

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. 47

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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz..... (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

Speak Lord

Jonathan Banning

Reality doesn't jive with the notion that God really doesn't care what we do. He does indeed. He wants us to do His will (Hebrews 10:36); to do what He deems "good" (Micah 6:8). For that reason, it is only right that He communicate those expectations. How unjust would it be if God wanted something from us, but refused to tell us what He wanted? Would you punish your son if you failed to tell him that you expected him to mow the lawn last Saturday? Certainly not. Neither would the Lord.

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers and the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son..." (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Thanks be to God that He has told us what we must do to please Him. Hebrews 1 proves that, but it proves more than that. God has always told mankind what He wants. He spoke through patriarchs like Abraham, documents like the Law of Moses, prophets like Isaiah, and in these last days through the most divine of mediums, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

God, the supreme divinity, speaks to mankind. He speaks so that He may tell us what He wants from us. He always speaks! That's the kind of God we serve. Knowing this brings to light a question that we all must ask and answer for ourselves. When God speaks how should I respond?

There are an array of possibilities for how to answer that question, but I could find no better biblical answer than the one Eli gave to Samuel the young prophet, "If He calls you...you shall say, 'Speak, for Your servant is listening.'" (1 Samuel 3:9). That's how creation ought to respond when God speaks. We ought to open our ears and open our hearts. We ought to open our lives to be used in His service however He sees fit, no matter

the difficulty and whether I understand His purposes or not. To quote Eli again, "It is the Lord; let Him do what seems good to Him" (1 Samuel 3:18). When the Lord speaks mankind should stop, hear and do His will. It is the Lord, after all.

When God speaks man should obey. That's about as straightforward as theology gets, but that's not always what happens in real life, is it? Sometimes we'd rather not hear the voice of God.

We should listen when God speaks about sin. We must hear what the Lord says about sin. Not only in terms of what is sin and what is not, also in terms of what sin does. It brings death and separation from God (Ephesians 2:1-3,13). God says sin is not a trivial matter or something to be trifled with. If the Bible emphasizes anything about sin, it emphasizes that sin requires blood. Will you let that sink in? God spoke! That's what He said. You are not going to be okay if you're letting sin hang around. God spoke, are you listening?

We should listen when God tells us to stand up. Paul told us he was not ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16), and neither should we be ashamed. A Christian must muster the courage to stand for the truth (Ephesians 5:11). That's what God says. That's hard. When I address sin or have a spiritual disagreement with someone it is easy to dilute the Gospel with phrases like, "That's just what I believe," or "In my opinion." We do that because society has told us that it is arrogant and close-minded to stand opposed to another's beliefs. We begin to feel like it is wrong to take a stand. Don't ever doubt this; if God spoke it, we can stand on it, and we'd better stand on it! God spoke, are you listening?

We should listen when God is silent. Remember, when the Lord wants something, He tells us (Hebrews 1:1). That means we ought to regard His silence as highly as we regard His speech. If God wants something from us He will tell us. That's what God has said. If God desires a kind of worship, He will speak. If God desires we support something, He will speak. And here's one that might get most of us; if God desires we condemn something, He will speak. It's possible to condemn too little, but also to condemn too much. God spoke, are you listening?

Sometimes we make things too complicated. Pleasing God is actually very simple. We can give Him exactly what He wants when we simply listen to Him speak.

~via *West Oaks Bulletin*; Burnett, Texas.

Is The Way of Christ Intolerant?

Paul Earnhart

Intolerance is an English word with a hard edge to it. Webster defines it as "incapacity to endure; esp. refusal to tolerate other's opinions, religious beliefs, etc.; illiberality; bigotry." This definition suggests a bigoted attitude toward others and their religious beliefs which might well employ ridicule, social ostracism, or force to drive out both them and their beliefs.

Frankly, it would be difficult to charge Jesus and His apostles with such an attitude. The Lord was remarkably patient and longsuffering toward all men and women, even those who hated Him and all He stood for. He urged His disciples to love all men, even those who spitefully used and persecuted them (Matthew 5:43-48). Peter, urging patience under unjust treatment, says "For to this were you called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps...who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered He did not threaten" (1 Peter 2:21, 23).

The apostle Paul also taught a love for others that was patient and longsuffering (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) and urged the disciples to "speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men" (Titus 3:1,2). The idea of ridiculing people into compliance or seeking their conformity to the kingdom of heaven by force would have been abhorrent to Jesus and the early Christians who followed Him. Jesus was a teacher, not a soldier or a politician. People were drawn to Him by His teachings and His character. His teaching was plain but patient. No one ever left His presence without understanding two things: what the kingdom of God demanded, and how much the Teacher cared for them.

But in today's world to be tolerant means more than patient endurance of beliefs and practices in others which one earnestly believes to be both wrong and eternally dangerous. Modern tolerance demands that one accept as equally valid, true, and good every belief and practice. In fact, so strongly and broadly is this felt that to challenge the truth of any religious belief or the morality of any life style, however kindly, is judged immediately to be outrageously bigoted and self-righteous. And, ironically, if any should find the courage to kindly disagree with the chosen convictions and behavior of others they are almost certain to be ridiculed and scorned. In this culture not accepting all religions and lifestyles as equally

worthwhile is "the sin against the Holy Spirit." It will not be treated generously.

The reason for this current cultural mood is the widely held view that there is no such things as absolute truth in religion or morals, no such things as absolute right and wrong. In this worldview whatever works for you is true, but what works for you may not work for others. Each person is left to find his own truth. (Interestingly enough we are still very much given to absolute truth in the material world and have no interest in taking on a physician or pharmacist who believes that one way of treating disease or filling a prescription is just as valid and useful as another.)

To be candid, if we take this postmodern definition of "truth," the way of Jesus Christ is bound to be indicted as both narrow-minded and intolerant.

Jesus' claims about His Father and Himself were unyieldingly absolute. He taught that there was only one God (Mark 12:29-30) and that no one could come to that God except by Him (John 14:6; 8:32; 16:12-13). Those who did not believe in Him, He said, would "die in their sins" (John 8:12). For the Son of God it was the "narrow way" which led to life. The broad road led to "destruction" (Matthew 7:13-14).

The apostles were equally adamant. Paul pronounced an anathema on any, even angels or himself, who should dare to preach any other gospel than the one he had first preached (Galatians 1:8). He also wrote that in Christ were "hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" and that in Him dwelt "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:3, 9). For him Christ was "the Way" (Acts 24:14) and not merely one of many.

Yet, if the way of Christ is narrow the love of Christ is wide, for God wants "all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). And in His longsuffering love He is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). It is for that reason that Jesus "taste[d] death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9). There is nothing narrow and constricted about the heart of God. The gospel is for all (Mark 16:15) and that without "partiality" (Romans 2:11).

Why then, if God's love is so wide, is Christ's way so narrow? Because the true God is real, not a fiction, and His righteous will and character are authentic, not a fantasy. The way of Christ is narrow because that is the only way to heaven, and that is where His Father

wishes all of us to be.

~via *Kleinwood Bulletin*; Spring, Texas.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Jane Meredith
Mike Wheeler
Patsy Thomas
Wayne Gooch
Linda Jones

Helen Blankenship
Grady Threet
Doris Lovell
Cindy Glass
Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard
Janice Cagle
Priscilla Tucker
Jenny Pickens
Phillip Christopher
Linda Ordonez
Cindy Walker
Gene Carpenter
Betty Christopher
Al Pollard
Elizabeth Howard
Will Weir

Irene Inman
Jeanette Weir
Bobby McLemore
Ella Melvin
Everette "Bud" Dollar
Wayne Wooldridge
Brittany Bates Carter
Charles Burns
Una King Currier
Ava Brooke Campbell
Matt Poff

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Margaret Carter; Crestwood Hospital, rm. 368
Laurie Wells; Huntsville Hospital
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:

Bobbie Adcock is scheduled to see her heart doctor about heart valve surgery after Thanksgiving... **Helen Blanken-**

ship has had her medicine adjusted and is doing better and hopes to be here today... **Grady Threet** is not doing well and hospice has begun to see him this past week... **Steve Usery** has oral surgery scheduled for December 8th in Birmingham... **Donna Wright's daughter, Lori Wells**, had valve replacement surgery on Tuesday afternoon and is in the Huntsville Hospital recovering... **Paul & Dale Adcock's daughter, Tracy Hodges**, had surgery for her cancer on Monday... **Carol Dean's son-in-law, Matt Poff** has received a bad report on his cancer. Keep Matt in your prayers... **William Thomas** continues in the Ardmore Health & Rehab.

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

Brettlyn Carrier, 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.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathies to **Dan Lovell, Doris Lovell, Jeanette Weir** in the passing of their brother, **Jimmie Lovell**. Jimmie passed away last Sunday and his funeral was on Wednesday in Rogersville. He was laid to rest in the Barnett Cemetery near Lexington.

NEWBABY: We want to congratulate **Bart & Brittany Brown** on the birth of their baby boy this past Tuesday afternoon. He weighed 8 lbs. and 9 ozs. They named him **Joseph Bennett**. This makes **Joe and Polly Leopard** great-grandparents again.

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 tonight.

WEDNESDAYNIGHT: On Wednesday night, **Kenny Chumbley**, Buc's brother, will be visiting with us and he will be speaking to the auditorium adult class. We look forward to having him here and hearing him speak.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Adams:** Marty, Marvella & Kenneth continue on the trip with the ABS senior class in the northeast... **The Rogers:** Mark, Kim & Peyton are in Gatlinburg this week.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Nov. 12th

Sunday: Bible Classes 130
Morning Worship 168
Evening Worship 130
Wednesday: Bible Classes 84

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Keenon Currier.. Roger Hammonds
..... Danny Johnson..... Matthew Usery
Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 19th:

Ushers..... Dwaine Allfrey/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, November 22th:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
Bible Reading 1 Timothy 2:9-15
..... Joy Warner
Prayer..... Dwaine Allfrey
Invitation..... Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Sunday, November 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Larry Holt
Assisting Joel Hamm
Serving Steve Usery..... Matthew Vaughn
..... Kenneth Adams..... A. J. Price
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
Preaching..... Song Service
Lord's Supper Larry Holt
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 26th:

Ushers..... Marvin Putman/RussWulfekuhl
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams