Worship 204
 Evening Worship..... 176

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 135

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Steve Usery
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Joel Hamm
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 Serving Seth Todd David Terry
 James Johnson Matthew Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements Steve Usery
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Landon Adams
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 24th:

Ushers Danny Johnson/Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, April 27th:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Bible Reading (2 Corinthians 7:1-8)
 Tommy Coblentz
 Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
 Invitation Mike Ogles
 Closing Prayer Joy Warner

Sunday, May 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Russell Melvin
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Norman Brown
 Assisting Jordan Lovell
 Serving Kenneth Smith Danny Johnson
 Keenon Currier Heath Dollar
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Norman Brown
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 1st:

Ushers Larry Mitchell/Marcus Morris
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams