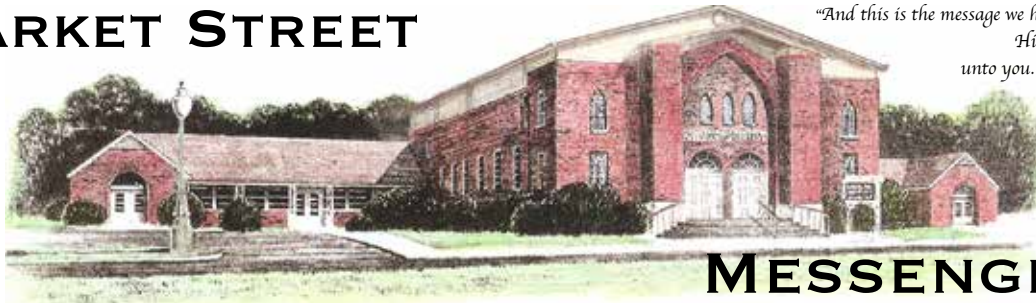


MARKET STREET



“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
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Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume XII

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No. 9

“Be Doers of the Word”

David A. Cox

*“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves”
(James 1:22).*

James has been described as the practical writer of the New Testament. Within the epistles of James, we see how he shows the difference between being hearers and “doers of the word.” Indeed, we need to hear the word, but then be doers of the word and not hearers only. What does a doer of the word look like? James gives four characteristics in James 1:25-27 that describe the doer.

He Practices The Things Taught In The Word. In verse 25, James writes, “he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in...a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” The doers will read, meditate, and put into practice the things taught in the law of God. He will not be in the class of people that Jesus mentions in Matthew 25:41-45 that fail to practice the very things that the law taught them to do.

He Maintains A Control Over His Life. In verse 26, James says, “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.” James tells us that the religious man that is doing the will of God will have control of his life, especially he mentions the tongue. He will keep his tongue from spewing forth vulgarities of all kinds. He will restrain his tongue from gossip, speaking evil, etc. To maintain one’s speech and actions will require that the body and mind of the doer will be controlled. The activities of the doer will be controlled by the scriptures and the things taught in them. He will be focused on doing things the way God would be pleased.

He Loves God and Loves People. In verse 27, it is quite clear from what James says that the doers will be focused on others and what he can do for them. Notice what James says, “Pure religion and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble.” The word “visit” carries primarily the meaning of “to inspect, to look upon, care for.” “To visit” would imply action, not just a glancing thought, but to roll up your sleeves and do something for those who

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 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

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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

cannot do for themselves. The attitude of such people is seen in Matthew 25:34-40. Let's remember that being a doer of the word will be a lover of God and people.

He Practices Holiness/Righteousness. At the end of verse 27, James concludes about the doer "to keep himself unspotted from the world." We must not overlook the importance of maintaining purity and godliness in our lives. Doers will certainly not be people that conduct themselves in an ungodly way. To the doer that is as the text has described would have to "live soberly, righteously and godly" (Titus 2:12).

Anyone that does not understand the necessity of being a doer of the word is a deceiver of himself. May we well remember the great blessings we can enjoy because of the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ and live in a way that that will honor His great name.



Communication is the Key

Marty R. Adams

I'm not certain, but I suspect that if you ask any member of the church what discourages them the most, a common answer given would be an inactive member.

By inactive church member I don't mean only those who are habitually absent, but also the inactive member who merely warms a seat but does little to participate in the worship service to our God. But it's not only a great discouragement to all concerned members of the congregation, it is also a good reason for concern. An inactive church member is one of the sheep that has gone astray and requires the shepherd to leave the 99 to go after the one.

As I contemplated this thought here is what I would say to someone that is not active in the church.

Dear Friend,

I wanted to write you a letter of encouragement. I've noticed lately that you haven't been as present in the worship services and being with the saints at Market Street as you can be or once were. I understand that there are many things in life that detract or hinder us from being as active as we should be, and maybe we

just need a bit of a nudge in the right direction. In fact, it's a temptation that the Bible encourages us against: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:23-25). So with that in mind allow me to encourage you to be more active in our worship service.

First, I want to encourage you because our God is worthy. When we meet week-by-week to worship God we don't do it because it's tradition or mere formality. Rather, we do it because God is worthy to be worshiped: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12). When we come together in worship—as God wants us to do—we are saying, "You are worthy!" But when you don't come to worship because you don't feel like it, or you're too busy, or you'd rather do something else, you are telling God, "You're not worthy." God is worthy of being worshiped, loved and served by you.

Second, I want to encourage you because the church is the body. Paul wrote: "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" (Romans 12:4-5). By the Holy Spirit we're not only united to Jesus but to one another. When you're not participating in the worship service with the church we feel your absence. We value you—your presence, service, gifts and encouragement you bring. To put it this way, when you're not with us we're not complete, but we're a body that is missing a part.

Third, I want to encourage you because of your spiritual growth. God doesn't intend Christians to grow all by themselves. Rather, we are to grow together. Again, Paul wrote that we have the ministry of the church so that "we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). I'm afraid to say it, but it's a biblical assumption that your inactivity means you're not growing spiritually. You're not growing in a love for God or for your neighbor; you're not growing in your knowledge and understanding of the things of God. This isn't a good place to be and we don't want

you to be there.

Fourth, I want to encourage you because of the wiles of Satan. Peter wrote: "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). I don't know a lot about the habits of lions, but I do know that they prey on those who are detached from the herd. I worry that in being inactive and not participating you've separated yourself from the herd and have become easy prey for Satan—his lies, flaming darts and temptations. There's a reason that just before this Peter wrote "Be alert." We don't want you to be resisting the devil all on your own, that's why God has given you to us and us to you.

Fifth, I want to encourage you because of reciprocal edification. Even Paul who was an Apostle wanted and needed to be with the church. To the congregation in Rome he wrote: "For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine" (Romans 1:11-12). You're a member of this church and you're also a friend and family member in Jesus. We want to have opportunities to edify you and also to be edified by you.

Sixth, I want to encourage you because of joy. In writing to a church, John said: "Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete" (2 John 1:12). Everyone wants to be happy, glad and joyful. The Bible reminds us that we find joy in the face to face presence of one another. That is to say, you contribute to our joy when you are present and we contribute to yours.

Finally, let me encourage you because of the promises you made. When you became a member of the church (the body of the believers), you promised to devote your life to Christ. Your devotion, service, influence, encouragement and help are needed.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Marion Pepper	Kenia Adams
JoAnn Gilbert	Arvid McGuire
Helen Blankenship	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Loretta Warner

Alvis McLemore	Yvonne Strickland
Ann Bush	Lloyd Adams
Joyce Tucker	

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
Carrie Warner	Kevin Belue

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Betty Lovell, rm. 120	Mildred Lambert, rm. 3
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Christine Hudson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 117	Bettye Harrison, rm. 59
Virginia Meyer, rm. 64	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:

Dale Adcock is scheduled to have ankle replacement surgery on Wednesday in Huntsville...***Ross Melvin*** is scheduled to have surgery to remove a skin cancer on Thursday in Huntsville...***Helen Blankenship*** is scheduled to have a pacemaker put in on March 12th...***Marion Pepper*** is at home from the hospital with home health. He does not need visitors at this time...***Kenia Adams*** had surgery last week and was unable to be at services...***Lona Jackson's son, Kevin Belue***, has been diagnosed with cancer and is going to the doctor to determine the treatment.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Anderson church* in

Anderson is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Matt Lannom*...The *Oneal church* is beginning a gospel meeting and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Buc Chumbley*...The *First Street church* in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee is scheduled to begin a gospel meeting Friday evening and it will continue through next Sunday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Bill Hall*.

OUR ANNUAL SINGING: This past Friday night we had our *Ninth Annual Singing*. *Jim Deason, Wiley Deason & Johnny Felker* led the singing again this year. We have 466 present this year. I appreciate all of those who helped in various ways by putting out chairs on Wednesday evening following our Bible study, those that helped with parking, ushering, audio/video, etc. Indeed, it was a team effort for a great night and many visitors that came made many favorable comments.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Joy & Loretta Warner* in the passing of Joy's daughter, *Cynthia Ann Smith*, who passed away on Friday morning from injuries sustained in a fall on Thursday night. The arrangements are incomplete. May the Lord bless Joy and Loretta and all the family at this time. ...We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Brenda Jones* in the passing of her uncle, *Billy Crabtree*, who passed away on Thursday morning. The visitation was Friday night and funeral was on Saturday at Ardmore Chapel. May the Lord bless Brenda and all the family at this time. ...We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Casey Curry* in the passing of her brother-in-law *Brian Wayne Curry*, who passed away on Monday. The visitation and funeral were on Wednesday at Limestone Chapel. We pray the Lord's blessings on *Casey, Dustin* and all the family at this time.

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 Two** will be meeting after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Feb. 23rd:*
 Sunday: Bible Classes 133
 Morning Worship 182
 Evening Worship 118

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer.....Tommy Coblentz
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Larry Holt
 Assisting Mike Ogles
 Serving Danny Johnson.. Roger Hammonds
Marvin Putman Heath Dollar
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Hunter Cox
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Larry Holt
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of March 1st:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Terry Andrews
 Work Sound System..... Marty Adams

Wednesday, March 4th:

Song LeaderTommy Burns
 Bible Reading Danny Johnson
 Hebrews 10:11-18
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Invitation Bob Broadus
 Closing PrayerJerry McGlocklin

Sunday, March 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer.....Harold Ash
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Terry Andrews
 Assisting Larry Tucker
 Serving Kenneth Adams..... Clayton Hamm
Matthew Vaughn.... Matthew Usery
 Closing Prayer Bill Eden

Evening Worship

Announcements.....Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for the week of March 8th:

Ushers..... Dwaine Allfrey/Steve Bradley
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt