

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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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A God With Good Boundaries

Edwin Crozier

In a world filled with dysfunction, dysfunction begins to appear normal. Proper, healthy love begins to look odd and unhealthy. That being the case, folks look at God as if His attitudes and actions are wrong. They simply can't understand how God could allow punishment and consequences, especially one as stark as hell. The real problem here is not hell, which is not, as some suppose, the awful jail where God sends the people He is mad at because they won't do what He wants. Rather, it is the horrific state of being completely and ultimately separated from God. We must grasp that this separation doesn't come because we serve an angry God, but because we serve a God with good boundaries.

Boundaries are tough for us. Our world wants most limits removed. Further, we are so exposed to codependent behaviors, we are puzzled by the truly independent God. That is, our experience with most relationships is so dysfunctional, codependent, and boundariless, real boundaries seem restrictive and mean.

Consider our common experiences. A parent establishes a rule, but becomes so afraid a child will abandon the family that the parent doesn't discipline the violation of the rule. Or a young single makes a commitment to sexual purity, but when his/her significant other pushes to cross the line, the single is so afraid of losing the relationship that he/she breaks the boundary. The concept of codependency is most discussed today in the context of addictions. One spouse continues to drink, drug, pursue pornography, gamble, chase sexual immorality (the list could go on), and while the other hates the behavior, they are dependent upon it. That is, spouses of addicts often get their sense of self from being able to react to the addiction. That happens either by attempts to control the addict's behavior or by playing the martyr who has to endure so much. Spouses of addicts are often so desperate for relationship, they'll share their spouse with the addiction, sometimes even with other people. The crazy thing is the spouses who leave these unhealthy relationships (whether through lawful divorce or otherwise) are often so subconsciously dependent on the addiction of their spouse that they marry someone who struggles with similar addictions.

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
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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

James 4:1-10 demonstrates God is not like that. God maintains good boundaries. He wants a relationship with you, but He is not so desperate that He will share you with the devil or the world. If you draw near to God, He will draw near to you. In fact, He has done everything He can (short of forcing you) to get you to draw near, even paving the way with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. However, if you would rather be friends with the world or embrace the devil, you are choosing to be enemies with God. And eventually, as much as it pains Him, He'll let you have what you are pursuing—separation from Him, otherwise known as hell.

Our culture and even some culturally impacted Christians think that is harsh, even mean and evil. Understand, it's not that He doesn't love us tremendously. He does. The problem is we are so confused by unhealthy demonstrations of love that when we finally see healthy, loving boundaries, we are shocked. God won't share us with the devil or the world. He wants cleansed hands and pure hearts. God wants us so much He sacrificed His Son, but not so much that He'll sacrifice His boundaries.

You make the call. You can decide for Satan and the world, or you can draw near to God, but you can't do both. God is too healthy for that. What will you choose?

~via *Livingston Avenue Bulletin*; Tampa, Florida.



The Importance of Bible Classes

Johnie Edwards

Our children are said to be “a heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). Children will only be what they have been taught to be. The wise man said, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Every parent needs to know the importance of bringing their children to Bible study because:

1. Teaching children is a command. Joel said, “Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation” (Joel 1:3). A good way to assist parents in this work is to be sure they are in a good Bible class. Are you bringing yours?

2. Children and the future. What this church will be like in few years depends on how our children are now

being taught. A lot of churches are filled with only older people with no children coming on! Some get upset at the crying, not me. I am disturbed when there are no children present to cry! No wonder the Bible says, “And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Bible study will help in carrying out this grave responsibility. Bring them to Bible study!

3. To get them ready to obey. Many of our young people who obey the gospel are those who have been in Bible classes. Just observe and you will see! Not many young people are baptized who have not been in Bible study. The reason: One has to be taught before he can obey (Matthew 28:19). Will yours be ready?

4. Of their influence. Young people either have influence for good or bad. Often those who have not been to Bible study leave a bad influence on other young people. Paul wrote a young man, “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). See that your children are in a good Bible class to help teach them the importance of being a good example.

~via *Guardian of Truth*; Vol. 47 No. 12; December 2003.



Choosing Salvation

Phillip Mullins

Have you ever heard religious people talk about the time that they “got saved”? Some tell of a vision, a voice in the dark, or a special feeling overwhelming the body. By the way they describe their “salvation experience” it seems as if they had no choice in the matter and that Christ came into their life uninvited. Is this the kind of salvation the Bible talks about?

In Acts 2 after preaching salvation in Christ and telling his audience to repent and be baptized, Peter goes on to state in verse 39, “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” And how does the Lord call us? In the same manner He called these people at Pentecost, through the preaching of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

In verse 40 Peter encourages these people to "...Be saved from this perverse generation." The apostle was making a plea for these people to respond to the call of the gospel. It is obvious here that they had a choice in the matter. God has never forced himself on man, but rather He has always given man the option of having fellowship with Him or not.

Don't expect to receive salvation through some incredible experience that storms into your life unexpectedly. That is not the way that God saves. Instead, He reaches out through the blessed gospel of His Son. Whether you reach out to Him or not is up to you.

~via *Kingsport Messages*; Kingsport, Tennessee.



What Is Worship?

S. Scott Richardson

Man is an incurable worshipper. All societies and cultures have had forms of worship and have had things or personalities that they worshipped. There is only One whom we are to worship and only one book – the Bible – that tells us how and why.

Exactly what is worship? Worship according to the American Heritage Dictionary is: "Reverent love or respect...Love of or devotion to a person or things." Another dictionary makes this notes of worship: "Worship ...consists primarily in a creaturely awareness of God by means of religious exercise and moral obedience."

People tend to think of worship as only ceremony. Even Christians tend to think of worship as just the "five acts" of worship — singing, preaching or teaching, partaking of the Lord's Supper, giving, and prayer. There is more to worship than these "acts". Worship encompasses our entire lives. Notice what Paul writes in Romans 12 :1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable (well pleasing—to God, which is your spiritual (reasonable) service (worship). And be not fashioned according to this world (age): but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye

prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God (the will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect)."

Paul reinforces our definition of worship. It involves moral obedience — living our lives in service to God. We are to be a "living sacrifice" not fashioned like the world around us. The Bible gives specific commands about "acts" of worship; this is the "religious exercise" mentioned in our definition.

True worship can't exist if one of these tenets is missing. Take the "living sacrifice" out of one's life and there is no acceptable worship. Likewise, if one doesn't engage in the acts of worship and in assembling there is no acceptable worship. Neither of these aspects can be separated from the other, nor exist without the other.

~via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 28 No 2, February 1996.

Please Join Us For Our

Gospel Meeting

"Exploring Islam & Christianity"

September 11-15, 2016

Speaker: Andrew Roberts of Tampa, Florida

Schedule of Services

Sunday –	9:45 a.m. — <i>Definitive Differences</i>
	10:45 a.m. — <i>Christianity Can Survive</i>
	5:00 p.m. — <i>The Crucifixion Controversy</i>
Monday	7:00 p.m. — <i>Studying The Bible & The Qu'ran</i>
Tuesday	7:00 p.m. — <i>Examining Jesus and Muhammad</i>
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. — <i>Islam & Evangelism</i>
Thursday	7:00 p.m. — <i>When Islam Asks</i>

THE SICK:

Helen Blankenship
JoAnn Gilbert
Reba Byram
Patsy Thomas
Doris Lovell
Joy White
Wayne Bolton
Shaun Carruth
Linda Jones

Tommy Coblenz
Joe Leopard
Cindy Glass
Irene Inman
Gilbert Hardy
Arvid McGuire
Ann Bush
Charlie Christopher
Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

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

In The Hospital:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab. - Huntsville

Betty League; Grandview Hospital - Birmingham; ICU

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
Joyce Martin, rm. 92	

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 55	Charlie Christopher, rm 95
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E	Donna Wright, rm. 105

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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Reba Byram* and the *Davis family*, in the passing of *Lillian Geneva Davis*. Visitation will be Sunday Agust 28t, 2016 at Limestone Chapel from 1:00 p.m. to 2:45 prior to the service.

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

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.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching.....	Everette Conn
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting.....	Mike Ogles
Serving	Bonnie Sutton
.....	Cody Kennedy.....
Closing Prayer	Joy Warner

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Stefan Fudge
Prayer.....	Russell Melvin
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 28h:

Ushers.....	Hunter Cox/Seth Todd
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, August 31st:

Song Leader	A. J. Price
Bible Reading.....	Galatians 3:1-14
.....	Kenneth Adams
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	James Johnson

Sunday, September 4th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Steve Usery
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Kenneth Smith
Assisting.....	Marcus Morris
Serving	Marvin Putman
.....	Jordan Lovell.....
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Steve Usery
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	A. J. Price
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 4th:

Ushers.....	Keenon Currier/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews