

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

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

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No. 7

Authority In Religion

David A. Cox

*“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”
(Matthew 28:18).*

Why do you do what you do in religion? Many may say, “Because mother and daddy did it.” Others may say, “My preacher said it was this way.” Even others may reply, “Because I just like it this way.” The fact is well known that there are many differences in the religious practices of our world today. Often in discussing these differences with individuals, the above answers or a similar response is given. What should be our authority in religion?

Authority Is From God

Authority means “the power or right to command, make decisions, enforce obedience.” Who has this authority? Who has the right to give commands, make decisions and enforce obedience? The answer is our creator, God. All authority extends from Him. We see God’s order of authority as Paul writes, “the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man; and the head of Christ is God” (1 Corinthians 11:3). God ultimately has the authority but has delegated all authority to Christ (Matthew 28:18). In men’s affairs, God ordained that there be governments, but their authority is only good as long as it does not violate the teaching of God. In Acts 4, Peter and John were commanded “not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, judge you. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:18-20). They continued to teach about Jesus and faced threats again, “But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men’” (Acts 5:29). Clearly, the apostles understood that the ultimate authority in all things is God.

The Necessity of Authority

Throughout the scriptures, we see the need for practicing in religion only that which we have authority from God to do. The sacrifice of Cain in Genesis 4, when he offered a sacrifice of the fruit of the ground, is one

example. The Lord was displeased because that was not what He had authorized. In Leviticus 10, Nadab and Abihu offered “profane fire that the Lord, which He had not commanded. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord (Leviticus 10:1-2).

We continue to see this need for authority stressed in the New Testament. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus mentions the day of judgment. Some will be there that practiced many things in their religion, calling Him Lord. But Jesus said, “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, cast out devils in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then will I profess unto them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matthew 7:22-23). Jesus points out that even though they were practicing and doing many things in the name of God, they were doing these things without the proper authority. Notice Jesus said that they were practicing “lawlessness.” In religious faith and practice, there must be the proper authority for what we do.

What This Means To Me

Understanding that Jesus is the one who has all authority and that authority is necessary for what we do in the faith and practice, what must we do? We must look into God’s word and see what it teaches about the Lord’s will. The Lord has given us all things that “pertain unto life and godliness” (1 Peter 1:3). As we go through life, we can look to the word of God and find all that God wants us to do. As we then seek to please Him, we do what the scriptures teach us. We do not rely on what others say or what our parents believed, but we act upon our own faith that comes from the word of God (Romans 10:17). We do what God authorizes us to do in the way He would have us to do it. In doing this, we are then practicing things with God’s authority, the proper authority for us.



Remember Our Bible Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

What To Do When Listening To Religious Teaching

Phillip Mullins

It is not just the teacher or preacher who has an important responsibility when God’s word is taught, each listener does also. Whether you are listening to a religious teacher in person, on the television, or over the radio, you have some serious obligations.

Listen with a searching attitude. The Bereans in Acts 17:11 serve as a great model as to the kind of listeners we all should be. When they heard Paul preach, the Bible says, “they received the word with all readiness, and searched the scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” They were eager and open-minded. They believed the Scriptures to be from God and they examined them to see if Paul’s message was in harmony with it. They were not lazy listeners, but active ones. It is possible their search took place even outside the time of the synagogue assembly. Like them, we should search the Bible carefully as we examine what we hear. The public message should even prompt us to continue to study the Scriptures on our own.

Test what you are hearing. The Bereans did not assume Paul’s message was from God. They proved it with the Scriptures. Neither should we take the word of a religious teacher without first testing it. 1 John 4:1 teaches us to do this and why: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” False teachers have always existed. The way to separate the false teachers from the true ones is to test their message with the Bible. Galatians 1:8 teaches, “But if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.” Don’t be deceived by external kindness (Matthew 7:15). Test the message always with God’s word.

Listen with a willingness to do. There are some who listen to God’s word and appreciate hearing it. Yet, the word has no impact on their lives. To them, listening to the teaching of the Bible is like a spectator sport in which they find some amusement. Yet, no change is made to align their lives with what is taught. James 1:22 teaches, “Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” The word of God is a living message (Hebrews 4:12). It is not merely a philosophy to intellectually

embrace. It is a life-changing message that is to invade every facet of a person's life. Your marriage, family, and job are to be governed by it (Ephesians 5:22-6:9).

The next time you hear religious teaching, remember your responsibilities. Your response to Christ's word will determine your eternal destiny (John 12:47-48).

~via *The Reminder*; Belaire, Texas.



Sin Craves Approval

Jeff Himmel

In a short video highlighting the dangers of drug abuse, a boy says to his friend, "I feel bad about smoking pot. But I'll feel less bad if you do it with me."

That line embodies an important source of peer pressure: we think we'll feel better about doing wrong if someone else is doing it, too. Peer pressure is often applied by a person who is wrestling with his own conscience. The classmate pushing you to try drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), the co-worker trying to get you to lie or steal, the friend trying to pressure you into sexual immorality — that person may just be trying to make himself feel better. He doesn't want to be the only one guilty of bad choices. The more people he can persuade to make the same mistake, the less uncertainty and regret he will feel about his own (at least, so he hopes).

As Philip Johnson wrote, "When our consciences accuse us and we are unwilling to repent, all we can do is to smother our knowledge with rationalizations and recruit others to vice...Just as misery loves company, sin craves social approval" (Objections Sustained 180).

"My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, 'Come with us...', My son, do not walk in the way with them" (Proverbs 1:10-15). God warns me not to let others pressure me into sin. Besides keeping myself out of danger, there's another value in it: I just might make someone else re-think his own choice. Sin craves approval. By refusing to give it, I can take away someone's excuse and force him to confront his own conscience.

Maybe I'll even earn his respect. And, hopefully, I'll get a chance to talk to him about a better way.

"Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them" (Ephesians 5:11).

~via *The Plant City Planter*; Plant City, Florida.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Shirley Miller	Tony Thomas
Peggy Smith	Bonnie Sutton
Harold Davis	Frank Melton
Bobbie Adcock	JoAnn Gilbert
Jimmy Johnson	Doris Lovell
Justice Gentry	Glynda Walker
Bobby Ogles	Ann Bush
Marsha Young	Austin Terry

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:

Peggy Pepper, Valley View Rehabilitation

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 22A
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
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	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 98

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Barbara Carter, Traditions

Irene Inman, at home
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Tony Thomas is making progress each day following his surgery he had on Tuesday of this past week... **Marvin Putman** had a heart catheterization on Thursday and they will treat him with medication... **Jerry Hammonds, Roger Hammonds brother**, is doing well following his triple bypass surgery on Tuesday... **Austin Terry, Sherry Davis's son**, is at home and been diagnosed with the virus... **Bonnie Sutton** is doing better with his pneumonia... **Betty Pepper** was released from Restore Rehabilitation this past week and is at home and making progress... **Frank Melton** has surgery for his eye scheduled on March 9th... **Marci Bassett** situation has improved some with the change in her medication and hopes are that a move will not be necessary... **Wade Williams, David Barnett's son-in-law**, has completed his treatments for lymphoma.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Helen Blankenship** in the passing of her brother, **Jesse Lovell**, last Saturday. Jesse was also an uncle to **Dan Lovell, Doris Lovell** and **Jeanette Weir**. The funeral for Jesse was on Wednesday morning and he was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Stiles:** *Chuck and Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... **Christian Usery** continues working in Birmingham.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of February 7th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	108
	Morning Worship	130
	Evening Worship	87
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	76



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 14th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Mike Ogles
Serving	Sam Gregory
	Heath Dollar
	Marcus Morris.....
	Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for the week of February 14th:

Ushers.....	Christian Usery/Steve Usery
Work Sound System.....	Marty R.Adams

Wednesday, February 17th:

Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Bible Reading	Danny Johnson
	(1 Peter 5:1-14)
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Invitation	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer	Clayton Hamm

Sunday, February 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Marty R. Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Heath Dollar
	Roger Hammonds
	Russ Wulfekuhl
	Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams

Other Assignments for the week of February 21st:

Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt