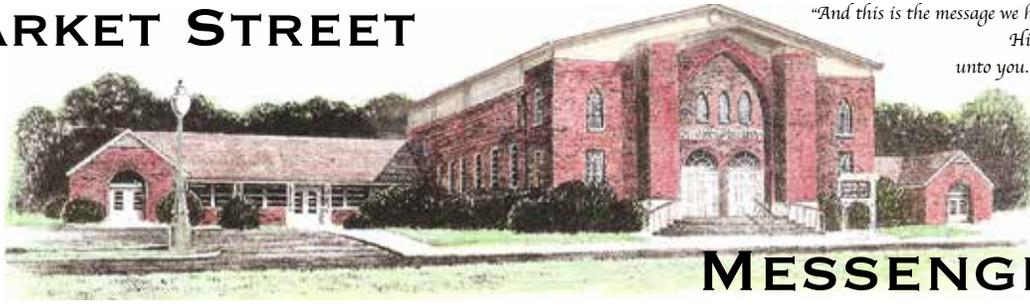


MARKET STREET



"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

December 22, 2019

No. 51

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
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

Are You A Legalist?

Roger Shouse

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15)

The one thing conservative followers of the Bible dread is being labeled a "legalist." Legalism is a term that is often misunderstood and used by those who want freedom from following the Bible. Associated with legalism is the picture of a person who is narrow minded, judgmental, always pointing out what is wrong and, worst of all, a modern day Pharisee. To be called a legalist is not a compliment. It is a prejudicial term that shuts down discussions, closes doors and is considered a strict and dying sect that no one on the outside wants anything to do with.

I have heard of folks walking away from churches and their parting shot is "they are legalists." Most times, these folks dance merrily off to places where the Bible isn't followed closely at all and just about anything and everything is allowed. They rejoice in their new found freedom never realizing that they are drinking the poison of error and are setting a new course apart from God.

Our verse today is not a call for legalism. Jesus wants us to obey Him. Over and over the New Testament states this. John wrote, "And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in Him" (1 John 3:24). He writes in the second letter, "Any one who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). In Hebrews, "and having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation" (Hebrews 5:9). The apostles were instructed to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Matthew 28:20).

God wants us to obey Him. There is no getting around that. To believe that it doesn't matter what we do, is simply ignoring what the Bible specifically teaches. A church that is just wanting to do what the Bible teaches and nothing else and nothing more, is not legalistic. It's Bible based. The proper word is "Biblical."

Can I obey Jesus without being a legalist? Can I do what He wants

me to do? Can I hope and pray that everyone else also just obeys Jesus? What a great world we would live in today if everyone just obeyed Jesus. Wanting what God desires is not legalism. Obedience is not legalism. Those that drop that term so often do not understand the word that they are using, nor do they understand the desires of God, and worse, by their very misuse of that word, they are lawless. They are doing things without the permission or the authority of God. Jesus was asked "by what authority are you doing these things and who gave you that authority?" That was a fair question. Who's in charge? Who is making up the rules? If not God, then who?

We need to obey Christ. That is how our faith and love to Him is expressed. "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light..." is how John began his statements about fellowship. Following Christ is not a bad thing. One should never have to apologize for doing what God tells them to do.

Jesus did not rebuke the Pharisees for obeying God. He rebuked them for being hypocrites and for putting their traditions above the law. Their traditions, were just that, theirs. It wasn't from Heaven. It's how they saw things. They made up rules, laws and ways folks had to do things. If those weren't followed, then they judged others as being wrong. After amazing miracles in the synagogues, instead of praising God and blessing Jesus, the Pharisees criticized Jesus because He broke their Sabbath traditions. The bent over woman, the man with the withered hand—just a couple of examples of Pharisees complaining to Jesus about what day of the week He was healing people on. That was the problem in the New Testament. It wasn't because folks were obeying God. The Pharisees were hypocrites. They expected others to do what they weren't doing themselves. Hypocrisy and man's traditions can trip us. They can get in the way of obeying God. Traditions change. Traditions come and go. Traditions do not fit everyone, nor in every situation. God's word does. There is a major difference between traditions and obedience to Christ. I am not a legalist because I obey Jesus. He wants me to.

The opposite of perceived legalism, is bending the rules to fit our needs. In such cases, lying might be ok. If it avoids getting a speeding ticket, in trouble with your wife, or boss, a little lying is ok. Really? Who decided this? Yet, if a person declares, you should never, ever lie, that person is called a legalist. God said we should not lie. Does obeying God make a person a legalist?

The Bible doesn't specifically say anything about the church using it's money to send kids to camp or to

do some social things, as long as the results are good, we shouldn't be too fussy about being so strict about things. That's the counter to obeying God. For someone to say, where does the Bible show us that we can use our collected money to send kids to camp, immediately someone will shout, "legalist." Wanting to stick with God and the Bible is not legalism. The proper word is "obedience." The word is "Biblical."

When folks flee from obedience for fear of being labeled a legalist, then the barn doors are opened and anything and everything happens. Who ever is in charge makes the rules. They will do what they want. I've seen it go so far as allowing women to preach, claiming folks do not have to be baptized to be saved, to the church running car washes and looking and acting just like every other modern church today. They smile because "we are not legalists."

I simply want to obey Christ. He knows what I am like and what I need. He is the one who will save me. He is the one who my hope is in. He was obedient to His Father in all things. He pleased His Father. I want to be like that. I will be labeled a legalist by those who want to be lawless. They will misuse that word because they do not understand that word. They will call me narrow and strict. Yet, didn't our Lord first use those words when He said the way was narrow that leads to life? Truth tends to be narrow. One and one is two. That's narrow. If I am not narrow, then what am I? Open to any and every idea? Happy to do things that God never said to do? On the broad and wide path that leads to destruction?

I think to soothe the conscience of some, it is easier to point the finger at obedient people and call them legalists. Our faith, our relationship and our fellowship with God is all defined by our connection to His word. I cannot be right with God and wrong with the Bible. How can I say I love God, yet I disobey what He says? Follow Christ. Be imitators of Christ. Imitate God's love. Forgive just as God has forgiven us in Christ. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loves the church. Over and over the New Testament teaches us to follow Christ. Do what Christ did. Have this attitude or mind in you as Christ did. It never speaks of doing things differently than Christ. It never calls upon us to be unique or different. It never calls obedience legalism.

I simply want to obey Christ. Don't you?

~via *Lifelines* Galena, Indiana.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Naaman Said

Bob Pulliam

Naaman said, "Behold, I thought," when he didn't like the message of the prophet (2 Kings 5:11). There in was the problem, he thought instead of listening with a mind to obey. This is not a rare problem.

People in religion today call themselves "Christian," and yet they think instead of listening to obey. They cast away any need to be baptized with a "behold, I thought." They think it's an outward sign of an inward grace, but God said it washes away sins (Acts 22:16) and puts us "in Christ" (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27). We must give thought to what God says, but we must not be thinking "ahead" of Him. Preconceived ideas are no virtue in serving God.

Another will say, "Behold, I thought the church wasn't that important." Still another will say, "Behold, I thought any worship is fine as long as it is sincere." These and many other thoughts are not paying attention to God (Ephesians 3:10; 5:23-27; Matthew 15:8f; John 4:24; Colossians 3:17).

~via *Plain Path*, Katy, Texas.

Ninth Annual Singing

February 28, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Wiley Deason & Johnny Felker



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

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Joe Hinkle	Larry Holt
Chuck Stiles	Kenia Adams
Keenon Currier	Helen Blankenship
Minnie Carter	Beverly Sutton
Bobbie Adcock	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	JoAnn Gilbert
Alvis McLemore	Yvonne Strickland
Lloyd Adams	Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Gene Carpenter
Brittany Bates Carter	Denny Smith
Carrie Warner	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Arvid McGuire; Athens-Limestone Hosp. –ICU
Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Johnnie Leigeber, rm. 45
Brenda Wilson, rm. 73	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Flossie Smith, rm. 96	

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 105	Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
Virginia Meyer, rm. 99	Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Elease Barksdale, Limestone Lodge
Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Irene Inman, at home
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison

Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Charles Vaughn had surgery on Wednesday to reattach his thigh muscles and on his miniscus. He is at home... **Chuck Stiles** was released from the hospital on Tuesday afternoon and moved to Limestone Health Facility ... **Ross Melvin** completed his radiation treatments this week...**Keenon Currier** had sinus surgery on Monday of this past week...**Freddie Mae Elmore** is beginning to feel better working to get her strength back ... **Kim Rogers niece, Carrie Warner**, is continuing treatments for cervical cancer.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium, will resume their regular weekly meetings on Tuesday, January 7th at 10:00 a.m.

PICTURES: We are needing to finish the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. If you have not had your picture made yet or have not updated it, please do so this week or next. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* was cancelled on Monday due to the storms. The class will meet January 20th at 7:00p.m. We will be studying "*Be An Encourager*".

OUT OF TOWN: **Bradleys:** *Steve and Marilyn* are in Houston, Texas.... **Christian Usery** is in Long Beach, California with his work.

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 Dec. 15th:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	130
	Morning Worship	172
	Evening Worship	117
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	87



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting	Mike Ogles
Serving	Landon Adams... Matthew Vaughn
.....	Sam Gregory Kenneth Adams
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for the week of December 22nd:

Ushers.....	Russ Wulfekuhl/Danny Holt
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, December 25th:

Song Leader	Larry Holt
Bible Reading	Harvey Nixon
.....	Hebrews 6:13-20
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Invitation	Dan Reed
Closing Prayer	Harold Ash

Sunday, December 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Harold Davis Christian Usery
.....	Matthew Usery..... Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Kenneth Adams
Preaching	
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Other Assignments for the week of December 29th:

Ushers.....	Heath Dollar /Danny Johnson
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams