

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

Volume XIV

May 8, 2022

No. 19

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

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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

"By What Authority...?"

David A. Cox

"Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?' — (Matthew 21:23).

In this verse, we know that the chief priests and elders were not honest in the question they asked Jesus. We see their dishonesty as they contemplated how they would respond to the question Jesus asked them (vs. 25-28), Jesus did not rebuke them for asking the question, but He simply would answer their question by asking them a question. The dishonesty of the chief priests and elders did not diminish the fact that the question was one of utmost importance. Authority means "the power or right to command, make decisions, enforce obedience." Whose authority are we following? It is a good question that all God-fearing people should ask and consider as they seek to worship and serve God pleasingly (John 4:24; Colossians 3:17).

The Misplacement of Authority

Men place authority in religion in many different things. Many place authority for what is done religiously in their own conscience and feelings. Sometimes men will look to other men such as Joseph Smith, Martin Luther, John Calvin, or some other religious leaders for their authority. Many look to a council, convention, the majority, or even their ancestors. When a man looks to the wrong place for his authority, a division is created in the religious world. In First Corinthians 1, we find those at Corinth saying, "I am of Paul, and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ (verse 12). Here we see the misplacement of their authority was causing the church to be divided. Seeing the division, Paul instructed them, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). Paul told them that unity was expected and that it was possible. How? As they would recognize and heed the

one authority, unity could be achieved and maintained.

The One True Authority Is Christ

We can see that Christ is the authority that we are to follow. Before Christ's ascension into heaven, He told His disciples, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he explained the position of authority that the Father had placed in Christ: "when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come: And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:20- 22). Paul writes to the Corinthians about the authority continuing until Jesus returns. "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power" (1 Corinthians 15:24). We are given abundant proof that Christ now has all authority. He is the one true authority and will continue to have this authority until this world comes to an end.

We Will Be Judged By His Words

In John 12:48, Christ declared that the word that He had spoken would be the standard by which men will be judged. That makes perfect sense because He is the One with all authority. In Hebrews 5:9, the writer, speaking of Christ, said, "And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey Him." Salvation is conditioned upon one's response to the commands given by our authority, Christ.

Christ is our authority today. He has the right to give commands, make decisions and enforce obedience. We must, then, be obedient to the gospel of Christ. On the day of judgment, we will be judged according to how our lives measure up to the gospel given. Our destiny will be determined by whether we have been obedient or disobedient to the gospel.



Remember Our Study Periods

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

Good For Evil

L. A. Stauffer

Most Bible students remember the teaching of Jesus that commands his disciples "to turn the other cheek." In the Sermon on the Mount, He called to mind the teaching of Moses' law which demanded that Jews as a matter of justice exact an "eye for an eye" and a "tooth for a tooth." He then taught His disciples to the contrary: if a man "smites thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:39).

This certainly, at first reading, would be viewed by His disciples as a "hard saying"—one that is difficult to accept and practice. And it is. But as the years pass—maybe as a result of age, physical weakness, or a natural tendency to be cowardly—I have found this command to be less demanding. I seldom build up or feel any urge to retaliate and get even when I feel I have been wronged. Where I do struggle, however, is at the next level to which both Peter and Paul take this instruction of the Lord.

The apostle Paul when he reaches the practical application of the gospel in his epistle to the Romans instructs them to "render to no man evil for evil" and then goes to another level and commands these brethren: "if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink" and "be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17,20,21). Peter also writes of disciples being "loving," "tenderhearted," "humble minded" and rather than "rendering evil for evil" or "reviling for reviling" to turn away from evil and render a "blessing" to those who persecute and reproach them (1 Peter 3:8-11).

What both apostles tell us reveals what the love of Christ, who died for the ungodly, demands of His disciples. As followers of Jesus who must walk in the footsteps of their master, disciples must act with positive good and loving kindness toward their enemies. With many brethren it would be fine if they could pray for their enemies, as Jesus taught His disciples (Matthew 5:44), and then leave them to themselves and their own thoughts and feelings. Few of us would feel a need to harm our enemies or to get even by rendering evil to them.

But are we able to move to the next level? Can we reach out to them with positive acts of kindness to show them the love of our Master and Savior? Gospel preachers, likely more than others, have had to face brethren

who are angry, who want them fired, and who say and do unkind things to advance their agenda of getting rid of the preacher.

Multiple other reasons create faction and bitterness in the lives and hearts of brethren toward one another. Incidents likewise occur in the world of sinners where saints must live and conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. I personally have found little problem overcoming bitterness and petitioning God for them and my relationship with them. But the next level of reaching out with positive and loving acts of kindness to mend and reestablish relationships that might open up opportunities to influence enemies spiritually and bring him to Christ is one that challenges a disciple's maturity in Christ.

Rendering "good" for "evil," brethren, is the ultimate challenge and meaning of love and maturity and perfection in Christ (Matthew 5:43-46). If your enemy is naked, clothe him; if he is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. Love, William Barclay writes, is "undefeatable good will" and "unconquerable benevolence"—a devotion to mankind, including enemies, that no evil deed or spiteful act must be allowed to remove from a disciple's heart or life.

~via *Southside Sower*; Springfield, Missouri.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Duane Thomas	Jerry McGlocklin
Margaret Carter	Dale Adcock
Sherry Davis	Betty Pepper
Brad Brown	Shirley Miller
Betty Lovell	Doris Lovell
JoAnn Gilbert	Diane Kilpatrick

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Tommy Burns	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Doris Reid	Lloyd Adams
Cornelia Pepper	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Matt Bassford

Sadricia Wilson	Leigh Ellen Elliott
Wynell Romine	Elmina McLemore

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Marie Nave, rm. 117a

Limestone Health Facility:

Marci Bassett, rm. 42	Bobbie Adcock, rm. 107
Bobby Ogles, rm. 113	Alice Roberson, rm. 49
Ann Bush, rm. 75	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Traditions
 Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
 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:

Delmer Carter; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 367

Updates:

Marci Bassett's health continues with hospice care at the Limestone Health Facility ... *Brad Brown* is now at home after spending several days in the hospital with an infection. Judy will continue to treat the infection for the next 6 to 8 weeks ... *Marion Mitchell* has moved to Harbor Square Apartments in Decatur. His new address is on the bulletin board in the vestibule ... *Duane Thomas'* weakness in his back and legs is due to arthritis in the spine ... *Humberto Rodriguez*, a preacher we support in Chiapas, Mexico, has a benign brain tumor. He does not mention it bothering him, but we need to keep him in our prayers.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class meets each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is studying "*The Christian in a Secular Age.*"

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, May 16th, at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them next Monday morning at 10:30.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Betty Bolton* and *Peggy Mitchell* and all the family in the passing of Betty and Peggy's brother-in-law, *Norris Christopher*. He passed away last Sunday and his funeral

was on Wednesday afternoon at Limestone Chapel.

CALL MESSAGES FROM MARKET STREET:

From time to time, the church at Market Street uses an automated calling system to inform the members of the information that needs disseminated quickly. The phone number of the church for these calls is 256-297-2307. The number may show on the caller ID, but it may appear as a spam call if you do not have it listed in your contacts. I would recommend that you enter the number as a Market Street church contact. If you receive a call from this number, it will be the Market Street church message system. The message system is voice-activated, so this will require you to say something, and then the message should follow. There may be a slight delay in the start-up of the message.

OUT OF TOWN: *Keenon Currier* is in San Antonio, Texas, for his basic training in the Air Force.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Jackson Drive church* is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Thursday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be *Bill Hall*.

PICTURES: We are in the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Please plan to get your picture made in the next few weeks.

YERA SURENDER: This evening brother *Yera Surender* and his wife, *Mercy*, will be with us to give a report on the work in India. The Surenders are from *Hyderabad, Telangana, India*. I hope that everyone will be able to come and hear brother Surender tonight.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for week of May 1st:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	112
	Morning Worship	148
	Evening Worship	112
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	90



June 13-16, 2022

**Monday through Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 8th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Jonathan Traylor
	Heath Dollar
	Roger Hammonds
	Sam Gregory
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Joel Hamm
Preaching.....	Yera Surender
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Stephen Lynn
Other Assignments for the week of May 8 th :	
Ushers.....	Hayden Pierce/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, May 11th:

Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Bible Reading.....	Larry Tucker
	(John 12:12-26)
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Invitation	Frank Melton
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, May 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Preaching.....	Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Stephen Lynn
Assisting	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Matthew Usery.....
	Marvin Putman
	Clayton Hamm
	Hayden Pierce
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammnds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	Nathaniel Adams
Lord's Supper	Stephen Lynn
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns
Other Assignments for the week of May 15 th :	
Ushers.....	Danny Holt/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl