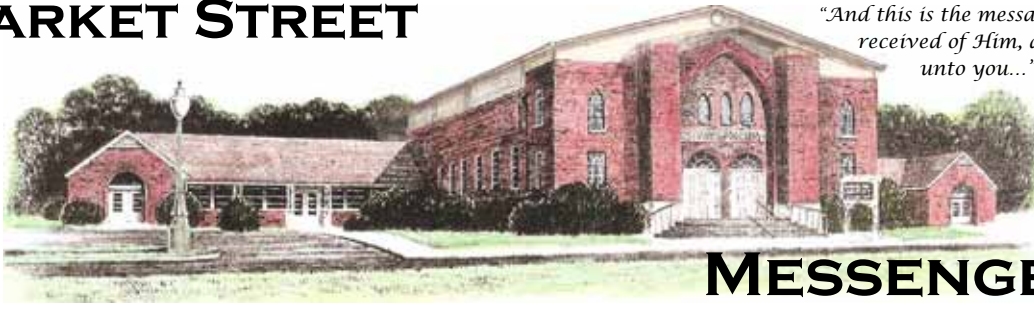


MARKET STREET

"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 X

April 8, 2018

No. 14

On Denying The God of the Bible

T. Doy Moyer

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) 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

When unbelievers deny God, what they are mostly denying is a toned-down version of God. The concept of God gets brought down to a human level who cannot know more, do more, or have any more authority than the skeptic.

Since we cannot conceive of allowing something to happen, then we cannot allow for a God who would permit it. If we do not have the ultimate power of life and death, then we will not allow for a God to have such power. If we do not understand some great difficulties, then we cannot allow for a God who can understand them.

And if there is such a God who does have such power and knowledge, then we cannot believe in Him because He has not explained Himself to us adequately, for if He exists, then surely He must be amenable to us in some way.

These denials then often take the form of some straw-man. God, after He is lowered to the level of an ignorant, foolish, narcissistic brute who is no better than a power-hungry dictator, is thus caricatured and readily dismissed.

What we need to see is that all of these caricatures and denials are not dealing with the God of the Bible. They are dealing with some other version of a god that has been watered down and subsumed under the umbrella of the finite reason of faulty men. Such a god does not exist. That's right. Such a god does **not** exist. If their version of God is what we are really dealing with, then I will join their ranks. The magical sky fairy is a myth. The flying spaghetti monster does not exist. The bearded sky clown is foolish. Any such version of God does not exist. I won't defend it.

But that is not the God I believe in or defend. The biblical God has wisdom and knowledge unfathomable to a finite mind. He has the knowledge of perfect justice. Because of who He is, He has the power of life and death, and He can exercise that power in ways that we cannot comprehend.

The problem is that we cannot comprehend the fullness of divine power, knowledge, and authority, but we act like we do get it. Then, thinking we

have this God figured out, we make ourselves out to be authoritative enough to put this God under our reason. No wonder such a God gets denied.

Ultimately, no one is in a position to deny the actual God who reveals Himself in Scripture. Think about it. If, in order to deny God, we bring Him under our reason, we fundamentally change who He is, then summarily dismiss this new version of God, then we still haven't truly denied the God of Scripture. We've replaced Him with a false version.

Yet, in order to deny His existence, this is what we must do. I feel no need to defend the God that typical atheists deny, for they are denying a version of God who is far, far less than the true and living, almighty God.

We need reminding of this ourselves, for when we begin to doubt, it is almost certain that what we are doing is downgrading our concept of God in some fashion. What we are doubting is a watered down version of God that does not exist. The answer, then, is to give up the pride we have in our own conceptions of God. We need to quit putting Him in a box. We need let go of thinking that we have understood the One who can do exceedingly far above anything we can ask or think. These lesser concepts don't even come close to the true God.

The bottom line is this: no one is in a position to deny the true, living God of heaven and earth. No one.

~via *Kirkwood Bulletin*; Kirkwood, Missouri..



Peter's Example

Steven Baxley

In Galatians 2:11-14, Paul relates an incident that he had with Peter:

“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But

when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Peter was guilty of not living consistently with the Gospel of Christ. He would (correctly) eat with Gentile Christians, but then disassociated himself from them when certain Jewish Christians came, in fear of their reaction. Since God had declared that Gentiles were “clean,” Peter’s actions were in violation of God’s revelation (Acts 11:9).

What Paul also notes about this whole situation is that not only was Peter wrong, but through his example (in this case his bad example), he had led other Jewish Christians into the same sin (verse 13). In fact, Paul specifies that “even” Barnabas, of all people, had been carried along into this sin. Barnabas is shown throughout the Book of Acts as one who acted with the best interests of others in mind, so his being carried away into this is particularly noteworthy.

Among other things, this episode speaks to the power of our influence. The examples we provide have great power for good and for bad. Just as Peter was able through his bad example to lead others into sin, so also we through our actions can also lead others into sin. On the other hand, we can by our good influence lead others in the correct way of following Christ.

Paul counsels Timothy to set a good example: “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). Also, the Christians in Thessalonica had set a good example in their faith as well as in evangelizing the lost in other places. (1 Thessalonians 1:6,8). In both cases, the idea is that good examples will help other Christians live as God wants them to.

It is not difficult to realize that our influence (including this author’s) is not always what it should (and could) be. Part of the life of a disciple of Christ is realizing our own shortcomings and failures, and attempting to live more in line with what our Master expects. An important part of this realization is understanding just how powerful our examples can be. Our attitudes and actions have great power both for good and evil. Let us pray every day that we will set the best example possible for those around us.

~via *North Beach Bulletin*; Fort Worth, Texas.

A Wonderful Privilege

Antoine N. Holloway

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word & believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life” (John 5:24).

Hearing The Word Of God Is A Wonderful Privilege
– “Whoever Hears My Word”

What is a privilege? A privilege is a special advantage, immunity, permission, right, or benefit granted to, or enjoyed by, an individual or group of individuals.

Why is hearing the word of God a wonderful privilege? Hearing the word of God is a wonderful privilege because there is a famine in the land of hearing the word of God today (Amos 8:11-12).

Why is there a famine in the land today? There is a famine in the land today because:

- Everybody who says they are preaching the gospel is not preaching the gospel (Galatians 1:6-9).
- We have too many individuals who do not want to hear right things and too many preachers catering to them. Thus, they are preaching smooth things (Isaiah 30:8-10).
- Many of us have failed to adhere to the advice the apostle Paul gave to the young preacher Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15.

Hearing the word of God is a wonderful privilege of which we must take full advantage.

Why must we take advantage of this wonderful privilege? We must take advantage of this wonderful privilege because:

- God has invested His power to save men from their sins in the gospel, the word of God (Romans 1:16, 1 Peter 1:22-25, and James 1:21).
- We are going to be judged by His words in the last day. So, hearing His word takes us out of the realm of ignorance into the region of knowledge when we stand before the Lord (John 12:48).

Praise God for this privilege!.

~via *Northside Exhorter*; Tuscon, Arizona.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jo Dunnavant
JoAnn Gilbert
Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell
Wayne Reyer

James Johnson
Cornelia Pepper
Ann Bush
Linda Jones
Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Irene Inman
Janice Cagle
Priscilla Tucker
Bobby McLemore
Matt Poff
Elizabeth Howard
Linda Ordonez
Cindy Walker
Gene Carpenter
Betty Christopher
Ava Brooke Campbell

Jeanette Weir
Patsy Thomas
Ella Melvin
Cindy Glass
Susan Cox
Al Pollard
Wayne Wooldridge
Phillip Harwell
Charles Burns
Una King Currier

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Mattye Murray, rm. 2 Mable Crafts, rm. 39
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36 Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 73

Limestone Health Facility:

Larry Owens, rm. 114 Esther Jernigan, rm. 116

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at City Center, Decatur
Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
Irene Inman, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Paul Adcock had an MRI done on his arm and shoulder ... *Ann McLemore* has been scheduled for surgery on April 20th ... *Arvid McGuire* is scheduled for further removal of some cancer that was still present after his recent biopsy on April 16th... *Margaret Carter* has been having problems with her gall bladder... *Adrian Maynard*, from the *Hindsbury Road church in Barbados*, is scheduled to have the second part of his brain surgery on Wednesday.

DIRECTORY PICTURES: We are in the process of making directory pictures. There are several pictures that we are needing for the directory and some pictures that need to be updated. The pictures will be made in the next couple of weeks in room 20 in the east wing.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Jones Road church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *David Banning* will be the speaker in the meeting... The *Danville Rd. church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in the meeting will be *Jared McCrary*.

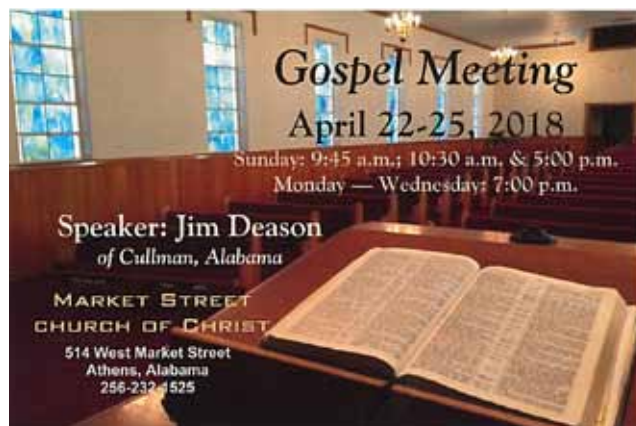
JOE L. LEOPARD (1935 – 2018): It is with sadness that we note the passing of brother *Joe Leopard*. Joe was a longtime member of the Market Street church. Joe began attending Market Street the Sunday after his wedding with his bride, Polly. That was in 1958. Joe was faithful in serving the Lord and loved attending here. It was very disappointing to him that in the last couple of years he was not able to be at services. We have missed his presence among us, but are thankful for the influence he has been here at Market Street. We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Polly, Stephanie, Norman, Larry and Shane* as well as all the grandchildren in his passing. Joe's funeral was on Wednesday at Limestone Chapel and he was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

OUT OF TOWN: *Phyllis Broadus* is in Tennessee this weekend at convention with her work... *Jim Whitt* has been in Oklahoma with his work... *The Ashes: Harold and Barbara* are out of town in Gulf Shores.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of April 1st

Sunday:	Bible Classes	164
	Morning Worship	218
	Evening Worship	145
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	108



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting	Steve Usery
Serving	Marvin Putman
	Matthew Usery
	Larry Tucker.....
	Roger Hammonds
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 8th:

Ushers.....	Steve Bradley/Keenon Currier
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, April 11th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading	Mark 1:29-39
	Harold Ash
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Invitation.....	Buc Chumbley
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Sunday, April 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Mitchell
Assisting	A. J. Price
Serving	Danny Johnson.....
	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Nathaniel Adams.....
	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Bonnie Sutton
Preaching	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 15th:

Ushers.....	Marcus Morris/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams