

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

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
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

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

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*is published in the interest of New Testament
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 51

False Standards of Authority

Bubba Garner

It had been over 40 years since the Ark of the Covenant was in the midst of Israel. When Eli was judge, the Philistines had captured it and brought it to Ashdod into the house of Dagon. The people of Ashdod were afflicted with tumors, so they sent the ark away by cart to the Israelite city of Beth-shemesh. There, 50,070 were struck dead for looking inside the ark (1 Samuel 6:19). That brought the ark to its resting place at the house of Abinadab in Kiriath-jearim.

Years later, King David decided it was time to bring the ark back into the midst of God's people. He put it on a new cart and led a great procession toward the city of Jerusalem. When the ox stumbled, the cart nearly turned over and Uzzah reached out to keep the ark from falling. He was struck dead on the spot.

Many people justify going beyond what the Scriptures say because they are certain God will accept their justification and reasoning. "I know this is different than what He said, but God will understand." These are false standards of authority.

"God didn't say not to." In Exodus 25:12-15, God gave specific instructions about transporting the ark. The nation was in a traveling state, and they would have to carry it along with the tabernacle. Did God say, "Do not put the ark on a cart?" He didn't have to. David later corrected his error and did it "according to the word of the Lord" (1 Chronicles 15:15).

You can permit a lot of things with this false standard. Where is the passage that specifically says, "Thou shalt not have an abortion?" Does that mean God doesn't value life in the womb and permits the murder of unborn children? Or, "Thou shalt not look at pornography?" Does that mean God approves of it? Our standard must be "What does the Lord say?" not "What didn't the Lord say?"

"His heart is in the right place." Uzzah was honest and sincere. He was protecting the ark from harm. But notice that "God struck him down

for his irreverence” (2 Samuel 6:7). That word is also translated “error” (NKJV, ESV) and means “hastiness, blasphemy.” According to Numbers 4:15, even the sons of Kohath would die for touching the ark. That command had not changed in 500 years. Touching it was an irreverent act.

God’s holiness is higher than our hearts. When you don’t treat God’s things as holy, you will not treat His words as holy, and then you won’t regard Him as holy. That is irreverence of the highest sort.

“**The leaders are OK with it.**” David consulted with the wrong authority. In 1 Chronicles 13:10,14, he “inquired of the Lord” concerning the battle and the battle plan. But in 13:1, he inquired of the captains, every leader, and rallied the support of all the assembly and all the people. And notice what the king admitted in 15:13: “we did not seek Him according to the ordinance.”

How do we inquire of the Lord? We ask, “What do the Scriptures say?” The question is not, “What do the elders say?” These are wise men in whom we have great confidence. But they are not the final authority. The question is not, “What does the preacher say?” He is a man of God, but he is not the judge before Whom we will stand. “That your faith should not rest in the wisdom of men, but on the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). If we are not inquiring of the Lord, we are following a false standard of authority.

“**Others have done it this way.**” Where did David get the idea of the new cart? It came from the priests of the Philistines! That was their solution when they were ready to send the ark away from their city: “prepare a new cart” (1 Samuel 6:7). After all this time, the Israelites were still fighting that same battle that led to their current system of government. “Appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations” (1 Samuel 8:5). That’s why God told them to drive those nations out. They would cause them to forget their covenant with Him.

A saint is one who is sanctified, set apart, “other than.” It is not our goal to get as close to the world and certainly not to follow their example. It doesn’t matter that other churches are using instruments of music or women teachers. They are not the standard. “Come out from among them and be separate,” says the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean” (2 Corinthians 6:17). God wants a peculiar people for His own possession who follow Him above all others.

David ultimately understood the right standard to follow. At first, he was angry (2 Samuel 6:8). Then, he was afraid (6:9). But his fear motivated him to seek the Lord and His commands. May we become sons of David by refusing all false standards of authority.

~via *The Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



Any Counterfeits Around?

Jerry Fite

Oh yes, there are those making fake 20, 50 and 100-dollar bills, and passing them off daily. Sure, there are those selling “look alike merchandise,” from expensive watches to trendy sneakers, and marketing them as the genuine article. No doubt about it, in the capitalistic world of buying and selling for profit, counterfeiters seek their fortune through deception and fraud. If something is of value, you can be assured that there will be a false look alike not far off stage ready to enter and deceive.

While it is readily admitted that counterfeiters are at work in the secular world, few ever have their consciousness raised to be alarmed of counterfeiters in the spiritual realm. But the Bible identifies many counterfeit things existing, and if not identified, they will harm us eternally.

The Bible speaks of *counterfeit prophets*. Jesus says, “beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15). Does this sound like every spokesman for God is a true prophet? If we acknowledge with Jesus that there are “false prophets,” can we pass them off as being harmless and benign when Jesus calls them “ravening wolves?”

Peter warns us of *counterfeit or false teachers* who “privily bring in destructive heresies, denying the Master that bought them...” (2 Peter 2:1). They are teaching an “easy religion.” You can live like you want and continue to satisfy the desires of the fleshly mind (2 Peter 2:18). These teachers are offering a counterfeit religion. They are

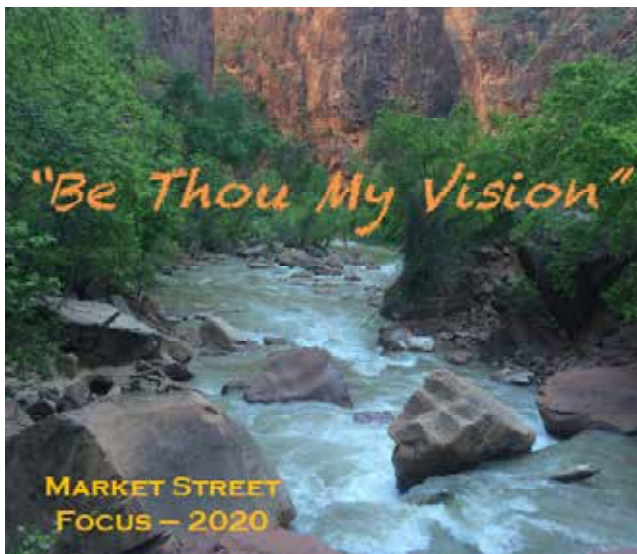
promising “liberty,” when really, they are “bondservants of corruption” (2 Peter 2:19).

Were these false teachers harmless? Those following the teachings of such counterfeiters fall into a spiritual state before God that has “become worse with them than the first” (2 Peter 2:20). Like a dog returning to his vomit, and the sow returning to the wallowing in the mire, the once cleansed Christian returns to his old ways of sin. Spiritual death, or separation from God, continues to be the wage of sin, regardless of how many counterfeit teachers claim otherwise (Romans 6:23). We have the freedom to choose our Masters: Christ or Sin. If we choose Christ, we must put to death the old man of sin (Colossians 3:1-9), and put on the new man created in the image of Christ (Colossians 3:10-14). There is no genuine “easy-do-what-I-want Christian religion.”

Paul warns us of a *counterfeit gospel*. He speaks of “another gospel” which really is not another gospel, “only there are some who trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:7). The only gospel that can be trusted is the gospel preached by Paul (Galatians 1:8-9). Men may try to be righteous according to their own standard of “think-so’s” and “I feel like,” but the only standard that makes us right before God is the gospel of Christ. For in this genuine message, the “righteousness of God” is revealed (Romans 1:16-17).

Be on guard! There are spiritual counterfeits around. Take the true gospel of Christ revealed in the New Testament, and “prove all things; hold fast to that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22). To not do so, is naive and spiritually irresponsible. Your soul is at stake!

~via *Tri-Cities Edifier*; Muscle Shoals, Alabama.



News & Notes

THE SICK:

Dan Lovell	Leigh Ann McGlocklin
Taylor Gregory	Wayne Vaughn
David Barnett	Bobbie Adcock
JoAnn Gilbert	Jimmy Johnson
Doris Lovell	Glenda Walker
Garrett Mixon	Ann Bush
Malcom Gordon	Greg Clark
Haley Gill	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Loretta Warner
Vicki Stringer	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir	Janice Cagle
Cornelia Pepper	Ella Melvin
Wayne Wooldridge	Carrie Warner
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier	Lloyd Adams
Gene Carpenter	Wade Williams

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Betty Pepper, Athens-Limestone Hospital
Marsha Young, Grandview Hospital - B’ham
Bill Faulkner, UAB Hospital - B’ham

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 22A
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Frances Bowers, rm. 67
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	Deanie Britton, rm.

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter, Traditions
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Irene Inman, at home
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Betty Pepper was diagnosed with the virus on Thursday and is in the Athens-Limestone Hospital. She is mak-

ing progress...*Taylor Gregory* has the encountered the virus. Her symptoms have been mild...*Delmer Carter* is waiting to hear from doctors about his surgery for an aneurysm ...*Wayne Vaughn* was diagnosed with the virus this past week and has responded well to the treatment at home ...*Ronnie Locke's* had knee surgery this past Tuesday and is undergoing therapy ...*Dale Adcock* continues her treatments...*Donna Wright* continues to wait to see a doctor in January about her lungs...*Leigh Ann McGlocklin* had a MRI done on Wednesday and will be having surgery in January.....*Brenda Haraway's brother and Doris Fisher's son, Kenneth Fisher*, has the virus and is at home as he is dealing with the affects of it.....*Betty Pepper's and Margaret Vaughn's sister, Glynda Walker*, is sick with the virus and is at home*Wade Williams, David Barnett's son-in-law*, is undergoing treatments for lymphoma.

THE NEW YEAR: Brother A. J. Rollings, an evangelist at Market Street for many years, would recite this poem each year as the old year would be finishing and the new year would be coming in. We appreciate the truths that are told within this poem and commend the thoughts of it to you. May we all do better with the time that is ahead of us.

I came to my teacher with quivering lips,
 My task undone;
 "Teacher hast thou another sheet for me?
 I have spoiled this one,"
 She took the old sheet, stained and blotted,
 And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
 And into my glad face smiled,
 "Do better this time, my child."
 I came to the Father with a quivering heart,
 The old year done;
 "Father, hast thou another year for me?
 I have spoiled this one."
 He took the old year, stained and blotted,
 And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
 And into my glad heart smiled,
 "Do better this time, my child."

OUT OF TOWN: *The Putmans: Marvin and Irene* have been out of town this week...*The Holts: Danny and Debra* are out of town this week...*The Coblentz's: Tommy and Marcella* are in Birmingham this weekend.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of December 20th:*

Sunday: Bible Classes 81
 Morning Worship 98
 Evening Worship 76
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 67

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, December 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Heath Dollar Russ Wulfkuhl
 Clayton Hamm Danny Johnson
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer David Barnett

Other Assignments for the week of December 27th:

Ushers..... Keenon Currier/Marcus Morris
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, December 30th:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Bible Reading Hunter Cox
 (1 Peter 1:13-25)
 Prayer..... Dan Reed
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Clayton Hamm

Sunday, January 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Marty R. Adams
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Landon Adams Matthew Usery
 Marvin Putman Danny Holt
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for the week of January 3rd:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Russ Wulfkuhl
 Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams