

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

Volume XIII

February 28, 2021

No. 9

COVID-19 and the Church

Marty R. Adams

As COVID19 entered the arena, it has caused the world, including the church, to think about things in a way that they had not had to do before. We find ourselves talking about a virtual service, drive-in communion, etc. We must keep the scriptures in mind when dealing with the worship of ourselves together.

The word church: The word in the Greek translation of the Old Testament for "assembly," ekklesia, is the same word the New Testament writers use to refer to the local church. It's simply the term for a gathering.

A local church is an assembly. If a church never meets, it is no church at all.

We easily take this truth for granted. The time of the worship meeting is often the first piece of information a church provides on its marquee or website. "Join us this Sunday at 10:30! All are welcome!" Meeting, however, isn't just something churches do. A meeting is, in part, what a church is. God has saved us as individuals to assemble together, an assembly. We see this throughout Scripture. Picture the nation of Israel, rescued from Egypt and "gathered together" at Mt. Sinai to hear God's law. Moses later referred to that seminal moment as "the day of assembly" (Deuteronomy 9:10). At other key junctures in Israel's history, the nation similarly gathered as an "assembly" before their covenant Lord (Judges 20:2, 1 Kings 8:14, 1 Chronicles 28:8).

1. We see that churches regularly gather. Paul uses phrases like "when you come together as a church" and "the whole church comes together" (1 Corinthians 11:18; 14:23).
2. Even large churches met as one body in the New Testament era. Thousands of believers belonged to the congregation at Jerusalem, yet they met "all together in Solomon's Portico" (Acts 5:12).
3. The New Testament writers instruct churches to do activities that can only be done by meeting together: teaching and admonishing one another; singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16); reading Scripture publicly (1 Timothy 4:13);

encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:24–25), and sharing the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 10:17, 11:18, 33).

4. Hebrews 10:24–25– “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.”
5. Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Here are some questions that I am often asked below and what I believe the scriptures have taught us from the passages above.

1. Can some members be in the parking lot and others be in the building?
2. Can some members be in the parking lot, some members be in the small classrooms, and some members be in the building?
3. Can we meet virtually using Zoom or Social media such as Facebook?

I don’t see how the church is “together” in the scriptural sense in these cases. How can we sing and admonish one another when we are not in the same place? Sure, the members are outside singing, or the members in a separate classroom are singing, but that isn’t singing together as the church assembly.

Some make the argument that it is the same as if a parent takes a child in the nursery. If a parent takes their child to a nursery, it is to attend to their immediate needs, and the goal should be to get back into the assembly. The same can be said if someone goes to get a drink of water or goes to the restroom. These things are of necessity and very temporary in time.

If we allow our worship to be done separately, then we have ceased to be together.

There may come times when we legitimately need to cancel a service. However, we should never think that replacing our gathering together with something else makes it scriptural.

Remember Our Bible Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

How Much Faith?

Brent Kercheville

“And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.” (Judges 1:19 ESV)

We read that the Lord is with Judah but Judah cannot drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had iron chariots. How could it be that God is with the people but they are unable to be victorious against the inhabitants because of their iron chariots? Is not God greater than iron chariots? Is God incapable of overcoming human weapons?

So what was the problem? The people had their eyes on the physical rather than on the all-powerful God who can conquer anything. They are looking at the iron chariots rather than looking to God who can give the victory in any circumstance. They are not trusting in the strength of the Lord. They are relying on their own strength. They are calculating that they cannot be victorious. The people are right if they are to rely only on their own strength. But God said that the land and the people would be given into their hands. But they do not believe in the word of the Lord.

The rest of the first chapter of Judges reveals the continued faithlessness of the tribes. Each tribe is described as failing to drive out the inhabitants of the land in their allotment. The people of Benjamin did not drive out the inhabitants (Judges 1:21). The people of Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants (1:27). Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites (1:29). Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants (1:30). Asher did not drive out the inhabitants (1:31). Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants (1:33). Verse 34 is interesting because not only did the people of Dan not drive out the inhabitants, but they are being driven back by the Amorites (1:34). Not only did the tribes not drive the people out as God commanded, but some of them made covenants with the people to dwell together. Some of the tribes enslaved the inhabitants rather than driving out the people, making a decision of convenience and economics over obedience.

Here is what I want us to consider. It is not that the people did not try to drive out the inhabitants of the land. The text tells us that these tribes went up in

various conflicts and battles. They tried, but they did not fully believe. The problem is that they are showing half-hearted obedience. They have partial faith which led to complete failure. They did not believe that God would give them victory. This is shocking because they had seen or heard about the victories God gave on the eastern side of the Jordan River, the parting of the Jordan River during flood season, and the conquest of the land, all recorded in the book of Joshua. But they did not believe God would give them victory today. They relied on themselves, rather than the Lord. Friends, we miss out on a blessed life in Christ because we lack faith in God's strength, choosing to rely on our own strength instead. When we look to our power, we will fail under Satan's temptations and the weight of trials. This is why God calls us to rely on the strength of the Lord and not our own strength (Ephesians 6:10-18). Look to God's victories in your life and through the cross to encourage your complete reliance on God going forward.

Partial faith results in complete failure.

~via *Focus Magazine*; March 3, 2020.



Good News Good Advice

Dan Lankford

Can I give you some good advice? Don't get yourself under too much debt... it'll really cost you in the long run. Carry a pocket knife every day. And when you have the right of way, take it (this one might or might not be a personal pet peeve).

Now, can I give you some good news? There's a Savior—Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by many signs and wonders—who gave himself to redeem you from sin, who rose from the grave to set you free from death, and who will guide and strengthen you to live a greater life than you ever could have on your own.

That's the gospel. That's the message we want to share with the lost. That's the message that changed the world. That's the way to the Father. Jesus said to Thomas,

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6).

~via *Eastland church of Christ*; Louisville, Kentucky.

Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Sunday Mornings

on WVNN 770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Shirley Miller
Peggy Smith
Betty Pepper
Frank Melton
JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell
Justice Gentry
Bobby Ogles
Marsha Young

Tony Thomas
Pat Nixon
Bonnie Sutton
Bobbie Adcock
Jimmy Johnson
Dan Lovell
Glynda Walker
Ann Bush
Karen Ferguson

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Harold Ash
Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer
Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson
Lloyd Adams
Janice Cagle
Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker
Al Pollard
David Collier
Wade Williams

Donna Wright
Loretta Warner
Freddie Mae Elmore
Anita Wheeler
Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir
Cornelia Pepper
Carrie Warner
Kenneth Fisher
Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15
Connie Brock, rm. 62
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Elease Barksdale, rm. 22A
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
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:

Harold Ash began his series of radiation treatments this week. The treatments will continue for 8 more weeks ... **Tony Thomas** is making progress in his recovery and is beginning his rehabilitation... **Dan Lovell** fell last Saturday on some ice and broke his hand. He will in a cast for 6 weeks ... **Bonnie Sutton** is not doing well ... **Shirley Miller** received a good report from her doctor's visit on Monday ... **Bonita Dollar** has a longtime friend of the family, **Karen Ferguson**, htat is going to require surgery in Chicago for a brain bleed.

OUTOFTOWN: The Gregorys: *Sam, Taylor, Cara Blake and Weston* have been in Orlando, Florida this week...

The Adams: *Nathaniel, Laura and Declan* have been in the Smokey Mountains this week... **The Stiles:** *Chuck and Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi...

Christian Usery continues working in Birmingham.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of February 21st:

Sunday: Bible Classes 103

Morning Worship..... 123

Evening Worship 97

Wednesday: Bible Classes 70



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty R. Adams
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... Marcus Morris
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Terry Andrews
Serving Sam Gregory Nathaniel Adams
..... Matthew Vaughn... Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty R. Adams
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell
Preaching..... Song Service
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for the week of February 28th:

Ushers..... Danny Holt/Keenon Currier
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, March 3rd:

Song Leader Marty R. Adams
Bible Reading Landon Adams
..... (2 Peter 1:1-11)
Prayer..... Hunter Cox
Invitation Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer Frank Melton

Sunday, March 7th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer..... Bob Broadus
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Marvin Putman Matthew Usery
..... Landon Adams..... Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
Song Leader Stephen Lynn
Prayer..... Bob Broadus
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for the week of March 7th:

Ushers..... Tommy Coblentz/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews