

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

December 10, 2017

No. 50

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 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

Visit Us On The Web

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

Should We Judge?

Mark W. White

Jury duty at the county courthouse is not something any citizen looks forward to, but in this instance I was astounded by what occurred during the selection of a jury for a criminal trial.

My number was selected to be a part of the "voir dire" process by which the actual jurors are selected to sit and hear evidence both for and against an accused. Sixty-four citizens were being instructed by the judge, the prosecutor and the defense attorney. The prosecutor, an assistant District Attorney for Harris County, Texas rose to ask all of us a question we each had to answer one-by-one. The question was, "Do you have any religious or conscientious scruples against sitting in judgment on someone, or in passing sentence on a defendant if they are actually convicted of a crime?" This was asked soberly and each juror gave his or her answer. The astounding thing is — not a single juror in the room said they could not judge! Not one said that he or she believed a person could not be judged by his peers. Not one said they could not pass sentence on a person found guilty of committing an aggravated assault. I was surprised by this. Sixty-four Texans, chosen randomly for jury service, had no problem with judging another accused citizen.

Very likely, the most often quoted New Testament verse other than John 3:16 is Matthew 7:1. Jesus said, "Do not judge so that you will not be judged." (NASB) We often hear this quotation or some version of it. Many people believe that true Christians would never call into question nor condemn the actions or ideas of others. But is the prohibition of all personal judgments against others what Jesus had in mind in Matthew 7:1?

No, for some judgments are necessary, even required of us. Give careful thought to what this means. Is it even possible to go through life without making calls about someone else's behavior? Parents certainly do not have that luxury. Spouses sometimes point out character flaws in their mates and even condemn misbehavior. Employers have to enforce rules in the workplace and censure employees who violate company policies. Courts are called upon to make judgments about the behavior of citizens and

non-citizens alike. Even sports games have referees.

Jesus also once said, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." (John 7:24,NASB). Some judged that Jesus had broken Sabbath law when He healed a man on that sacred day. In His defense, Jesus pointed out that on the surface, it might have appeared that Mosaic law was broken. In reality, it was not violated at all. Jesus did not say, "No one can judge my actions", but rather He told the Jews to judge righteously. Get the facts, be honest, know what the Law says, and fairly reach your conclusion.

If we are harsh, spiteful, uninformed and hypercritical in our judgments, we should expect the same in return when others must evaluate our actions and ideas. The Corinthian church had a sexually immoral man in their fellowship (1 Corinthians 5). Paul did not command them to continue looking the other way and accept the man as he was, but to "judge those who are within the church" and to "Remove the wicked man from among yourselves." (vs. 12,13). Although difficult to do, it was a needed censure from the church, designed to save a man's soul.

Courts can make wrong judgments. So can parents, spouses, companies, and of course, referees. We must perfect our skills at discerning good from evil (Heb. 5:14). But the fact that a mistake can be made does not mean that it is wrong to make a decision. Children of God must "train their senses" and "judge righteous judgment."

~via *The Cyfair Family News & Notes*; Cypress, Texas..



Is God Your Close Friend?

Nathan Peeler

I recently headed to the Perry library to study and after a while had to get up and walk around in order to stretch my legs. I stumbled upon a movie which I had heard was very good entitled "Beyond the Mask." The movie received the Dove Seal of Approval, which means it does not have any inappropriate content. The background of the movie was placed in the colonies

right before America declared their independence and centered around a fictional account about how God can change the heart and life of a person.

There are three main characters in the story: William, Charlotte, and Charlotte's uncle Charles (who is the bad guy in the story). Shortly into the story William and Charlotte begin dating. Charlotte's mother inquires of her daughter if she feels like she will marry William.

As Charlotte has only known William for 6 months, she states she cannot give a definitive answer to the question. She begins discussing William's positive and negative qualities in order to get her mother's opinion. She makes an amazing statement: "Sometimes he (William) speaks of God as a distant acquaintance rather than an intimate friend."

First, I think it is remarkable that this young lady sought to understand the level of commitment her potential husband had to the Lord. To all who are currently seeking a mate this is something which you need to take seriously and evaluate carefully. Now by no means does that mean you are looking for a perfect Christian who never falters, but you must look for a godly mate with a heart to follow the Lord! Consider the negative example of Jezebel who encouraged her husband King Ahab in all the wickedness he sought to do (1 Kings 21:25-26). But the opposite is true as well. Think about Aquila and Priscilla who encouraged and strengthened one another in the Lord (Acts 18:24-26; 1 Corinthians 16:19). Choose prayerfully and carefully!

But this statement challenged me to consider again how I view God and my relationship with Him. I have very few close friends with whom I can freely discuss whatever I want. When I am dealing with a distant acquaintance I handle that person **very** differently than I do a close friend. I am more guarded and careful with my speech. How am I dealing with God: as an intimate friend or distant acquaintance? As I read the Psalms one thing that impresses me is how the authors pour out their heart to God. They are in a very personal relationship with Him and are drawing closer to Him through their requests, dilemmas, joy, and dark times. Am I following that pattern and becoming closer to God each day?

As the story of my life ends I want to make sure I am in a close relationship with my Creator and that I may be called the friend of God, just as Abraham was (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23).

~via *Spring Warrior Newsletter*; Perry, Florida.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 4:00.

Subjective Spirit Leading

Terry Benton

Subjective "Spirit Leading" is when one is moved by imagined nudging and impulses, then attributes that imagination to the "leading of the Spirit". It often never is in complete harmony with Spirit "revelation" in the Bible. It is sometimes outright contrary to Spirit guidance through "revelation" (Ephesians 3:3-5).

It is completely subjective as to whether it is the Holy Spirit instead of a deceiving spirit or just plain human desire and imagination. Yet, you get drawn into the language and thinking that imagines the Lord walking and talking with you, and then you start saying "the Lord told me this" or "the Lord showed me this".

Francis Chan offers stories from those who have experienced "real encounters" with God. He says each of us has the choice every day "to depend on yourself, to live safely, and to try to control your life. Or you can live as you were created to live—as a temple of the Holy Spirit of God, as a person dependent on Him, desperate for God the Spirit to show up and make a difference." Yet, he is basically telling people to imagine the Spirit "showing up" in some emotion-driven and imagination-perceived way, and all such imaginations automatically becomes self-confirmation that the Holy Spirit instead of Satan as an angel of light is doing this "showing up".

Beth Moore is another that uses this imagination-driven approach where her imagination of talks with God become conversations with God in which she reports "what God told me". This kind of thinking is very dangerous, and yet some of our brethren are jumping on the band-wagon of these kind of authors and speakers and promote them as truly guided by God.

The real "Holy Spirit" showed up in guiding the apostles into "all truth". He revealed and confirmed "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" – Jude 3-4; Hebrews 2:1-4. He powerfully leads through that revelation (Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 3:3-5). When we are listening to the Spirit in scriptures used correctly we are listening to the voice of the real Holy Spirit.

Imaginations must be cast down and not exalted to the level of God's word. When a person does not "abide in the doctrine of Christ" but gives greater or equal guiding authority to their imagination of conversations with God, they have quit "holding fast to the Head" (Colossians 2:19) and have "intruded into those things

which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind" (Colossians 2:18). This is "empty deceit" because it imaginary conversations with God told as if it happened in reality, and this is a form of lying since God did not actually tell them anything. It is purely an adult form of make-believe and empty of real revelation. Be careful of those who promote such.

~via *Auburn Beacon*; Auburn, Alabama.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Beverly Sutton
Virginia Meyer
Patsy Thomas
Wayne Gooch
Linda Jones

Arvid McGuire
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
Bobby McLemore

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

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
Kathleen Wales, rm. 103	Helen Evans, rm. 95-A

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison

Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
 Elvin Stoffregren, at daughter's in Dyer, Tennessee
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

Updates:

Steve Usery was scheduled to have oral surgery on Friday, but it was postponed due to the weather...**Margaret Carter** continues her recovery at home. Her blood work done this week was good...**Priscilla Tucker** began her radiation treatments this week...**Grady Threet** continues under hospice care...**Carol Dean's son-in-law, Matt Poff** has received a bad report on his cancer. Keep Matt in your prayers.

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

Brettlyn Currier, at Auburn University
Keenon Currier, at the University of Alabama
Griffin Holt, at the University of Alabama
Drew Ogles, at Auburn University
Christian Usery, at LaGrange College
Elizabeth Usery, at Mississippi State University.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We have reason to rejoice that **Nathaniel & Laura Adams** have decided to make their home with us at Market Street. We look forward to them working with us and us with them for the cause of Christ.

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.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Nixons: Harvey & Pat** are in Arkansas visiting with family this weekend.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Dec. 3rd

Sunday: Bible Classes 132
 Morning Worship 181
 Evening Worship 112
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 94

Seventh Annual Singing

February 23, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
 514 WEST MARKET STREET
 ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Danny Holt
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Marty Adams
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Assisting Mike Ogles
 Serving Matthew Usery..... Nathaniel Adams
 Russ Wulfekuhl Landon Adams
 Closing Prayer James Johnson

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Danny Holt
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 10th:

Ushers..... Ashton Gatlin/Steve Usery
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, December 13th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Bible Reading 1 Timothy 4:1-6
 Kenneth Smith
 Prayer..... Terry Andrews
 Invitation..... Buc Chumbley
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, December 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Ashton Gatlin
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Marty Adams
 Serving Clayton Hamm Marvin Putman
 Heath Dollar Charles Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Harvey Nixon

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 17th:

Ushers..... A. J. Price/Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams