

# 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 17, 2017

No. 51

## 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

## 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*

## *More Than Followers: Disciple-Makers*

**Max Dawson**

Among the final words of Jesus to His disciples were these:

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."*

This text contains the marching orders that Jesus gave His disciples as He was about to leave them. The disciples obeyed Jesus and were eminently successful in impacting the world for Him.

According to the book of Acts, these men carried the gospel to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

What caused these twelve men to be so successful? It was the fact that Jesus had trained them for three and one-half years. When you read through the gospels, you are not merely reading about the travels of Jesus. You are reading much more than Jesus just preaching to the large crowds.

When you read through the gospels, you are reading about Jesus training those twelve men to do His work after He returned to heaven.

### **Mentoring—that's what Jesus did!**

We may be surprised to learn that in the Lord's short period of ministry that He did not focus on merely gaining followers. If that was His mission--to merely gain followers--we would have to conclude that He was not very successful. When He left this earth it appears that he had only about 120 disciples who were loyal to Him. Not a very good showing.

Instead of trying to gain thousands of followers, Jesus focused on training a few men to be leaders, to do His work for Him after He left the earth. The three and one-half years He spent with His disciples were consumed in training and equipping them for the greatest task the world has ever known.

The twelve men He trained were more than followers. They were trained by Him to go out and make more disciples.

Can you and I do the same? Whatever your role is in the kingdom, can you mentor someone to do what you are doing? Can you train another who can carry on the work that you presently do?

If you are an elder, deacon, preacher, Bible class teacher, home study teacher, song leader—can you mentor someone to continue your work after you are gone? I think you can. We all can. When you leave the church building each Sunday and Wednesday, find men and women (young and old) who you can disciple/mentor.

It's what Jesus did. It's what you can do. "Go and make disciples..."

~via *Family Newsletter*, Madrid, Iowa..



## *He Said What?*

**David McClistter**

The apostle Paul was a fearless preacher. I know this from reading his "sermon" in Acts 17. The circumstances were these: Paul had come to Athens, having "escaped" from unbelievers who were threatening his life in Thessalonica. As it worked out, Paul's traveling companions – Silas and Timothy – were able to stay in Thessalonica a while longer, so Paul went ahead to Athens by himself.

At Athens Paul did his usual thing. He went to the local synagogue and began telling them the story of the gospel and how it fulfilled the promises God had made to the Jews. But he also went down to the city marketplace (which was a large area, several acres in size) and would talk about the gospel to whatever person happened to give him a moment of their time.

Now Athens was not the great cultural center in Paul's day that it had been back in its prime. The Romans had subdued the Greeks and Athens was, in many ways, only a shell of its former self. But it was what we would call a "university town." Athens was still famous for being the home of some of the greatest philosophers of the ancient world – Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, to name a few. People still came there to teach, and to learn, philosophy.

In fact, the city so attracted philosophical teachers and students, that a local court called the Areopagus was entrusted with the job of directing the public life of the city. Included in this was "screening" and approving what was taught in their city (and who taught it). So when Paul came along preaching the gospel of Jesus, he came under their purview.

It would only be a matter of time until Paul's teachings reached the ears of other teachers and philosophers in town, and that is exactly what happened in Acts 17:18. Epicurean and Stoic philosophers confronted Paul about his teaching, which obviously sounded strange to them. They accused Paul of being irrational, inconsistent, and eclectic. We can gather this much from the criticism they leveled at him: they referred to him as "this seed-picker." [The English translations here say "idle babbler" or similar things, but the term in Greek is used of little birds that went around picking up seeds at different places. The idea, then, was that in their opinion Paul's teaching was a hodge-podge of various ideas which he had picked up from various different teachers and philosophies, but which produced a very strange combination. To them, Paul was nothing but an amateur, an intellectual scavenger.]

Paul was brought before the Areopagus to explain his teaching. It is at this point that we begin to appreciate Paul's boldness. No, he was not one of them. He did not have their background or their training in philosophy. He was ridiculed for teaching "dumb" ideas. The entire objection of Acts 17:18 can be boiled down to this: "Paul lacks a higher education." But this did not silence Paul. He knew that he had something more powerful and more profound than of any earthly philosophy, no matter how high-sounding and elitist they made it appear. It is exactly this kind of situation that Paul described in 1 Corinthians 1:25-28: "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ... God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God."

In fact, what we find next in the narrative is nothing but amazing. Paul basically shows the Athenian philosophers just how ignorant they really were (and he even uses the word "ignorance" when describing the entire course of human history, including the impressive achievements of the Greeks, in v 30!). He begins, brilliantly, with pointing out that they had even acknowledged

their own ignorance by setting up an altar dedicated “to an unknown god” – who turned out to be the very God that Paul served and whose gospel he preached. It was this God who was admittedly unknown to them who was actually the most important of all, who is the Creator of all things and whose word is the truth by which all people must think, live, and by which they will be judged (as Paul points out in vv 30-31).

But Paul was not done. He famously said “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ... we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man” (Acts 17:24, 29). Just over Paul’s shoulder, plainly visible a few hundred yards away, was the most famous Greek temple in all the ancient world, the Parthenon, home of Athena, the patron deity of the Athenians. Inside this magnificent temple stood a statue of Athena that was about 40 feet tall. The flesh parts of the image were made of ivory, and the rest of the statue was draped with 1,500 pounds of gold. Truly it was the pride of Athens, but Paul dismisses it with a few words. Paul plainly indicated to these cultured-but-ignorant Greeks that the true God is nothing like theirs. God does not dwell in a humanly-built house – even a really nice one like the Parthenon, nor does he conform to human ideas.

What a scathing criticism! And what courage it took to speak it to these people!

What do we learn from this episode in Paul’s life? We learn that Paul was not ashamed of the gospel. In fact, he was downright “proud” of it and happy to be associated with it. He did not care if the intellectuals of his day liked it or disliked it. He did not try to impress them with his knowledge of Judaism, nor did he try to match their philosophical expertise. Paul was simply about the plain, unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ, a message that was foolishness to people like this (as Paul would later say to the Corinthians, “For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness” — 1 Corinthians 1:22-23). Paul did not believe that he had to “fit in” or compete with the world and its ways. Paul knew that what these people needed was the gospel, and he refused to compromise it or himself as he presented it to them.

There will always be the temptation to dress the gospel up with fancy, high-sounding rhetoric or to compete in the world’s arena for status and esteem.

Like Paul we must resist these urges to make the gospel fit the world, and instead boldly demand that the world must fit the gospel. May God give us the same boldness that Paul had.

~via *Crossville Messenger*; Crossville, Alabama.

## News & Notes...

### THE SICK:

Marion Mitchell	Steve Usery
Beverly Sutton	Barbara Carter
Virginia Meyer	Grady Threet
Doris Lovell	Arvid McGuire
Cindy Glass	Ann Bush
Linda Jones	Wayne Gooch

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

Joe Leopard	Irene Inman
Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Priscilla Tucker	Patsy Thomas
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 Carrier
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Will Weir	Phillip Harwell
Bobby McLemore	

### *In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:*

*Miles Benson Ezell*; Huntsville Hospital – W & C  
*Norman Hamm*; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

### *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:*

Helen Trousdale, rm. 43	Nelva Reed, rm. 61
Mattye 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:**

**Marion Mitchell** was released from the Decatur hospital last Sunday and is doing better at home... **Steve Usery** had his oral surgery on Monday and is recovering at home... **Margaret Carter** continues her recovery at home... **Priscilla Tucker** is under-going her radiation treatments ... **Arvid McGuire** saw a kidney specialist in Birmingham on Wednesday ... **Grady Threet** continues under hospice care... **Adrian Maynard**, a preacher for the Hindsbury Rd. church in Barbados, has been scheduled for surgery, on Monday for the tumor on his brain.... **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.

**WORK GROUPS:** Work Group Two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **The Nixons: Harvey & Pat** are back home after being out of town last weekend... **Jim Whitt** has been out of town this past week in Oklahoma with his work.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of Dec. 10th

Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 126  
 Morning Worship ..... 168  
 Evening Worship ..... 108  
 Wednesday: Bible Classes ..... 104

**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 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

**Wednesday, December 20th:**

Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
 Bible Reading ..... 1 Timothy 4:7-16  
 ..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
 Prayer..... Christian Usery  
 Invitation..... A. J. Price  
 Closing Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell

**Sunday, December 24th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Joel Hamm  
 Song Leader ..... Ashton Gatlin  
 Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin  
 Preaching..... Buc Chumbley  
 Lord's Supper  
 Presiding..... Terry Andrews  
 Assisting ..... Marty Adams  
 Serving ..... Danny Holt ..... Mike Ogles  
 ..... David Terry ..... Tony Thomas  
 Closing Prayer ..... Roger Hammonds

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Joel Hamm  
 Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
 Prayer..... Christian Usery  
 Preaching..... Song Service  
 Lord's Supper ..... Terry Andrews  
 Closing Prayer ..... A. J. Price

Other Assignments for Sunday, December 24th:

Ushers..... Keith Hinkle/Hunter Cox  
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams