

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 IV

February 12, 2012

No. 7

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

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

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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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

God Led Me

Robert Harkrider

Ever heard that claim before? It is common to hear talk of the Lord leading a person in a direct way in every action. Whatever thoughts some have or business dealings they make, the Lord is given credit for causing it.

While this writer deeply believes in the providence of God and the ever present help He has promised (Hebrews 13:5-6), it seems to me we should balance the scales a little by asserting that God is not responsible for *every* action or thought of a Christian. If He were, God would be guilty of causing us to sin (1 John 1:8-10). In fact, the backlash of such current claims will be an undermining of faith when tragedy occurs. "Why did God let this happen?" is frequently asked now by agnostics and atheists. But let the uninformed Christian begin to think of God as though He is the great Puppeteer who holds us at the end of strings and orders our every movement, and when trouble does come, he too will become bitter toward God and blame Him.

Laws of nature (originally set in order by God) are the cause of much that is occurring today. A child born blind is not a direct punishment of God for sin (John 9:1-3), but may be the result of some birth malfunction or hereditary disorder. Job knew that his troubles were not due to sin. Even though his friends kept pointing an accusing finger, God had not directly caused any of Job's problems.

The point is that we must guard against making God in *our image!* It is possible to wish for something so much that we convince ourselves, "God wanted it that way," when in fact He had no direct part at all in our decision.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote against the religious leaders of his day who made wild claims about the Lord. They became so intolerable the Lord warned them not to use the expression, "the burden of the Lord," i.e., "this is the Lord's word" (Jeremiah 23:33-40). Though they said, "I have dreamed," they prophesied lies (Jeremiah 23:25) and spoke a vision

of their own heart and not the Lord's (Jeremiah 23:16). Their message was devised out of the imagination of their own mind, and consequently, they were cursed for leading God's people astray.

God Must Lead Us

Lest we be misunderstood, if we walk by faith it is certain that *God must lead us*. But the question before us is "how does God lead us today?" The answer is found in understanding the basis of faith. Just as "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17), it is through the inspired word of God that He leads us.

It is imperative therefore that Christians make time for Bible study! We must "give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:13). In Paul's charge to Timothy he urged, "Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:14-15).

When one fills his heart with the word of God he has inspired direction for every facet of life: social, economic, physical, and spiritual. Through learning God's Will we can know whether or not the Lord approves of our marriage, of the kind of friends with whom we associate, or even the type of work we do. We also learn to abstain from sexual immorality, dishonesty, or enslaving habits like drugs and alcohol. Therefore in this broadest sense, God leads us in paths of righteousness.

But what about specific decisions we make that are within the scope of righteousness? Does the Lord lead us directly in those? The answer is found in 1 John 5:14-15: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

While there will not be a miraculous "voice" that answers our prayers, God does respond to those who keep His commandments (1 John 3:22). Pray for wisdom, and often a way that is best is opened and easily accessed; or else a way we had thought was best, but wasn't, will be cast with difficulty and closed doors. Always be asking as Jesus did, "Thy will be done."

Is God leading you? If so, it is because you make

time for Bible study and have filled your heart with His word!

~via *Biblical Insights*; Vol. 12 No. 1; January 2013.

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Worship's Emotional Component

Warren E. Berkley

Every element of true worship involves some emotional component. The emotional component is not driven by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit (as in Calvinism) or "getting the Holy Spirit" (as in Charismatic practice). The emotional component of true worship is the result of relationship with Deity.

The faithful disciple will go into every assembly with the emotion of joy, reverence for Deity and the anticipated interests in praising Deity and being edified (Psalm 122:11; Ecclesiastes 5:1; 1 Corinthians 11:17). The true worshipper will leave the assembly with the emotional satisfaction of participating in all that God has directed, unto His glory (1 Corinthians 14:12; 10:31). The emotional component is not contrived, advertised and enforced by men. It is the result of relationship with God! Emotions in collective worship are appropriate and profitable, depending upon one's relationship with Deity. One's relationship with Deity must be governed by the revealed will of Deity.

No campaign to stamp out emotion can bring us closer to God, nor answer the error and emptiness of popular "charismatic" practices. The proper response is to foster healthy and scriptural concepts of emotion, as determined by divine purpose and revealed. (There is nothing as empty as pretended emotion. See Matthew 6:1-18).

When the Word is faithfully preached, there should be a range of emotions in the hearts of faithful listeners (remorse, assurance, joy, the satisfaction of knowledge gained). In partaking of the Lord's Supper and remembering His death, the emotions of both sorrow and gratitude should combine in our reflection. Singing has a strong emotional component (James 5:13). But

this emotional result is directly tied to lyrical content. What do the lyrics mean to the worshipper? Some love music and are moved by what they believe is good music, but without any thought to lyrical content or self-examination. The scriptural emotional connection derives from content, not from (harmony, meter, structure, sound). Likewise, praying is not simply a formal, mechanical exercise. It has great emotional potential, but not due to voice or poetic structure, but content and direction (praying to Deity fervently, James 5:16). Giving should also have an emotional component (a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7).

Perspective is to be discovered by our contact with the Word of God, our response to Jesus Christ and our continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine.

~via *The Auburn Beacon*; Auburn, Alabama.

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“Hope Springs Eternal”

Michael W. McLemore

In his 1733 work, *An Essay on Man*, Alexander Pope, said “Hope springs eternal in the human breast; Man never is but always to be blest: the soul, uneasy and confin'd from home, rest and expatiates in a life to come.” The child of God has a better hope. Ours is a confident expectation which is found in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:19; 1 Timothy 1:1).

This better hope is a living hope (1 Peter 1:3). It energizes life! It enables the believer in Christ to engage the delightful day, as well as the dreary, with vibrant expectation. This living hope is through the resurrection of Jesus (1 Peter 1:3). If there is no bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is no living hope. No personal faith in the resurrected Savior, no living hope. No living hope, no hope at all! Without the resurrection man is destined for an endless search to find something or someone to live for and to hope in.

As a brother of the Living Savior, the search is over! Christ lives! He gives those who believe in Him a living hope, a confidence that energized their lives through the vicissitudes of day by day living. This better hope

is a blessed hope (Titus 2:13). It is joyous. It is full of rejoicing even on a Monday morning, or even when a gallon of gas is \$3.55. Even in the most uncertain of times, Christians have a joyous expectation about what, or better yet, “Who is to come.”

In the family of our Living Savior, we have many panaceas when facing the uncertainties of the future. From the simplicity of “living for the weekend” to the complexity of the Divine plan of human redemption that gives assurance even beyond the grave, there is the genuine expectation that somehow, someday everything will be alright. For the Christian, wishful hoping about the future is a thing of the past. It is replaced by the joyous expectation of being with and like the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes again. We have a better hope in Christ. Indeed “hope springs eternal.”

~via *The Weatherly Weekly*, Huntsville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Earl Davis	Betty Pepper
Mot Beasley	Marjorie Dunnivant
Hazel Toone	The Wilson Family
Anita Wheeler	Mark Rogers
Wynell Casteel	David Gardner
Mary Ruth Gardner	Yvonne Sherbert
Martha Rice	Ruth Lawson
Ewell Smith	Charles Burns
Matt Poff	Ava Brooke Campbell
Faye Cary	Betty Faye Holt
Joe & Sarah Collier	Peggy Wolf
Kenneth Pressnell	Angeta Andersen
Brent Lowman	Una King Currier
Barbara Ogles	Gladys Sandlin
Phillip Harwell	Paige Phillips
Hailee Walton	

In The Hospital:

Eli Williams; St. Jude's Hospital, – Memphis, Tenn.

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 107	Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E	

Windsor House- Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 300

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

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:

Andrew Deen; Japan

WORK GROUPS: Work Group one will be meeting tonight after our evening service. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Christina Banks*, in the passing of her mother, *Dora Banks*, last week... Also we want to express our deepest sympathy to *Elvie Coffman* and *all the family*, in the passing of her sister-in-law, *Clara Hicks*, this past week... We also want to extend our sympathy to *Kathleen Wales*, in the passing of *Mark Shores* last week.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coblenz:* Tommy and Marcella are in Birmingham this weekend... *The Wilsons:* Stuart, Molly, Caroline, and Sam are on vacation this week in Florida... *Nancy Abernathy* and *Janice Cagle* have been in Arkansas this past week...

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of February 5th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 131

Morning Worship 165

Evening Worship..... 108

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 98

Congregational Singing

Friday, February 24, 2012 — 7:00p.m.

Songleaders:

Jim Deason, Steve Klein & Mark White

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Dan Reed
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Terry Andrews
 Assisting Bonnie Sutton
 Serving David Terry Harold Davis
 Paul Hasting..... Jordan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Ronnie Locke
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
 Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 12th:

Usher Delmer Carter
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, February 15th:

Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 37:30-38)
 Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Ronnie Locke
 Invitation Jerry McGlocklin
 Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Sunday, February 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Kenneth Smith
 Serving Marion Mitchell ... Russ Wulfekuhl
 Maurice Dollar Will Chumbley
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Marcus Morris
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 19th:

Usher Delmer Carter
 Work Sound System Danny Johnson