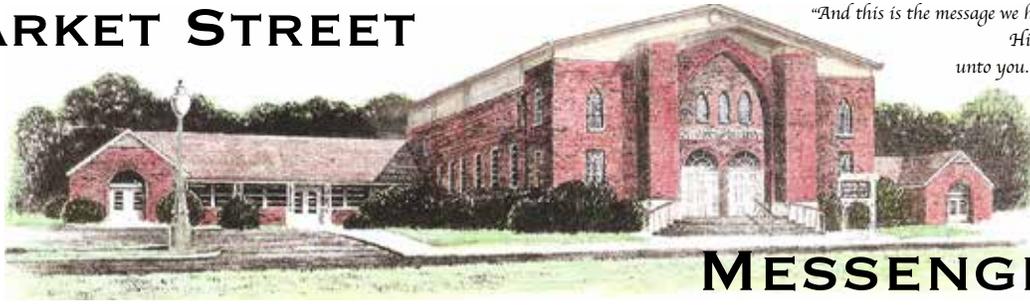


MARKET STREET



“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

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 37

Essentials for Acceptable Worship

David A. Cox

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” — (John 4:23-24)

In John 4, Jesus encounters a woman of Samaria at Jacob’s well. As Jesus and the woman have a brief discussion, the woman recognizes that Jesus is from God. The discussion then turns to the old religious argument between the Samaritans and the Jews about the place of worship. Jesus answered her question by stating it is not the place but the kind of worship God is concerned about (John 4:23-24). The answer Jesus gave makes it clear that all worship is not necessarily acceptable worship. Let us consider what is essential for acceptable worship.

To Worship the Proper Object – God.

The first place to begin acceptable worship is to worship the proper object. In Acts 17, Paul was in the city of Athens, and as he went throughout the city, he saw that the people there were very religious people. They had altars built to every false god imaginable. They even had an altar to the “UNKNOWN GOD” because they did not want to leave any god out. Paul seized this opportunity to teach the Athenians about the one true God. Paul speaking to them said, “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings” (Acts 17:24-26). It is something we must be impressed with that Paul wanted the men of Athens to know about the proper object of worship. Worship is not simply the performance of certain acts but is something that stems from the heart. It is giving the reverence and the divine honor to God that He deserves. To worship

acceptably, he must know about the proper object - who He is and what He has done for us.

To Worship With the Right Motive – In Spirit.

Jesus also stated that those who worshipped God “must worship him in spirit.” The right or proper motive in worship emphasizes what we have already mentioned; acceptable worship springs from the inner man or the heart. Our worship must be sincere, not formal nor indifferent, but with a sense of spiritual communion with God. Whatever the outward acts involved in our worship: the taking of the Lord’s supper, the prayers prayed, or the lifting of our voices in song, these acts must come from the heart. If not, they will not only be vain and empty but a mockery and an insult before God. Insincere worship is not acceptable, but worship that shows an outflowing of sincere praise and love for God is well-pleasing to Him.

To Worship the Right Way – In Truth.

It is just as important to worship God in truth as with sincerity. To worship God in truth, one will be worshipping God as He has directed in His Word. One worshipping God in truth will regulate every purpose of his heart and every act of his worship by the word of God. As we look to God’s Word, we find that worship includes:

- Singing – (Ephesians 5:19)
- Praying – (Colossians 3:17; 4:2-3; Acts 2:42)
- Partaking of the Lord Supper – (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27)
- Giving – (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- Teaching – (Acts 2:42; 20:9)

As we observe these items of worship, we see that they are not elaborate nor intended to appeal to the carnal tastes of man but are intended to please God. To add to or take away or change in any way any of these items of worship is to forfeit our fellowship with God (2 John 9; Revelation 22:18-19). It matters not what one may like or dislike, but what God desires and that He is worshipped “in spirit and truth.”

To offer acceptable worship to God one must do only the things God has authorized. May we all examine our worship to ensure that it is acceptable and pleasing to God in every way.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Reach Out and Touch Someone

Dee Bowman

It may well be that the besetting sin of modern day discipleship is its failure to procreate itself. Speed has been so aggrandized in our society that it has become necessary that whatever we do we must do in a hurry. We seem to be possessed with a determination to succeed more than to be spiritually inclined and equip ourselves for eternity, so we tend to put off things that don’t pertain to our quests. One of those things is reaching out and touching someone.

I have a theory. It may not be right, or it may be a bit simplistic, but it’s worth considering anyway. I don’t think anybody will go to heaven by himself: he will go with someone or take someone with him.

Discipleship does not depend on some kind of human machinery for its procreation. It depends on the disciples themselves. “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). That process is so simple. But where is it being used? How sad, because it works. If every person in the congregation here decided to convert just one soul to Christ in the coming year, and if there are 300 in our congregation, the church would be 600 in twelve month’s time. Will that not work? The problem is not that the plan won’t work; the problem is we won’t work the plan.

What is necessary to get at the business of making known the gospel to those who come under your influence? I suggest just four.

Concern. When Jesus saw the multitudes, “he was moved with compassion” (Matthew 9:36). We emphasize his feeling of “compassion,” but fail to consider that the compassion moved Him. It took Him from unconcern to concern, from indifference to distress. It is that movement of compassion that caused Him to die for the sins of the world. “God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son” is a statement of His concern for the lost souls of men. The gospel is the power to save (Romans 1:16) and that power is retarded only to the extent that it is not used. How about you? Are you actually concerned for the lost souls around you? Are you actually moved by what you see? If you are not, why not? I hardly see how one can call himself a Christian and not be moved by the number of lost souls he sees every day.

Boldness. One of the Devil's most effective tools in retarding efforts to convert people is diffidence, a lack of confidence. It takes courage to try and teach someone. You run a kind of risk. You are apt to fail a lot of the time, and knowing that makes it more difficult to make the effort. But make the effort we must. Jesus failed. In fact, he failed most of the time. But some will come, some will be interested, and even if you just snatch one soul from the fires of Hell you have done well. "Be not weary in your well doing," said Paul (Galatians 6:10), "for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not." If we would just keep that in mind our mission would be an easier one, our work more diligent, our successes more often.

A willingness to be inconvenienced. We are wedded to convenience in this society. We don't want anyone or anything to invade our comfort zone. That proclivity to be comfortable has thwarted many an effort at converting someone to Christ. We make flimsy excuses, give faulty "reasons" why we can't make arrangements to teach someone. It gets in the way of our plans. What that says, most of the time, is that our plans are out of order, our priorities ill arranged. You have to want to convert someone before you will do it.

Faith. We don't have enough confidence in the gospel. Is it or is it not power of God to salvation? If it is, then why don't we treat it as such? If you suddenly came across the cure for cancer, would you let anybody know about it? Would you treat it nonchalantly? Certainly not! You would want everybody to be delivered from the malady. You hold in your hand the power to save men from a malady much greater and more dangerous than cancer. You have in the gospel; it can save men from their sin. How can you put much confidence in it to save your own soul if you don't have confidence enough in it to recommend it for the salvation of the souls of others?

It's time we got busy about evangelism. It's time we got to the business of making the gospel work in the places where we live and work every day. How long has it been since you talked with someone about his soul? Well, that's too long. ~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas

Editor's Note: With sadness that we note the passing of brother Dee Bowman this past Friday just before noon. Dee was a diligent soldier of the Lord. He and his wife, Norma, have been a blessing to so many. The church at Market Street has been blessed to have had him for several meetings through the years. It was especially good that we were able to have him in 2014 and 2017. May the Lord bless Norma, Russ, and Denise at this time.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Peggy Mitchell
Ruby Dean Ezell	Joe Hinkle
Gayle Ball	Margaret Carter
Shirley Miller	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Justice Gentry
Diane Kilpatrick	Janice Cagle

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Mike Ogles	Donna Wright
Tommy Burns	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Lloyd Adams	Phillip Harwell
Cornelia Pepper	Carrie Warner
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Barry DeFoor	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	Matt Bassford

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Shelia Barrett, rm.

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
Frances Bowers, rm. 67	Ann Bush, rm. 75
Alice Roberson, rm. 49	Bobby Ogles, rm. 13

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock; at home
 Nell Barksdale; at home
 Marci Bassett; Limestone Manor
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Traditions
 Unaking Currier; Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
 Irene Inman; at home
 Stan Stanford; at home
 Jimmy Stroud; Valley View, Madison
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Alan Thornton; Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Mike Ogles; Vanderbilt Hospital – Nashville, Tenn.
Mike Townsend; So. Regional – Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Updates:

Margaret Carter will be undergoing a series of tests and

will have a PET scan on Thursday...*Mike Ogles* left for Nashville on Wednesday to begin the treatment process. He will be in the hospital for 10 days and then remain near the hospital for 30 days following his hospitalization ...*Cecily Baker* is scheduled for outpatient surgery on Tuesday ...*Peggy Mitchell* had blood work done on Friday and hopes to have the results early this week...*Joe Hinkle* spent a couple of days in the hospital for observation following a fall on Sunday ...*Alan Thornton* had cataract surgery this past Thursday...*Kolton Hardison* is scheduled to have a scope done for his eating issues on Friday at UAB Children's Hospital...*Priscilla Tucker* continues to be treated for her cancer ...*Nancy Abernathy's nephew, Mike Ermert*, had a double lung transplant last Sunday and another surgery on Tuesday in Birmingham. He is doing well ...*Ewell Smith, Rita Smith's husband*, continues his treatments and they will continue for 8 weeks ...*Courtney Farris' parents, Larry & Sandy Hime*, were sent home following their hospitalization last weekend on Wednesday, Larry was readmitted to the hospital on Friday ... Remember our expecting mothers *Heather Cox, Casey Curry, Lynsey Adams*, and *Laura Adams* in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet tomorrow morning at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. If you want to do this, please join them in the morning.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class is meeting each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is studying the "Authority of the Scriptures." The class meets in the West Auditorium.

BABY SHOWER: The ladies have planned a Baby Shower for *Casey Curry* this afternoon at the Deer Trail Clubhouse from 2:00 to 3:30. Dustin and Casey's baby is registered at:

www.babylist.com/baby-casey-curry

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are continuing to be made after services. If you need to get your picture made, go to room 22 in the east wing.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Gregorys: Sam, Taylor, Cara Blake & Weston* were away last weekend camping... *The Stiles: Chuck & Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... *Opal Conn* is in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of September 5th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	102
	Morning Worship	122
	Evening Worship	101
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	82

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Larry Tucker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Charles Vaughn ... Nathaniel Adams
 Kenneth Adams..... Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer	Jerry Baker

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for the week of September 12th:

Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Tommy Coblenz
Work Sound System.....	Marty R. Adams

Wednesday, September 15th:

Song Leader	Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading	Griffin Holt
(John 3:1-21)
Prayer.....	Bonnie Sutton
Invitation	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris

Sunday, September 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Sam Gregory
 Christian Usery
 Matthew Usery..... Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Harold Ash

Other Assignments for the week of September 19th:

Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams