

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 IX

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No. 43

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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

Buc Chumbley (256) 777-1065
David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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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

One Spirit Baptized

Terry W. Benton

1 Corinthians 12:13 mentions "by one Spirit" we were all baptized into one body. What does this mean? It means that Christians came to be baptized into Christ by the influence of the Holy Spirit. In other words, none of us would have been immersed in water in the name of Jesus Christ except that we listened to what the Spirit commanded. It was not by my own wisdom or desire. I never would have been baptized in the name of the Lord except I came under the teaching and directing influence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit tells us the truth about how to come into the body of Christ. The Law of Moses did not tell me to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. The faith of Jesus Christ as revealed and directed by the Holy Spirit is the **only** reason anyone was ever baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The 3,000 Jews that repented and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38-41) would never have done so except that the Spirit through Peter urged them to. The Ethiopian Eunuch would never have been baptized in Acts 8:33 except that the Spirit through Philip had taught and urged him to. Cornelius and his household would never have been baptized in water in the name of the Lord in Acts 10:47-48 except the Spirit through Peter taught and commanded them to. You see it is by one Spirit, the same Holy Spirit teaching, that we are **all** baptized into one body.

Here is what happens when we are baptized in the name of the Lord. 1) We are immersed in water by the authority of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:33f; Acts 10:47-48. 2) Going into this baptism in water we repent of sins (Acts 2:38 or "die to sin" (Romans 6:3-5). As we are doing this by the Spirit's influence, God is also doing the most important part. He is cutting our sins away (Colossians 2:12), remitting our sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16), and adding us to His church (Acts 2:47) or placing us in the spiritual body of Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27). This all happens when we are immersed in water in the name of the Lord. When we are immersed in Jesus' name, we have "faith in the operation

of God”(Colossians 2:12f) that He will do the work of circumcision without hands. What does He cut away? He cuts away our sins. We do not cut our own sins away. God does this. But, God does this when we are immersed as the Ethiopian Eunuch, as the 3,000 Jews on Pentecost, and as Cornelius. We are **all** baptized into one body, the church of Christ, by the direction of **one Spirit**.

This is what Jesus said in the great commission. Go preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:15-16). This is carried out by the disciples teaching all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Remember, this is in the element of **water** (Acts 10:47-48). It is done “in the name of the Lord” and it is done “**by**” the influence of One Spirit. This one baptism began to be preached and practiced by direction of the Spirit in Jerusalem, and was to keep going to “all nations”. It did not cease short of “every creature.” It is the one baptism of Ephesians 4:5. Do you hear what the Spirit says about the baptism Jesus commanded?

~via *Gardendale Bulletin*; Gardendale, Alabama.



The Word of the Cross

Bubba Garner

Offended by Jesus? That seems incredible to us. Yet, there have always been those who found Him and His teaching offensive: that there is only one way (John 14:6) in a world that preaches tolerance; that this way would be narrow (Matthew 5:13-14), restrictive to the few who find it; that the way would involve surrender and submission to a higher authority instead of freedom to go your own way. That pushes some away.

But many are also offended by Christianity because it involves going the way of the cross. It is a way that includes suffering and death. Not just for Jesus, but for any who wish to come after Him (Matthew 16:24).

The cross was Paul’s unifying message in 1 Corinthians 1. In a church where the members were claiming to be of Paul, Cephas, Apollos, and Christ, he asked, “Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for

you, was he”(1 Corinthians 1:13)? It was in fact the cross of Christ that reconciled both Jew and Gentile to God (Ephesians 2:16).

What should be our unifying message in a world of division and chaos? What word will draw people to the Lord? The word of the cross.

We must preach the cross. “We preach Christ crucified”(1 Cor. 1:23). This was the message that was preached by the apostles as they went into all the world (Acts 2:22-24; Acts 3:13-15; Acts 4:8-12; Acts 10:38-43). Even when it became apparent that the word of the cross was foolishness to some and offensive to others, still Paul said with all boldness, “We preach Christ crucified.”

In today’s religious world, there is the insatiable desire for something “new.” People think we need something different, something more modern, something less controversial. The prevailing thought seems to be, “What was preached in the 1st Century doesn’t address the needs of people in the 21st Century.” But it is still the cross that tells us about the nature of sin and its consequences. It is still the cross that shows us the love and mercy and forgiveness of God. It is still the cross that reminds us of our responsibility to give our life as a living sacrifice. We cannot say we “preach the gospel” if we do not preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

We must preach the cross as the power of God. “For indeed Jews ask for signs” (1 Corinthians 1:22). There were occasions when they came to Jesus seeking a sign (Mark 8:11) and even demanding a sign (Luke 11:16). In John 6:30-31, it was obvious that they were looking for a Messiah to come in the power of Moses or Elijah and perform some mighty work. They wanted to see something in the likeness of manna from heaven, and they completely missed the Bread of Life and His saving death.

The cross is to some “a stumbling block”(1 Corinthians 1:23). The Greek word “stumbling block”(skandalon) is where we get the word “scandal.” That’s what the cross was to the Jews: a scandal. They couldn’t imagine a suffering Savior, that the Son of God would be a man of sorrows. The Jewish historian, Josephus, wrote that “crucifixion was the most wretched of all ways of dying.” But the power of God is seen in that He was able to turn this seeming defeat into stunning victory. The gates of Hades could not overpower His Son or His plan. We need not be ashamed of the word of the cross. It is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16).

We must preach the cross as the wisdom of God. To

the Gentiles, the cross was “foolishness” (1:23). “Why would a “god” become a man? How could a woman be with child of the Holy Spirit? An immaculate conception? Foolishness!” The Greeks “search for wisdom” (1 Corinthians 1:22). They had Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle. They had education and intellectualism. They could explain anything. Except the wisdom of God.

Paul wrote that he did not come to Corinth with “superiority of speech or of wisdom” (1 Corinthians 2:1). He did not come to impress them with his own understanding or worldly wisdom. He rested on the wisdom of God as seen in the cross of Christ. As the hymn Wonderful, Merciful Savior asks, “Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?” But this plan was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world. His wisdom worked it out.

“May it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:4). The best way to do that is to preach the cross as the power and wisdom of God. Anything less is offensive to the Lord.

~via *Southside Bulletin*; Pasadena, Texas.



In Case of A Tie

Al Diestelkamp

Brother Yater Tant once reported that in a Bible class the teacher asked if anyone could explain why Paul was chosen to be an apostle when there were an even dozen men (counting Matthias) filling that office. After thoughtful deliberation, one brother (an older man and longtime member) opined that it was probably so there would be an uneven number, and Paul could break the deadlock “in case of a tie.” Brother Tant wondered if such a brother had adequate mental capacity to be accountable before God.

It reminds me of how some brethren are reluctant (and sometimes refuse) to appoint elders in a congregation when there are two men who qualify—unless a third is found “in case of a tie.” This attitude is likely an outgrowth of church business meetings patterned after Robert’s Rules of Order instead of applying principles found in the Bible. God never intended for a church

to function by majority rule.

Qualified elders will come to a consensus and make no decisions strictly on how many favor something. In congregations lacking elders, the same attitude ought to exist—consensus ought to take place. Of course, when referring to congregational decisions, we are referring to those which have not already been made by the Lord as revealed in the New Testament.

~via *Think On These Things*; Cortland, Illinois.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Ann McLemore	Nancy Abernathy
Anita Wheeler	James Johnson
Helen Blankenship	JoAnn Gilbert
Patsy Thomas	Doris Lovell
Ann Bush	Wayne Gooch
Linda Jones	Cindy Glass

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Irene Inman
Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Priscilla Tucker	Bobby McLemore
Jenny Pickens	Ella Melvin
Phillip Christopher	Everette “Bud” Dollar
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Brittany Bates Carter
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Una King Currier
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Helen Trousdale, rm. 43	Nelva Reed, rm. 61
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Oneal Martin, rm. 81	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Mable Crafts, rm. 39
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookdale Farms, Huntsville

Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

Updates:

Nancy Abernathy has been dealing with an infection and has been unable to be at services ... **James Johnson** has been dealing back problems and has been unable to be at services ... **Ann McLemore** is dealing with an infection and is confined to home ... **Marvin Putman** is scheduled for test at Crestwood on Tuesday ... **William Thomas** is in the Ardmore Health & Rehab ... **JoAnn Gilbert** has had an open wound vac. on the knee that she had surgery on. She is to go back to the doctor on Tuesday of this week ... **Bobbie Adcock** came home from rehab Friday ... **Adrian Maynard**, a preacher for the Hindsbury Rd. church in Barbados, is scheduled for surgery for the tumor on his back on Wednesday.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are away in college:

Brettlyn Currier, at Auburn University

Keenon Currier, at the University of Alabama

Austin Hobson, at the University of North Alabama

Griffin Holt, at the University of Alabama

Drew Ogles, at Auburn University

Christian Usery, at LaGrange College

Elizabeth Usery, at Mississippi State University.

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 tonight.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Bradleys:** *Steve and Marilyn* are in Texas ... **The Carters:** *Delmer & Margaret* have been in Michigan this past week... **The Userys:** *Steve, Allison & Matthew* are in Starkville, Mississippi... **The Wulfekuhl:** *Russ, Lisa & Ali* are in the Blue Ridge Mountains... **Jim Whitt** is leaving today for work in Germany... **David Cox** is in Grenada this week working with the brethren there.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: This past week we had an excellent gospel meeting with **Dee Bowman** preaching. Dee did his work well and all who came were edified from the lessons presented.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Oct. 15th*

Sunday: Bible Classes 137
Morning Worship 174
Evening Worship 173

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 146

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer..... Hunter Cox
Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Marty Adams
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl David Terry
..... Nathaniel Adams... Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer Keith Hinkle

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... A. J. Price
Preaching..... Song Service
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Larry Holt

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 22nd:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/Steve Usery
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, October 25th:

Song Leader A. J. Price
Bible Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:6-18
..... Mike Ogles
Prayer..... Tony Thomas
Invitation..... Buc Chumbley
Closing Prayer Ashton Gatlin

Sunday, October 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Steve Usery
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Ashton Gatlin
Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Larry Holt
Assisting Dwaine Allfrey
Serving Landon Adams..... Clayton Hamm
..... Mike Ogles..... Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer..... Marty Adams
Preaching..... A. J. Price
Lord's Supper Larry Holt
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 29th:

Ushers..... Danny Holt/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews