

# 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  
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Volume XII

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No. 5

## *What Type of Salt Are You?*

**Adam Pogue**

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16).*

In times of antiquity many stored their salt in a designated hole, often within their homes. Over time the salt that touched the earth became unusable due to moisture. At that point the family would need to remove the salt that had been damaged and throw it out. However the salt could not be thrown out on their land as that could damage the crops. Instead the salt would be thrown out, as Jesus says, on the streets to be "trampled under foot by men."

This reminds me of the words of Jesus in Matthew 9:37-38, "...The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." Have you ever wondered why there are so few willing to teach others the gospel? Do we need to encourage more men to become preachers? Yes and No! Sure, more men need to become ministers of God's power to save but no that is not the real context or problem. The real context is that more disciples of Christ, not just evangelist, need to be willing to work in the fields that are plentiful with lost souls seeking answers.

I come back to this salt analogy that Jesus points us to. When I consider Matthew 5 and 9 here are some things that I believe would be good for all of us to consider.

1. Why don't more disciples do more "work" for Jesus? Perhaps we would like to but we feel like we would be perceived as hypocrites. Maybe our past or current sins hurt our influence with the lost around us. We should remember a part of doing "good works" is keeping ourselves "unspotted from the world" James 1:26-27. It is hard to show the

### 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

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MarketStreet-church.com

### MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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*David A. Cox, Editor*

lost the light of Christ when we ourselves are living in the filth and darkness of sin.

2. It would be good for all disciples to ask ourselves a simple question. What kind of salt am I? Are we adding spiritual flavor for Christ to those around us or are we harming the fields around us that are full of influential lost souls?

In Genesis 18:32 Abraham asked the Lord to spare the land of Sodom and Gomorrah if at least 10 righteous souls could be found. Obviously 10 righteous souls were not found and the Lord destroyed the cities for their wickedness. Something that has always struck me is the fact that “righteous Lot” (2 Peter 2:7) lived within the walls of Sodom. Perhaps if Lot would have focused more on adding righteous flavor to Sodom instead of accepting the culture of the day at least 10 souls would have been found to be righteous. How is your influence? Are you living in such a way that you could influence 10 souls around you to be more righteous? “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men” (Matthew 5:13).

~via *Northwest Church Bulletin*; Beaumont, Texas.



## *Am I in the Place of God?*

**Ken Weliever**

Our Bible reading today records the death of the Patriarch Jacob and the procession from Egypt to Canaan for his burial. (Genesis 49-50)

After Joseph and his brothers return to Egypt, they were fearful, now that their father was dead, Joseph would exact revenge on them for selling him into slavery. So they sent a messenger to Joseph to remind him of their father’s wishes for Joseph to forgive them for their terrible wrong toward him. In fact, his brothers literally fell down on their faces and begged, “Behold we are your servants.”

How would you react to such a situation? How do you suppose most people would react? Especially when they are in a position of power to issue almost any kind of edict that would have to follow. They could be im-

prisoned by Joseph’s decree. They could be executed if he so commanded.

The Bible says when they said this Joseph wept. Then he responded:

“Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now, therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them” (Genesis 50:19-21).

Joseph’s response provides a wonderful insight into his character and speaks volumes to us about how to deal with those who wrong us. Joseph didn’t blame them for any heartache he initially suffered. He didn’t blame God. Nor did he use his position to seek retribution against his brothers.

It’s worth noting that Joseph didn’t deny he had been hurt. That his brothers had injurious intentions. That their motives were impure and ungodly. They hated Joseph and wanted him out of their lives. God’s providential care of Joseph did not eradicate the evil they committed.

However, Joseph’s attitude was, “Am I in the place of God?”

That’s a great lesson for us to learn today. We need to be careful of not assuming God’s place.

It’s not our place to exact revenge on others for their wrongs. Regarding relationships with those who have sinned against us or hurt us in some way, the apostle Paul offers this divine instruction.

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil... Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay’ says the Lord” (Romans 12:17-19).

I once heard a fellow speak in a seriously threatening way about someone who’d wronged him, “I don’t get mad. I get even.”

Charles Spurgeon correctly observed that “revenge, lust, ambition, pride, and self will are often exalted as the gods of man’s idolatry.”

When it comes to vengeance, am I in the place of God?

This question is also appropriate in other situations we face. In justifying a course of action or a decision that is at best questionable, and at its worse wrong, some folks say, “I think this is what God wants me to do.” Or “I

know God wants me to be happy.” Or “I feel like this is the will of God for me.”

It is well to remember the words of Jehovah recorded in Isaiah 55:8-9.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.  
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Furthermore our knowledge is finite, our perspective is limited and our wisdom is flawed by worldly influences. Proverbs 3:5 admonishes, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

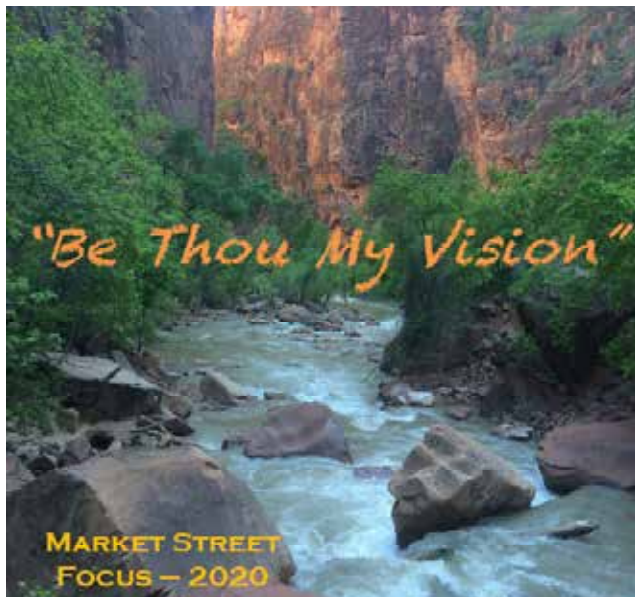
Am I in the place of God?

Some religious leaders put themselves in the place of God by issuing edicts, making rules and enforcing regulations on others that God has not revealed or required. In some circles, men have even elevated themselves to a God-like position before their followers. Paul warned of this attitude when he condemned “the man of sin... who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”

Let’s not be guilty of presuming we know God’s mind other than what he’s revealed. Nor placing ourselves in a position that supersedes, circumvents, or supplants God’s Word.

Am I in the place of God? Are you? Is any preacher or pastor?

~via *The Preacherman*; Homosassa, Florida.



## News & Notes...

### THE SICK:

Sherry Davis	Vicki Stringer
Mildred Lambert	Pat Nixon
Dan Reed	Betty Lovell
Tommy Greene	Helen Blankenship
Minnie Carter	Bobbie Adcock
Loretta Warner	Doris Lovell
JoAnn Gilbert	Alvis McLemore
Yvonne Strickland	Lloyd Adams
Ann Bush	Jewel Nagle

### 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	Carrie Warner
Dena Taylor	

### In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

*Harvey Nixon*; Athens-Limestone Hosp. - No Visitors  
*Angela Leyva*; Vanderbilt Med. Center - Nashville  
*Norman Hamm*; Millenium - Huntsville

### Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Virginia Lovell, rm 45	Brenda Wilson, rm. 73
Christine Hudson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Connie Brock, rm. 62	

### Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 117	Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
Virginia Meyer, rm. 99	Alice Roberson, rm. 49

### Shut-In or Away From Home:

Elise 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:**

**Harvey Nixon** had surgery for prostate cancer on Thursday in Athens and is doing well. He has requested no visitors at this time ... **Vicki Stringer** had her treatments this past week ... **Judy Vaughn** had surgery at Vanderbilt in Nashville on Wednesday and is at home... **Mildred Lambert** will be moving the the Athens Rehab & Senior Care on Monday ... **Mildred Lambert's granddaughter, Angela Leyva**, had surgery this past week to remove her foot.

**TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS:** Remember the *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium at 10:00 a.m.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** The *Fourth Street church* in Cullman will begin a gospel meeting on Friday and it will continue through next Sunday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Kevin Clark*.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Ashes: Harold and Barbara* left Wednesday to go the Indianapolis, Indiana. They will ber returning early this week... *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* are in Houston, Texas.

**NURSING HOME SINGING:** Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest to *Bonnie Sutton* and *all the family* in the passing of *Beverly Sutton*. Beverly passed away Saturday afternoon at home. The arrangements are incomplete at this time. The arrangements will be announced by Spry Funeral Home.

**MEN'S BIBLE CLASS:** The *Men's Bible Class* will be meeting on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. We will continue studying "*Be An Encourager*".

**AWAY AT SCHOOL:** Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college: *Kenneth Adams*, University of Alabama - Huntsville  
*Keenon Currier*, Auburn University  
*Clayton Hamm*, University of North Alabama  
*Griffin Holt*, University of Alabama  
*Elizabeth Usery*, Mississippi State University  
*Matthew Usery*, University of North Alabama

**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 Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>:*  
Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 124  
Morning Worship ..... 163  
Evening Worship ..... 114

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Prayer..... David Barnett  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Larry Holt  
Assisting ..... Mike Ogles  
Serving ..... Sam Gregory ..... Clayton Hamm  
..... Danny Holt ..... Landon Adams  
Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Albert Haraway  
Prayer..... Harold Ash  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Larry Holt  
Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell/Danny Johnson  
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams

**Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>:**

Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Bible Reading ..... Roger Hammonds  
..... Hebrews 9:11-22  
Prayer..... Kenneth Adams  
Invitation ..... Bob Broadus  
Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Vaughn

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**Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon  
Song Leader ..... Larry Holt  
Prayer..... Albert Haraway  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Joel Hamm  
Assisting ..... Marcus Morris  
Serving ..... Russ Wulfekuhl ..... Heath Dollar  
..... Landon Adams..... Matthew Vaughn  
Closing Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer..... Bill Eden  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Joel Hamm  
Closing Prayer ..... Bob Broadus

Other Assignments for the week of February 9<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/ Marvin Putman  
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews