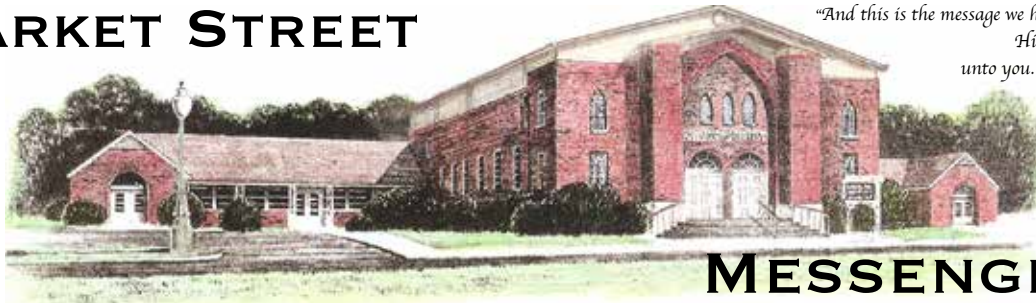


MARKET STREET



"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 XI

February 17, 2019

No. 7

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

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web

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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

Why Are The Scriptures Not Understood Alike?

David A. Cox

Paul writing to the Ephesians said, "Therefore do not be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). It is clear that we can and should understand the scriptures alike. However, the question is often asked, "Why are the scriptures not understood alike?"

• It is Not Because of a Failure of God

Paul's writing about the revelation of God states, "how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I wrote before in a few words, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)..." (Ephesians 3:3-4). Paul states here that the things which were revealed to him he had written so that they might understand the mystery.

• It is Not Because Jesus Did Not Desire It

No one can doubt that Jesus desires that followers of Him would understand the scriptures alike. In John 17 as Jesus prayed for the believers said, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You have sent Me" (John 17:20-21). Jesus prayed that His disciples and those that are taught, by the word, would be one. This unity prayed for here was for those in the first-century as well as today. Paul speaks of the unity among believers as he wrote, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

• It is Because of One's Attitude.

This attitude may be exhibited in a couple of different ways.

1. *One attitude may be that thought that the scriptures are impossible to understand.* One with this kind of attitude will not make the kind of effort needed to understand the Bible. The scriptures are not impossible to understand, and if they are correctly understood, then there will be agreement and unity. In Acts 2, Peter preached the

first gospel sermon. In this sermon, he appealed to the Old Testament prophets and scriptures and their fulfillment in Christ. On that day, 3000 understood the teaching of God's will, repented and were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:15-41). Paul told Timothy, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). If we are to understand the scriptures alike, then we must be diligent in our study of them to know what is taught so we can understand

2. *The attitude may be that we just simply want to do things the way we want to do them.* This was the attitude of King Saul when he was instructed to "utterly destroy" the Amalekites. But when Saul battled the Amalekites, he spared "Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs and all that was good" (1 Samuel 15:9). Why did Saul do this? Was it because he did not understand the instructions of God? No! As a matter of fact, Samuel referred to the attitude he possessed as one of rebellion. The truth is Saul desired to please others rather than obeying God.

- **How Can We Understand the Bible Alike?**

First, it must be recognized that God's will is understandable and that God expects us to understand it. Let us open our Bibles and read them and learn from the scriptures what the will of God is. Let us put away our prejudices, past practices, selfish desires, and simply do what the scriptures teach. By doing this we will be simply Christians — united in the gospel of Christ. We will be speaking the same thing and will be of the same mind. There will be no divisions among us, for our attention will be focused on Christ and pleasing Him by being one in Him.



Abrahamic Faith

Ken Weliever

Recently it was my privilege to speak and lead a devotion for Florida College students many of whom attend Temple Terrace Church of Christ. What a wonderful, receptive and engaging group of young people.

I was asked to discuss the call of Abraham and the offering of Isaac recorded in Genesis 12:1-4 and 22:1-14. We wanted to approach these narratives not just as a historical account or an academic exercise, but as an example that is practical, personal and relevant to our daily lives.

E. M. Bounds was right when he wrote: "Faith is not an abstract belief in the word of God, nor a mere mental credence, not simple assent of the understanding and the will; nor is it a passive acceptance of facts."

Rather, as one of my favorite authors, anonymous, expressed it, "Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible."

God's Call of Abraham

Abraham was instructed to leave his father's house and his homeland, and go into a land that God would show him. The Bible says, "And he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8).

Why? Abraham had faith in God.

More incredibly, God promised to bless him. Make his name great. Produce from his descendants a great name. Give them a land. And from his seed would come One who would bless the entire world. What makes this so amazing is that at this point Abraham is unknown, obscure and childless. Oh, and he is 75 years old.

Yet, the Hebrew writer's account says, "he obeyed." "Went." "Dwelt." "Waited." And "offered." Abraham's life reminds us that faith is active. Not passive.

A 25 Year Journey

It would be 25 years before Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah. During those years so much happened. There was a dispute between the herdsmen of Abraham and his nephew Lot. And so they separated. Later Lot was captured and then rescued by Abraham.

While waiting, God renews the covenant. But Sarah, showing her impatience intervenes and gave Abraham her maidservant, Hagar to conceive a son. As a result, Ishmael was born. But he was not the child of promise.

Twice during these years, we read how Abraham,

fearing for his life, lied about Sarah being his wife and said, "she is my sister." (Genesis 12:11-13; 20:2).

When Abraham is 99, God again appears and gives him a sign of His covenant through the rite of circumcision. We recall how Sarah laughed at the thought of bearing a child in her old age (Genesis 18:12). But the Bible says that Abraham also laughed at the idea (Genesis 17:17).

Through these 25 years, Abraham had his share of challenges. Like us, he was not a perfect person. He was not sinless. But God used him, knowing he had a good heart and could become the person He needed him to be. Our journey of faith will also encounter problems and pitfalls. But, like Abraham, our faith can grow, mature and be strengthened.

The Sacrifice of Isaac

The ultimate test of Abraham's faith came when God commanded him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering in worship to God. While this may have seemed contradictory to God's promise, by now Abraham's faith was so strong that he didn't doubt what God could do.

As they journeyed toward the place of sacrifice, he told the servant "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you" (Genesis 22:5). See that? "We will come back."

When Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham replied, "God will provide."

What was Abraham thinking? The Hebrew writer offers some insight. "He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead" (Hebrews 11:19). Of course, Isaac wasn't offered. It was a test. And Abraham passed the test.

We concluded our devotion that night by reminding the young people of 3 important facts about faith.

1. **Your faith pleases God** (Heb. 11:6). It shows that you trust Him. Expect him to provide. Believe in His promises. And that you rely on His power.
2. **Your faith is perfected by works** (James 2:14-16). "Faith without works is dead." Like Abraham, our faith must be active. It must be demonstrated and is made complete by our works.
3. **Your faith provides hope.** Our hope is the anchor of the soul. And faith is the foundation of our hope. J. Oswald Sanders put it perfectly: "Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen."

Give some thought to this wonderful Bible example. I believe it will strengthen your faith.

~via *The Preacherman*; Homosassa, Florida.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	Loretta Warner
JoAnn Gilbert	Doris Lovell
Bobbie Adcock	Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Lona Jackson	Paul Hasting
Janice Cagle	Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir	Patsy Thomas
Ella Melvin	Marvin Putman
Cornelia Pepper	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	Una King Currier
Cindy Glass	Susan Cox
Gene Carpenter	Cindy Walker
Phillip Harwell	Wayne Wooldridge
Kenneth Fisher	Becky Thompson
Matt Poff	David Collier

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Dean Holt; Huntsville Hospital
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Paul Hasting, rm. 101	Mildred Lambert, rm. 106
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, 77
Evelyn Hogan, 36	Dorothy Draper, 73
Joyce Martin, 63	Valeria Dalton, 7

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 94

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
Irene Inman, at home
Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Virginia Meyer moved from Traditions to Shepherd's Living in Madison this past Wednesday...*Nikki Ogles* is going to the doctor on Thursday at Kirlin Clinic in Birmingham to determine treatment for her Alpha 1 condition. Keep Nikki in your prayers...*Jimmy Johnson* news from his biopsy was inconclusive and he will need further testing...*Mildred Lambert* is making good

improvement in rehab and hopes to go home soon... **Barbara Ash** has been battling bronchitis this past week... **Dan Lovell** is scheduled for cataract surgery on Thursday.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice that **Bill and Brenda Eden** have expressed their desire to be a part of the work at Market Street. Let us all give Bill and Brenda a warm welcome.

ANNUAL SINGING THIS FRIDAY: This Friday night, *February 22nd*, will be our *Eighth Annual Singing*. I know that it will be truly an edifying and uplifting evening. I hope that everyone will be here. In connection with that remember to come early and we will need people to assist with parking, ushering, etc. Remember to tell others to come and join us. If you are on Facebook, please share the event and send invitations to your friends to join us. We will be putting chairs out on Wednesday night following our Bible study.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Oakland church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through the week. *Lowell Sallee* will be the speaker in this meeting... The *Pepper Road church* will begin a meeting on Saturday and it will continue through the following Wednesday with *Ken McDaniel* preaching.

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.

OUT OF TOWN: *Joe Hinkle* has gone to Port St. Lucie, Florida to visit with family... *Mike Ogles* is out of town with his work... *Jim Whitt* continues in Seattle, Washington with his work.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Feb. 10th
 Sunday: Bible Classes 133
 Morning Worship 173
 Evening Worship 108
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 107

Eighth Annual Singing

February 22, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Wiley Deason & Johnny Felker



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Russell Melvin
 Assisting Larry Tucker
 Serving Kenneth Adams..... Christian Usery
Heath Dollar Will Chumbley
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... Nathaniel Adams
 Lord's Supper Russell Melvin
 Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Other Assignments for the week of February 17th:

Ushers..... Marcus Morris/Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

Wednesday, February 20th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading Dan Reed
 Mark 13:9-23
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Sunday, February 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Marvin Putman Harold Ash
 Keenon Carrier..... Tim Griswold
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Jerry McGloocklin
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Russell Melvin
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for the week of February 24th:

Ushers..... Marcus Morris/Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt