

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

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No. 12

The World In The Church

Mark W. White

Jesus has given His church one of the greatest challenges ever. The church is the "called out" of God in this world. We have been delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed to the kingdom of the Son of His love (Colossians 1:13). Yet, though we are in the world, we are not to be a part of it. Herein lies the difficulty. While not sequestering and secluding ourselves from the world around us, we must at the same time remain free from the world's enchantments. John said, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15-17). The world and the church, then, are not to carry on a love affair. They are opposites in their interests, and their affections run in contrary directions.

The church must see its responsibility to the world. We must not be like the world, but different, peculiar. What good can the church do if it is like the world? Unless the world sees something distinctive in the church it will have no reason to be interested in the Gospel we preach, nor the Savior whom we represent. If the world sees church members who are just as worried and anxious as they are, what value will they see in Christianity? If our families are just as distant, cold, and argumentative as worldly families, what incentive do people in the world have to listen to our preaching? Paul told the Philippians that they were to "shine as lights" in the dark world around them. (Philippians 2:16).

But some churches today can't show the example of contentment and morality that should be typical of those who are God's people. We are not, in many instances, the people of faith we should be. We are not trusting God's promises, but are rather like the Gentiles who fret and worry (Matthew 6:25-33). Some churches of Christ, like ancient Corinth, are becoming havens for the immoral, the immodest, the irreverent, and the

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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Visit Us On The Web
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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

impenitent. Some preachers are not preaching sermons that are clearly defining sin! Those who do are often chided for doing so, and treated as hirelings who may be dismissed at whim. Satan is having a field day, and his tactics of compromise with the world is gutting the spirituality right out of the church! Folks, things are changing in many churches and it's not for the better.

The church is the herald of Bible truth to a world that is steeped in error and falsehood. It is the "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:14, 15). The everlasting Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ must receive top billing in our teaching. It alone has the power to answer every philosophy of man, every false religion, and every human error. Churches of Christ must uncompromisingly proclaim the truth of the Gospel loudly and powerfully. The church must fully live the Gospel of Christ. Moral uprightness and doctrinal accuracy are not the only standards of the Gospel. We must be loving, forgiving, courteous people, too. Our lives must exude warmth, joy, and contentment. The world should say of us, "I'd like to live like those Christians live."

It's high time we decided to quit playing church and realize our responsibility to the world. We must again "live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age" (Titus 2:12).

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

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Almost Persuaded

David Padfield

For two years Porcius Festus held Paul prisoner in Caesarea Maritima. When Felix succeeded Festus, "the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him against Paul; and they petitioned him asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem--while they lay in ambush along the road to kill him" (Acts 25:2-3).

Unaware of the plot to kill Paul, Festus asked him if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem to be judged.

Paul responded by saying, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar" (Acts 25:10-11).

By exercising his right as a Roman citizen, Paul appealed his case to Augustus Caesar. While waiting for a ship to take Paul to Rome, Festus asked King Agrippa to help him "specify the charges" against Paul (Acts 25:27). Agrippa, the great-grandson of Herod the Great, has been appointed ruler of Abilene, part of Galilee, Iturea and Trachonitis by the Roman Emperor Claudius.

King Agrippa permitted Paul to freely speak concerning the charges made against him by the Jews. Luke records the moving sermon Paul preached to Agrippa in the twenty-sixth chapter of the book of Acts.

While speaking of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, Paul was interrupted by Festus and accused of being "beside" himself (Acts 26:24). Luke then records these words of Paul: "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. For the king, before who I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe" (Acts 26:25-27). Agrippa uttered on brief sentence in reply to Paul. He said, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian" (Acts 26:28).

One of the saddest words heard at the judgment will be the bitter cry of "almost." To "almost" be a Christian is to be a child of Satan. To "almost" repent of your sins is to die in your sins. To "almost" be saved is to be eternally lost. To "almost" go to heaven is to be sent to hell. "Almost cannot avail; almost is but to fail; sad, sad, that bitter wail--almost, but lost."

~via *Needmore Church Bulletin*; Haleyville, Alabama.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

Decision Making

Curtis Pope

In Joshua 24 we read the parting words of Joshua to the children of Israel. He had lead them across the Jordan River, led them in battle, and they now possessed the promised land. In verse 15 he states, "Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

In this passage Joshua calls for some decision making. The interesting thing is that the children of Israel had already chosen to serve the Lord. Joshua is here making them realize that the decision to serve God is a decision to which they must constantly rededicate themselves and modify their behavior.

Whether we realize it or not, our lives are filled with choices. There are trivial and important decisions to be made every day. Obviously some decisions are more difficult to make than others; but whatever our choices, as those who have decided to be God's people, we must make all our decisions based on what God would have us to do. The Lord has given us a guide for our decision making. He sent Christ to this world to give us a perfect example of how to live, and He gave us guidance through His inspired word - the Bible.

As we face decisions that we have to make, we need to ask ourselves if we really serve the Lord or some other interests through our choices. Most Christians do not have trouble deciding whether to worship regularly or not, or whether to give of their means. Many Christians fail, however, in much more subtle decisions such as how to talk to someone who mistreats; whether or not to tell the truth when it means we might get in trouble; whether to neglect the study of God's word for constant worldly pursuits; or whether or not to spend time in activities designed to strengthen the congregation.

Christianity is constant decision making. If we decide to serve God, our decisions must give evidence of that choice. When we decide matters without God in mind, we choose whom we will serve, and that decision shows that we do not serve God.

~via *Lakeview Lamp*; Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Nancy Abernathy	Jordan Lovell
Wynell Casteel	Hazel Toone
Mary Ruth Gardner	Yvonne Sherbert
Ruth Lawson	Charles Burns
Ava Brooke Campbell	Matt Poff
Faye Cary	Joe & Sarah Collier
Betty Faye Holt	Gladys Sandlin
Phillip Harwell	Hailee Walton
Una King Currier	Barbara Ogles
Brent Lowman	Paige Phillips
Eli Williams	

In The Hospital:

Frances Bowers; Athens-Limestone Hosp., rm. 324
Connie Dollar; Birmingham Hospital; Spain-Wallace
Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. - CCU
Gladys Meals; Huntsville Hospital, rm.558

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 36	David Gardner, rm. 98
David Rice, rm. 111	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74	

Limestone Lodge:

Martha Rice, rm. 25

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

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

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *all the family* in the passing of *Ozzie Harrison*. He passed away this past Sunday and his funeral was Wednesday morning at Limestone Chapel. He was laid to rest in the New Salem Cemetery.

CHURCH WEBSITE: Remember the Market Street church website is undergoing a total redesign and structure. It will take a little time to get it up and going completely, but when it is finished it will be a great resource of information for the members here.

In the members section, we will be updating the di-

rectory information. If you have a new email address for each person in your family or cell phone numbers that receive text messages, we would like to have that information along with your cell phone provider. This information on cell phones will not be published unless you want it published. Please provide this information on the Members Card you fill out on Sunday.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Morris'*: Marcus and Bonnie are on vacation in Florida... *Ruby Ezell* has been out of town on vacation in the mountains... *The Coblenz*: Tommy and Marcella are in Savannah, Georgia on vacation this week... *Will Chumbley* is in Florida this week..

TEACHERS' MEETING: There will be a teachers' meeting this afternoon at 4:15. We will be discussing the plans for our Vacation Bible School this year and other things as well. Anyone that would like to teach or help teach in the Vacation Bible School is encouraged to be at this meeting.

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

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of March 11th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 130
 Morning Worship 183
 Evening Worship..... 127

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 100

Gospel Meeting

April 29 – May 3, 2012

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
 Monday through Thursday– 7:00 p.m.

Sewell Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
 Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Bonnie Sutton
 Assisting Tommy Coblenz
 Serving Marion Pepper Nathaniel Adams
 Stefan Fudge Russ Wulfekuhl
 Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching Todd Williams
 Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
 Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 18th:

Usher Maurice Dollar
 Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, March 21st:

Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Bible Reading (Isaiah 40:12-20)
 Tommy Coblenz
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Sunday, March 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
 Assisting Larry Mitchell
 Serving Paul Hasting Jerry McGlocklin
 Keenon Currier Ronnie Locke
 Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
 Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, March 25th:

Usher Maurice Dollar
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams