

# MARKET STREET

*"And this 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

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847  
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050  
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

### Deacons

Marty Adams .....(256) 233-5147  
Rusty Brand .....(256) 233-7343  
Tim Craig .....(256) 233-4597  
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223  
Bobby McGuire .....(256) 232-7887  
Frank Noblitt .....(256) 777-0725  
Stuart Wilson .....(256) 233-6291

### Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910  
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net  
Warren Glass.....(256) 233-6086

### Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.org

## 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 I

August 30, 2009

No. 35

## *Should The Gospel Be Changed?*

**David A. Cox**

We live in a day and age in which everything seems to be changing constantly. Because of this, some claim that the gospel must change to keep in step with the times. They say, "Time does not wait for anybody. It leaves behind those who do not keep step." Is this true? Should the gospel be changed; can it be changed and still be the gospel?

All will admit that we live in a society in which things change constantly. But I will hasten to add that everything does not change with time. Man's need for food, clothing and shelter are the same, in that he still needs such to survive. Also, sin has not changed. Eve sinned when she transgressed the law of God (Genesis 3:1-6). Today, men sin when they transgress God's law (1 John 3:4).

Now if sin is still the same, why should the remedy (the gospel) be changed? The fact of the matter is that the gospel should not be changed. Paul said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8). Paul makes it clear to the Galatians that the gospel can not be changed and still be the gospel. Paul spoke of the preaching of "another gospel which is not another" (Galatians 1:6-7). Jude, writing concerning the common salvation that came by the way of the gospel, exhorted the brethren to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Jude speaks of the faith which comes from the preaching of the gospel (Romans 10:17) and says that it was once delivered. The gospel is complete and needs no changes. It gives all things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). It furnishes man completely with the spiritual diet unto every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The gospel is the "power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). It is the word of God that we will be judged by (John 12:48). Since the gospel will save and it is that by which we will be judged, then why would we want to change it? All we must do is recognize the gospel for what it

is –The Truth (Colossians 1:5); Obey it or be lost (1 Thessalonians 1:8; Romans 1:16).



## ***Churches – God-Centered or Man-Centered?***

### **Sewell Hall**

Religion by its very definition would seem to involve God. The word godly means God-centered. However, there are those who practice a religion that is all about man rather than God. To say that such religion is godly is not to say that it is wicked, but simply that it is not centered in God.

Jesus described such people in his day in the words of Isaiah: “These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:8-9). Paul writes of those who are “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” while at the same time “holding a form of godliness” (2 Timothy 3:4-5). Jude describes some who are in the church, but are “ungodly men, who turn the grace of God into licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 4).

Why would ungodly individuals continue to profess religion? Some do so, “supposing that godliness is a way of gain” (1 Timothy 6:5). Others, like Diotrophes (3 John 9), love the preeminence that they have attained in the church. Or, like the rulers of (John 12:43), they may love “the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

### **Contrasting Churches**

Local churches may be led either by godly or by not-godly men - that is, by men who are most concerned for God and things of the Spirit or by men whose concerns are primarily human and temporal. Such churches can be distinguished by the following:

**Goals:** Godly leaders have as their goal “the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the

unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head - Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-15). Men whose thinking is not dominated by God have as their primary goal increasing numbers - a big church. They consider numerical growth proof of God’s approval.

**Doctrine:** Godly leaders are determined to abide in the doctrine of Christ and not to go beyond it (2 John 9). Not godly men, knowing that most of the public “will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4), provide the teachers that will tickle their ears.

**Discipline:** Godly leaders will insist that, in harmony with God’s instructions, the church “withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly” (2 Thessalonians 3:6). Not-godly leaders advertise: “Come as you are” and boast that they are not judgmental, receiving everyone regardless of lifestyle.

**Worship:** Godly leaders insist that God be worshipped “acceptable with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:28) while not-godly men place great emphasis on “worship” that pleases the public and they seem concerned only that everyone leave “feeling good about themselves” and eager to return.

**Preachers:** Godly leaders are not nearly as concerned with excellence of speech or of wisdom as that preachers be “determined not to know anything...save Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). Not-godly leaders insist that preachers be entertaining and personally popular, even with the world.

**Activities:** Godly leaders test every proposed action by all the scriptures, determined to “do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17), while not-godly leaders offer whatever people want - sports, entertainment, education, feasts, travel - with little apparent concern for what God wants.

### **Testing Ourselves**

The Bible blesses those who “hunger and thirst

after righteousness” (Matthew 5:6). By contrast it condemns those who have “pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:12). Our taste in churches will help us determine which we are.

How will a person who has “pleasure in unrighteousness” feel about a church whose goal above all other things is to remake him into the image of Christ, whose doctrine is “the apostles’ teaching,” a church where he is put on notice that he must live a godly life or be disfellowshipped, where worship is designed exclusively to please God, where preachers preach only the word of God - reproving, rebuking and exhorting - where activities are altogether spiritual?

On the other hand, how will one who is hungry and thirsty for righteousness feel about a church he visits where he receives nothing but entertainment, where the “sermons” are little more than jokes and pop psychology, where sin is never rebuked, sinners never convicted or exhorted, and where activities are the same as those offered at a public school, theater or country club.

What kind of church are you seeking - the church of your choice or the church of God’s choice? A godly church or a not-godly church?

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

an empty life. A time can come, however, when even the shiniest new car, or the biggest house, or the flashiest jewelry, can’t mask the hollowness of a life without high purpose.

The Bible doesn’t condemn all wealth, and new cars and nice houses are not wrong. But lasting satisfaction doesn’t come from mere things or self-indulgence.

On the other hand, people with little to live with may have much to live for. For example, Jesus’ apostles were not wealthy (Acts 3:6), but their lives had real purpose.

The scriptures assures us that God can bring purpose into our lives too. He can give us something to live for that is missing from the lives of people whose lives are hollow and without purpose.

It has been said that “a man who has not lost himself in a cause bigger than himself, has missed one of life’s mountaintop experience that can last the rest of your life -- it can ultimately take you to be with God.

-via *Bible Study*; Hanceville, Alabama



## *Nothing To Live For*

**David Watts**

Somebody once said, “Many people have everything to live with and nothing to live for.” How true that is.

Many wealthy people live hollow, meaningless lives. They have more than enough possessions to make life comfortable, but they have little purpose in life to make it meaningful.

It takes decades before some people eventually realize that life lived for mere self-indulgence is ultimately

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

*Rebecca Sims*; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 462

*Charles Burns*; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 675

#### *At Home:*

Benita Stiles

Lola Colwell

Levi Greer

Laura-Kate Greer

Polly Davis

Mary Davis

Henrietta Word

Jeff Waddell

James Craig

Matt Poff

Kennedy Pepper

Tony Corsbie

Christie Brown

#### *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

**Limestone Health Facility:**

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118      Jerry Gilbert, rm. 111  
Lorene Bradford, rm.117      J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E  
Mary Smith, rm. 85      Rosella Pugh, rm.  
Albert Norton, rm. 100

**Limestone Manor:**

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

**Shut-In:**

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.  
Jimmy Killen, at home  
Reba Adams, at home  
Majorie Lambert, at home  
Albert & Mary Norton, at home

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

- Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan
- Joel Smith; Iraq
- Whitney Smith; Japan

**OUR MEETING:** Our meeting is just 2 short weeks until it begins. Let's remember the meeting in prayer. Remember to invite others to join us. Also, if you would like to go out and pass out some meeting invitations, let me know. We will start going out this week during the evenings over the next two weeks to hand out invitations

**TEACHERS MEETING:** There will be a teachers meeting this afternoon at 4:00.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance – Week of August 23rd

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes..... 130  
Morning Worship ..... 151  
Evening Worship..... 112

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes..... 101

# Gospel Meeting

September 13-17, 2009

Jeff McCrary, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ  
514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### Sunday, August 30th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Joel Hamm  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Benton Ball  
Assisting ..... Albert Bowers  
Serving ..... Chris Sides ..... Marvin Putman  
..... Landon Adams ..... Marion Pepper  
Closing Prayer ..... Frank Noblitt

#### Evening Worship

Announcements ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Marty Adams  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Albert Bowers  
Closing Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell

#### Other Assignments for Sunday August 30th:

Usher ..... Russ Wulfekuhl  
Work Sound System ..... Tim Craig

### Wednesday, September 2nd:

Song Leader ..... Jack Cannon  
Bible Reading ..... (Proverbs 20:11-20)  
..... Tyler Cox  
Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Invitation ..... Warren Glass  
Closing Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton

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### Sunday, September 6th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements ..... Frank Noblitt  
Song Leader ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Marty Adams  
Assisting ..... Marion Mitchell  
Serving ..... Tim Craig ..... Dan Lovell  
..... Hunter Cox ..... Nathaniel Adams  
Closing Prayer ..... Lifford Smith

#### Evening Worship

Announcements ..... Frank Noblitt  
Song Leader ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Prayer ..... Landon Adams  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Marty Adams  
Closing Prayer ..... Rusty Brand

#### Other Assignments for Sunday September 6th:

Usher ..... Danny Johnson  
Work Sound System ..... Cory Nelson