

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

May 26, 2019

No. 21

Dwelling in Tents

Bubba Garner

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

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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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 you read Hebrews 11, it is easy to focus on what you might consider the “great” acts of faith. Noah prepared an ark. Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea on dry land. But there is also a three-word phrase in that chapter that describes the lifestyle of Abraham, the father of the faithful: “dwelling in tents” (11:9).

A tent back then, just like we think of it today, was a temporary shelter. They were made of leather or animal skins or cloth. The KJV uses the word “tabernacles.” The tabernacle was designed to be portable; it could be disassembled, packed up, and then moved during the 40 years of wilderness wandering. That’s why it is also referred to as the “tent of meeting.” The fact that Abraham was “dwelling in tents” was an indication that he was not a permanent resident.

He “lived as an alien” as in “a foreign land” (11:9). That word, also translated “sojourned” (KJV), is the same word used by Cleopas when he asked Jesus, “are you the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in the last few days” (Luke 24:18)? Do you know what Abraham’s approach to life was? “I’m just a visitor.” And he lived accordingly. The object of his faith was his tent.

We are children of Abraham by faith. Like our father, let us be intent on dwelling in tents. This will help us to be more...

AtTENTive. “Abraham, when he was called, obeyed” (Hebrews 11:8). Have you ever thought about how much easier it was for him to be obedient to the Lord’s call because he had the attitude, “I’m just a visitor here?” When God called him to go forth from his country, his relative, and his father’s house, “Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him” (Genesis 12:4). What did he do when he got there? “He pitched his tent” and built an altar (Genesis 12:7-8).

Do your things keep you from being attentive to the things of God? Abram was a wealthy man who prospered. He and his family “took all their possessions which they had accumulated” (12:5). But he did not allow

his possessions to overshadow what was most important. Don't be so distracted by your things that you can't even hear the voice of the Lord. Keep your attention on what is permanent, not on what is temporary.

Consistent. Abraham "lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land" (Hebrews 11:8). Not only did God uproot him from his home and surroundings, when he got to where he was going, he found out that the deed to the land belonged to his descendants. What did Abram do? He went back to the altar "which he had made there formerly" (Genesis 13:1-4). When he and Lot divided, Abram "moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord" (13:18). He did exactly as he had been doing.

Satan is after us to just make small concessions. "You don't have to abandon the Lord completely, just do enough to get by. You can do this just once, what is that going to hurt?" But "dwelling in tents" reminds us that this world is not our home. We shouldn't get too comfortable or grow roots here. Consistency is needed to keep the world at a distance. Otherwise, we move our tents closer and closer to Sodom.

Contented. "For he was looking for the city which has foundations" (Hebrews 11:10). By Genesis 18, nearly 25 years have passed. Guess where Abraham was sitting? "At the tent door" (18:1). From that perspective, he saw an opportunity to serve three visitors, including giving them "a choice and tender calf." In so doing, he is mentioned again in Hebrews: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2).

We will be more contented when we admit that our possessions are "just stuff." These are things "on loan from God." They belong to Him and are going back to Him. He blesses us with our jobs "in order that He may have something to share with him who has need" (Ephesians 4:28). Those in need are our fellow visitors, aliens and strangers in a foreign land. We can be content in our tents for we also are looking for a permanent city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

I hope to tour the hall of faith one day. I want to see Noah's ark and Jacob's staff. But I especially want to see Abraham's tent. Until then, let's be intent on dwelling in tents.

~via *Southside Reminder*, Pasadena, Texas.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Are You Religious?

Brent Phillips

Are you religious? Most people probably think of themselves as being religious. Most individuals have some kind of faith. Most of us would say that we believe in God and many of us would even state that we believe in Christ and that we are going to heaven. What is your concept of being "religious"? What does "religion" really mean to you? There is a lot more to being saved than being "religious."

Being religious is just not good enough because you could be religiously wrong (Acts 17:22). We certainly need to be religious, but we need to be religiously right. Jesus says in Matthew 15:1-20 and Mark 7:1-23 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." It is significant to realize that Jesus was not only describing the sinful condition of the religious world of his day, among his own people, he was also quoting from the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 29:1-24) who was describing the state of Israel's ancient religion. Both Jesus and Isaiah described man-made religion as "worthless and useless."

The tragedy is, however, man-made religion is often sold to the unsuspecting masses by "wolves in sheep's clothing" (Matthew 7:15-20) who lead the ignorant to their doom (Matthew 15:13-14). Many good moral – even religious – people have been and are being deceived by man-made religions selling a deceptive and defective "gospel." And all the while they may actually think that they are "saved." Yet they are in for the surprise of their life because Jesus says: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. . . . Away from me you evildoers." (Matthew 7:21-23) It is important to realize that in this passage Jesus is condemning people who were very, very "religious" . . . people who even thought that they were serving the Lord.

The Apostle John warns us to: "Prove the spirits and see whether or not they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1) All too many churches that claim to follow the Lord are guilty of perverting the Gospel of Christ and teaching different doctrines. Those churches and individuals that do not teach the truth are condemned (Galatians 1:6-10); they do not even have God (2 John 1:9-11). Those who follow these religious leaders will be held accountable.

Are you religiously right or religiously wrong? Isn't it time you made sure? Why not come and worship and study with us as we seek to be religiously right. Compare what we say and do with what the Bible teaches (See Acts 17:11) and make sure that we are a church that truly belongs to Christ.

~via *Valley Bulletin*; Phoenix, Arizona.



Being Religious Is Good, But...

Leland R. Ping

To be diligent, by definition, is to make a "constant and earnest effort to accomplish" a particular task or tasks. The apostle Peter wrote, "be even more diligent to make your call and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10). Throughout the scriptures, the Holy Spirit describes those who follow the Creator as the "elect" or chosen of God. In this passage, however, Peter warns first century Christians that being a part of the elect isn't an automatic thing or something to be taken lightly. Instead, all Christians, then and now, need to give serious consideration to how we're living to make sure that we're truly honoring the great calling of our God.

Just as it's important to understand what God expects from us, it's also important to give frequent consideration to the results of such diligence. That is, while we are happy to serve God simply because He's God and because He has done so much for us, we also should be aware that the Bible tells us in no uncertain terms that we'll benefit from our decision to serve Him. The results of our diligence should be helpful as we try to avoid growing discouraged and helpful as we attempt to teach others about Christ. One result of diligence is that Peter refers to as our inability to "stumble" (2 Peter 1:10). While it's certainly possible for a child of God to find himself in error as a result of his disobedience, God has promised us that He'll keep us from evil and will not allow us to be tempted too sorely (1 John 5:18; 1 Corinthians 10:13). Furthermore, God says the diligent man will be supplied an "entrance" into the kingdom of Christ (2 Peter 1:11). There are requirements in order to go to heaven. Even Jesus Himself taught that the way to God's kingdom was through a "narrow" way (Matthew 7:13). Yet, God promises us that He'll show us the gate and with His love He illuminates the path to the entrance into His kingdom.

Diligence also allows us to be "abundantly" blessed by God, both through our "entrance" into the kingdom and in doubtless other ways while serving God on earth (2 Peter 1:11). Paul and Peter both describe the grace of our God as abundant in nature (1 Timothy 1:14; 1 Peter 1:3). And Paul told the Ephesians that God is capable of doing, "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). God is truly great and his grace abounds in ways that are made evident daily. As His servants, we are asked to serve Him with, "a constant and earnest effort" in an attempt to do His will and share it with others. The results of that diligence are clear and the work required of us is well worth it!

~via *Lake Elsinore Bulletin*; Lake Elsinore, California.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Peggy Pepper	Brenda Jones
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Bobbie Adcock
Ann Bush	Nathan Craig

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Robert Beasley	Jeanette Weir
Cornelia Pepper	Pat Wulfekuhl
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Kenneth Fisher
Una King Currier	Matt Poff
Susan Cox	Gene Carpenter
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Wayne Wooldridge	Brittany Bates Carter

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Brad Brown; Athens-Limestone Hosp.
Malcom "Flash" Gordon; UAB Hospital – Birmingham
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Leonard Clines, 99	Valeria Dalton, 7
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, 77
Evelyn Hogan, 36	Dorothy Draper, 73

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

Updates:

Jennifer Threet is scheduled to have a heart cath done on Wednesday in Huntsville... **Brenda Jones** continues to recover from her recent surgery. She is to go back to her doctor this week... **Peggy Pepper** is at home recovering from her fall last week... **Bob Broadus** is scheduled to have a procedure done on his foot on Tuesday... **Jim Whitt's father, James Whitt**, had back surgery this past week at Athens-Limestone Hospital. He is now at home... **Jewel Dean Kennamer's granddaughter, Brittany Bates Carter** is in Houston, Texas living in an apartment taking treatments at M.D. Anderson with one more week of treatments.

OUT OF TOWN: The Nixons: Harvey & Pat are in Virginia this week for their grandson's graduation... **Tena Wells** has been in Asheville, North Carolina this week... **The Userys: Steve, Allison, Christian, Elizabeth & Matthew** are on vacation in Sevierville, Tennessee... **The Tuckers: Larry and Theresa** are away helping Tyler get settled in for his residency.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: We rejoice over the fact that **Don & Kay Bates**, and **Martha Pyron** have decided to be members of the church here at Market Street. We are thankful to have them among us and look forward to our work together. Let us extend **Don, Kay and Martha** a warm welcome.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: Meets each Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the west auditorium, except for the 2nd Tuesday of the month when they meet at the Limestone Manor.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our sympathy to **Ross Melvin** and *all the family* in the passing of Ross' uncle, **Bryan Trotter**.

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

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of May 19th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	144
	Morning Worship	189
	Evening Worship	127
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	104

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 Serving Clayton Hamm Matthew Usery
 Will Chumbley..... Harold Davis
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of May 26th:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Steve Bradley
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, May 29th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading Albert Haraway
 Mark 16:9-20
 Prayer..... Terry Andrews
 Invitation Keenon Currier
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, June 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 Serving Landon Adams..... Heath Dollar
 Russ Wulfekuhl Charles Vaughn
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
 Song Leader Griffin Holt
 Prayer..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Other Assignments for the week of June 2nd:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System..... Will Chumbley