

# 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

July 31, 2016

No. 31

### *Simply Christians*

**Dale Smelser**

#### **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**

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910  
Cell: (256) 614-3757

**Visit Us On The Web**  
[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*

We read with interest the reports on every hand of the growing disenchantment with present religious forms which originated in the Middle Ages and have become meaningless. We hear of displeasure with denominational structures and their pronouncements which reflect only the preferences of influential elite, ignoring the convictions of the rank and file. Because of these aspects of modern religion, some have decided that Christianity is not even relevant to this day and age. We believe they have so decided because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the scriptures to be able to distinguish between the relevant gospel of Christ, and the things men have added to religion since, and which truly are not relevant to serving God.

If some of these things have troubled you, and you have felt an urge, or even a yearning, to return to the simple uncomplicated religion of Christ, and if you have felt the desire to strip away all non-essential elements of religion and simply abide but the truths of Christ, truths which alone can transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that such a possibility actually exists.

Let us begin with one essential fact. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. His coming (Genesis 49:10), His mission (Isaiah 53; Zechariah 6:13), and His new message (Jeremiah 31:31-33) were all foretold in the Old Testament, which Jehovah used to govern Israel until the Christ should come and establish the New for all mankind (Galatians 3:19)!

The New Testament is the word of Christ. It reveals the religion of Christ (Hebrews 9:15-17). By studying it we become aware that among the followers of Christ no denominational organizations have existed whatsoever. All such began at a later time. We see people hearing the gospel and in faith obeying the conditions of God's grace. That is, they turned to God and were baptized in order to be forgiven of their sins. Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord's people, or church (Acts 2:36-47). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders (Acts 14:23) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make

laws or be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-3)! The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven, where their head Jesus Christ was and is (Ephesians 1:22-23).

Their worship was something to participate in, not something to watch. On the first day of the week, for instance, they would eat the Lord's supper and hear preaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29). They would share their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity, and we find contributions being collected on no other day than the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Incidentally, no hierarchy could tax them or tell them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as the individually purposed in their own heart (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). In their assemblies they all would sing (Ephesians 5:19), and all pray with various one leading (1 Corinthians 14:15-16). In all this, they were all necessarily involved, for each saved person was a priest (Revelation 1:5-6). No one could perform his service or worship for him.

They lived godly lives. They cared for their poor. They taught others. They sent out preachers where they could not go. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. Without organized machinery the gospel was preached throughout civilization in a short time (Colossians 1:23). These disciples of Christ were known as Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not sensual or materialistic. They sought not to impress men with pious ceremony. They sought to impress God with the only thing that has ever impressed him, contrite obedience (1 Samuel 15:22). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel to a troubled world for it was God's power to save (Romans 1:16), and any other appeal was beneath them.

"If only such could be today," many say. But it is! Free man and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it no necessity or relevance and only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored. They are related and connected only in Christ and not in some earthly organization.

We worship and serve God in the same way as the early disciples. Christ is our only creed and the Scriptures our only guide. We are not members of any human denomination, but simply a congregation, or church, of Christ.

~via *The Jordan Park Reminder*, Huntsville, Alabama.

**Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.**

## ***Who Do You Love?***

**Edwin L. Crozier**

Paul wrote of difficult times in 2 Timothy 3:1-9. Interestingly, he mentions four different loves. There are lovers of self, lovers of money and lovers of pleasure. These are all contrasted with lovers of God.

Which one are we?

Our age is one of selfishness. It is all about getting what we want right now. Look at the rising debt our nation continues to have across the board even with Dave Ramsey doing all that work. James demonstrated that Christians can be lovers of self even while they think they are being spiritually minded. In James 4:3 he talked to people who prayed. But their prayers were doing them no good because they were selfish.

In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul provides the rule against selfishness. If we are going to be lovers of God, we must put others before ourselves. That means putting our spouses before ourselves, our kids, our parents, our friends, our neighbors, our employers, our employees and even our enemies.

Hand in hand with selfishness is the love of money. We are a money centered society. Power and fame depend on wealth. Just the other day while in a hospital waiting room I saw a magazine entitled *Billionaire* that is all about the rich people, how they got that way and how we can too.

If you don't think our society loves money, look at the number of lottery tickets sold everywhere. And if you don't think Christians are impacted by this misplaced love, look at the number of Christians who have started defending buying those emblems of covetousness.

When we love God, we will be content with whatever we have (1 Timothy 6:8-10). Further we need to be generous with the blessings God has given us, sharing and storing up our treasures in heaven (1 Timothy 6:17-18).

Finally, is there any doubt we are pleasure driven people? Everything we do seems to be governed by how fun and enjoyable it is. Drinking, drugs, immoral sex and any number of sins come down to people pleasure hunting. But sadly, even those who do not fall prey to these "major" sins are often driven by pleasure. Isn't procrastination merely a means of seeking pleasure, putting off the hard while we spend our time on the fun?

Then consider the number of Christians who think the only way to attract folks to Jesus is if it is fun. Entertainment centered “worship” is the rule of the day as folks try to draw in the crowds by pleasing their flesh.

If we are lovers of God, we will mortify the flesh and its lusts, following after the Spirit and His fruit (Romans 8:13).

Who do you love?

~via *Franklin Church Bulletin*; Franklin, Tennessee.



## ***Water Baptism Is Necessary!***

**Allan Dvorak**

It was an unusual day. First, the sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind filled the house. What appeared to be tongues of fire sat upon each the men inside the house. Those same men, the apostles of Jesus, began to speak in foreign languages, in languages which they did not know.

The news about the events taking place began to spread through the city of Jerusalem. Soon a crowd had gathered to see and hear what was going on, but they were confused. Were these men drunk? Among the Jews in the crowd were those who had come from many other places to observe religious feasts in Jerusalem. They were amazed that these men from Galilee were speaking in languages which they had not studied.

The twelve stood up and spoke to the crowd about what was happening. In essence, they said, “It’s not drunkenness. This is what the prophet Joel predicted. The Holy Spirit would be poured out and those who received Him would prophesy.” The apostles continued to speak to the crowd about Jesus.

They affirmed the truth of the resurrection of Jesus by noting Old Testament prophecy and giving their own eyewitness testimony. Jesus had been exalted to the right hand of God and was already reigning as Lord in heaven. No political correctness for these preachers! They stated plainly more than once that the Jewish nation had put the Son of God to death!

The message of the preachers on this day touched the hearts of the listeners. They asked, “What shall we do?” They believed that Jesus had been raised from the dead and was therefore the Son of God as He had claimed. Many people today would have told them that they didn’t have to do anything; they were already saved!

The apostle Peter, however, did not tell them that they were already saved, even though it was evident that they both believed and were aware of their sin in crucifying the Christ (as evidenced by their question to the apostles). He said that they needed to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins. About three thousand people did exactly that – they were baptized and the Lord added them to His church.

Many preachers are telling people today that they do not need to be baptized to be saved. Water baptism, it is said, is only a symbolic act which pictures our salvation at the point of faith. The Bible, on the other hand, says that baptism saves us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21). How can baptism be unnecessary for salvation if it is “for the remission of sins”? The apostle Paul wrote that we are baptized into Christ and that, in so doing, we “put on Christ” (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:26-27).

If you want to read for yourself the story of that unusual day, the Day of Pentecost, it is recorded in Acts 2.

~via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama.

## ***Gospel Meeting***

**September 11-15, 2016**

(Sunday through Thursday)

### Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday– 7:00 p.m.

**Andrew Roberts, Speaking**

### **MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST**

514 WEST MARKET STREET

ATHENS, ALABAMA

# News & Notes

## THE SICK:

JoAnn Gilbert	Joe Leopard
Reba Byram	Cindy Glass
Patsy Thomas	Irene Inman
Doris Lovell	Gilbert Hardy
Wayne Gooch	Ann Bush
Shaun Carruth	Charlie Christopher
Linda Jones	

## Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Ella Melvin	Gayle Ball
Mot Dollar	Jeanette Weir
Janice Cagle	Eli Williams
Gene Carpenter	Betty Hamm
Linda Ordonez	Charles Burns
Betty League	Al Pollard
Ray Kennedy	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Shayna Tollison	Daniel Ogles
Anita Willis	Jenny Pickens
Diane Kilpatrick	Cindy Walker

## In The Hospital:

### Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	William Thomas, rm. 70
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Helen Trousdale, rm. 30
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 38
Terry Camp, rm. 82	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 39	Christine Hudson, rm. 77

### Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55	Charlie Christopher, rm 95
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E	Glenda Lankford, rm. 117

### Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Merrill Gardens, Madison  
 Hazel Brooks, Nursing Home In Pulaski, Tennessee  
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
 Wynell Casteel, at home  
 Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookdale Farms, Huntsville  
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison  
 Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle  
 Essie Hardison, at home  
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

**OUT OF TOWN:** *Heather Hammonds* is on vacation at the Gulf this week... *The Coxes: David, Kerry & Hunter* are on vacation in California.

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### Sunday, July 31st:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Kenneth Smith	
Song Leader .....	Stefan Fudge	
Prayer.....	Jason Conn	
Preaching.....	Larry Sharpe	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding.....	Larry Mitchell	
Assisting .....	Bonnie Sutton	
Serving .....	David Terry .....	Kenneth Adams
.....	Tommy Burns.....	Seth Todd
Closing Prayer .....	Keith Hinkle	

#### Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader .....	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching.....	Daniel Tucker
Lord's Supper .....	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer .....	Russell Melvin

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

Ushers.....	Keith Hinkle/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

### Wednesday, August 3rd:

Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading.....	Galatians 1:1-9
.....	Terry Andrews
Prayer.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Invitation .....	Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer .....	Nathaniel Adams

### Sunday, August 7th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm	
Song Leader .....	Tyler Cox	
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle	
Preaching.....	David Cox	
Lord's Supper		
Presiding.....	Dwaine Allfrey	
Assisting .....	Tommy Coblentz	
Serving .....	Heath Dollar .....	Marion Mitchell
.....	Marvin Putman .....	Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer .....	Kenneth Adams	

#### Evening Worship

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

### Other Assignments for Sunday, August 7th:

Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Steve Usery
Work Sound System.....	Marty Adams