

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

April 29, 2012

No. 18

BEGINNING TODAY

Gospel Meeting

April 29 – May 3

Schedule of Services

Sunday – 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist – Sewell Hall

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 WEST MARKET STREET

ATHENS, ALABAMA

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net

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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

Gospel Gimmickry?

Sewell Hall

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:2-4).

These verses clearly indicate that there are times when gospel preaching is in season and out of season. History indicates the same. In the first century in most places it was in season; in the middle ages it was out of season. There was a thrilling season for the gospel in middle America in the early nineteenth century, while at the same time it was largely out of season in France and Europe.

In our own lifetime, we have seen the same situation change. This writer remembers days in Chattanooga when non-Christians attended meetings in large numbers for no other reason than to hear the gospel, and ten or twenty baptisms were not uncommon in such a meeting. Simple gospel preaching does not now seem to have such drawing power.

What are we to do when gospel preaching is out of season; when people are more interested in education, entertainment, recreation, and social activities than they are in preaching; when the wisdom of the world has more appeal than the wisdom of God?

Common Answers:

“You have to take people where they are,” we are told. “We have to give them what they want to attract attention. Then we can reach them with the gospel.” On this basis, all kinds of gimmicks are used to entice the worldly. Many churches have turned into little more than community centers and social clubs. They are more involved with ball teams and scout troops than with Bible teaching. The highways are crowded with their buses taking various age groups to every kind of amusement area in the country from Disney World to Lake Wannepesauka. Their advertising reads for all the world like a circus flyer, offering prizes, free gifts, and fun. Often, no promise is made of anything spiritual at all.

Others realizing that the gospel “is the power of God unto salvation” limit their activities more to preaching. But even here, appeal is still to the worldly tastes of our generation. If possible, preachers are obtained who have made a big reputation in sports, in entertainment, or in government. Otherwise, great emphasis is given in advertising to the educational attainments of the speaker or to his gifts as a “dynamic, powerful, eloquent” speaker.

God's Way

The problems of disinterested people is not new. It existed in some places even in the first century. Paul said it existed in Corinth. “For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:22, 23).

Paul had the power to offer signs to the Jews and the knowledge to compete with the Greeks in worldly wisdom. The philosophy described above would have suggested advertisement of a lecture on “The Judaistic Philosophy in the Roman World.” Obtaining his audience with this, he could then slip in a little about Jesus and the cross. But this was not Paul’s approach, as he told us: “For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). Human philosophy and human wisdom had no place in Paul’s plan for saving the lost in Corinth.

Preaching only the gospel, of course, Paul could have announced himself as “Dr. Paul, graduate of the University of Gamaliel, noted author, world traveler, inspired and dynamic lecturer.” Rather, he says, “And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God...I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:1, 3-5).

Worldly appeals simply cannot save lost men. And to attach them to the gospel is to cheapen the good news of Jesus Christ. By such appeals we may increase numbers and even “make waves,” but such individuals in the local church are liabilities rather than assets. As materials in God’s building they are classified as “wood, hay, and straw.” Paul warns against building such material into the church: “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise builder I

laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it... Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work" (1 Corinthians 3: 10, 12, 13).

-via *The Beacon*; Charlottesville, Virginia.



With Every Rose A Thorn

James W. Adams

Our title illustrates "the law of compensation." With every good thing in life, there is, invariably, a corresponding bad thing. Yes, the sweet rose has its ugly thorns. The sweet aroma of the honeysuckle is mingled with the foul odor of the skunk. The balmy breeze of spring is displaced by the violence of the tornado. Joy in birth of a beautiful babe is mixed with the poignant grief over the loss of the lovely young mother who went down into the "valley of the shadow" to bring the child forth.

Paul wrote joyfully and hopefully from Ephesus: "There is a great door and effectual opened unto me." Then, he added: "But, there are many adversaries" (1 Corinthians 16:9). The Christian must prepare to accept the bad with the good, the ugly with the lovely, sorrow with joy, and disappointment with elation. The Infinite Wisdom that guides our destinies has seen fit thus to balance life's experiences. Therefore, let us be encouraged by the good and chastened by the bad with absolute confidence in Him "who doeth all things well!"

-via *The West End Way*; Richmond, Virginia

Vacation Bible School

June 4-7, 2012 — 10:00a.m.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gilbert Hardy	Jerry Gilbert
Mary Ruth Gardner	Wynell Casteel
Yvonne Sherbert	Charles Burns
Faye Cary	Christine Grissom
Joe Collier	Matt Poff
Ava Brooke Campbell	Betty Faye Holt
Andrew Fagan	Margaret Bedingfield
Brent Lowman	Paige Phillips
Phillip Harwell	Hailee Walton
Una King Currier	Barbara Ogles
Leroy Davenport	Gladys Sandlin

In The Hospital:

Hazel Toone; Athens-Limestone Hospital – rm. 204
Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. – CCU
Eli Williams; St. Jude's Hospital; Memphis, Tenn.
David Hartsell; M.D. Anderson; Houston, Texas

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B	Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 36	David Gardner, rm. 98
Frances Bowers, rm. 100	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74	Irene Daniel, rm 92
Marie Bates, rm.	

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
David/Martha Rice, Atria Regency, Mobile, rm. 17

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Maurice and Bonita Dollar** in the passing of their niece, **Connie Dollar**, this past Wednesday. A memorial service was conducted on Saturday evening at the Limestone Chapel funeral home... Also we want to express our deepest sympathy to **Mary Cecil Keenon** in the passing of her aunt, **Jean Pressnell**, this past Wednesday. Her visitation will be from this afternoon from 12:00 to 2:00 and funeral will be at 2:00 at the Roselawn Funeral Home in Decatur. The burial will be in the Athens City Cemetery.

OUR SPRING MEETING: Our meeting with *Sewell Hall* begins this morning. I hope that everyone will make every effort to be at every service of the gospel meeting. Brother Hall lives in Atlanta, Georgia, but is no stranger to Athens and Limestone county. He and his family lived in Athens in the late sixties and early seventies. He has endeared himself to the Christians in this area. This week brother Hall will be preaching a series on “**Faith That Endures**”. I know that the lessons will be very timely and profitable to all that will come. Continue to remind others of the meeting and invite them to join us. Pray for the meeting, for brother Hall and his health, for the word that is preached and for open doors for the gospel in the lives of others.

NEXT SUNDAY: Next Sunday morning, May 6th, **Scott Tope** will be preaching and giving a report of the work he is doing in South Africa. He will be speaking to a combined auditorium class about his work and preaching at 10:30 a.m. I hope that everyone will be able to be present.

DEACONS, SONGLEADERS MEETING: The elders will be meeting next Sunday morning at 9:00 with the deacons and all the songleaders. Remember to mark this on your calendar.

BIBLES TO ETHIOPIA: The elders have decided to purchase 200 Bibles for the work in Ethiopia. *Mark White* of Florence and *Randy Harshbarger* of Nacogdoches, Texas have been making trips to work in Ethiopia and the people there do not have bibles to read. The people there do not have the means to purchase Bibles. Last year 1500 hundred Bibles were purchased and distributed there to people that are hungering for the word of God. May the Lord continue to bless the work that is being done there.

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

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of April 22nd*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 137
 Morning Worship 171
 Evening Worship..... 110

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 100

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 29th:

Morning Worship

AnnouncementsJerry McGlocklin
 Song LeaderStefan Fudge
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching Sewell Hall
 Lord’s Supper
 Presiding Jordan Lovell
 Assisting Larry Mitchell
 Serving Tommy Burns Todd Williams
 Russ Wulfekuhl Landon Adams
 Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Evening Worship

AnnouncementsJerry McGlocklin
 Song LeaderJoel Hamm
 Prayer Kenneth Smith
 Preaching Sewell Hall
 Lord’s Supper Jordan Lovell
 Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 29th:

Usher Dwaine Allfrey
 Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, May 2nd:

Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Bible Reading.....Meeting

 Prayer Hunter Cox
 Invitation Sewell Hall
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Sunday, May 6th:

Morning Worship

AnnouncementsJoel Hamm
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Larry Mitchell
 Preaching Scott Tope
 Lord’s Supper
 Presiding Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Kenneth Smith
 Serving Delmer Carter Keenon Currier
 Maurice Dollar Bonnie Sutton
 Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Evening Worship

AnnouncementsJoel Hamm
 Song LeaderStefan Fudge
 Prayer Nathaneil Adams
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord’s Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Stuart Wilson

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 6th:

Usher Dwaine Allfrey
 Work Sound System Landon Adams