

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

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

Visit Us On The Web
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

Volume IV

June 24, 2012

No. 26

True Believers

L. A. Stauffer

"True belief" is biblical to the core and calls on disciples to die for the Lord's cause.

"True Believers" is the expression often used to describe followers who believe implicitly in a person or cause. It denotes believers so committed that they will die for their faith. Call them "religious nuts" or "fanatics," but don't call them weak-minded or cowards.

True believers are not plagued with doubts. Nor are they intimidated by threats. They know no fear, and no consequence for their belief deters them from the course they have set for themselves. They will keep the faith, they will fight any battle, and they will finish what they have determined to accomplish.

True believers are best exemplified in this twenty-first century by many followers of the Moslem faith. They believe in Allah, they are confident that he has spoken through the "prophet" Mohammed and they are dedicated to leaders who purport to teach the ways of Mohammedanism.

When leaders tell them to strap on dynamite belts and blow themselves to bits in a crowded restaurant or the lobby of a prominent hotel, fly a plane into a skyscraper, or take up weapons of warfare and enter battle, true believers unhesitatingly follow orders – even knowing that they will die.

They follow their leaders because they believe in the cause and in the promises that are set before them. If their leaders promise them a "materialistic" heaven of drinking, partying, and sex, they believe unequivocally. That faith may bring death, but they revel in the goal they seek to accomplish on earth and in the fruit of these earthly promises in heaven.

As detestable as these methods and promises may be, the principle of true belief is biblical to the core. Disciples of Christ are to be men and women of faith, but not the "faith alone" of reformation theology. It is the "obedience of faith" Paul taught in the book of Romans and James detailed in his epistle to Christians of the Dispersion (Romans 1:5; 16:26; James 2:14-26).

It is a “disciplined” faith of “disciples” who have been called to deny themselves and take up their cross to walk in the footsteps of their Teacher—Jesus (Luke 9:23). As their Master dedicated Himself unto His Father’s will even unto death, so they must love not their lives even unto death. They take up their crosses to die both inwardly and physically for the Lord’s cause (see Galatians 2:20; Revelation 2:10; 12:11).

True believers of Jesus are not called to brandish “carnal weapons” of warfare, but to arm themselves with righteousness and truth in a spiritual battle against the spiritual host of wickedness. Their goal? To bring every thought in the captivity of obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3,4; Ephesians 6:10-17). No cause has ever been so noble.

True believers are not here to thrust men through with flashing metal swords, blow them to smithereens with powdered explosives or shoot solid projectiles into their bodies. Jesus brought to this world a “sword” – an idea that divides families and communities and nations, a scheme of human redemption that removes sin both through forgiveness and in development of character. It creates a body of people that knows no compromise and fights every false way (Matthew 10:34-39; Colossians 2:8).

True believers of Jesus are staunch, steadfast, and unmovable (1 Corinthians 15:58). They commit themselves to a body of truth – the scriptures; they contend for the authority of those scriptures; they promulgate the teaching of scriptures; they fight the good fight of faith by insisting that all men believe and obey the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16,17; John 8:32; Matthew 7:21; 1 Timothy 6:12).

True believers of Jesus, however, are not belligerent; they are not unloving and hateful; they have no agenda to destroy antagonists of truth; they live in harmony alongside unbelievers and the disobedient; they let the light of righteousness and holiness shine in love, goodness, gentleness, kindness, and peace that by their good works they may win infidels and carnal men (Galatians 5:22,23; Romans 12:18; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Matthew 5:16).

True believers of Jesus have no promises of material prosperity, physical pleasures, or worldly indulgences to offer prospective believers. They, indeed, look unto a recompense of reward, but it consists of “spiritual” treasures in heaven that know no decay or defilement.

Heaven is a home for glorified saints who receive spiritual bodies, a paradise of rest from their struggles and labors in a sin-filled world, an escape from sickness and suffering and pain and dying, a fellowship of just and righteous men and women who have been perfected by the grace of a merciful Creator (Matthew 6:19; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 14:13; 21:3,4; Hebrews 12:22-24).

The principal issue for every Christian is the decision to believe truly, actually, really, genuinely. Where this faith resides lives fanatical zeal. Not a fanaticism that is insane, misguided, erratic, and unpredictable. But a zeal that is devoted to God, to Christ, to the scriptures, and to the life they have called all men to live. Yes, it will seek to teach and convert; it will seek to inculcate obedience to truth; it will compromise with no other way – be it Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism, or Mohammedanism. And, yes, true believers will die for this cause, but not in the murder and destruction of others. They will live peaceably with all men, but with the understanding that truth matters and that truth is found in the life and teaching of Jesus the Messiah as taught in the Bible (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:4).

True believers of Jesus believe that He is “the Way, and the Truth, and the Life” – and that there is no other way to the Father but through Him in His church. They will zealously follow Him and devotedly defend Him – even unto death (John 14:6; Ephesians 5:27; 1 Corinthians 15:24)!

~via *Biblical Insights*, Vol. 3 No. 9, September 2003

∞

The Daze of Summer

Bubba Garner

The dog days of summer. The doldrums. The summer lull. Everybody has a different name for the upcoming time of year. I have found that these descriptions all have one thing in common – when the weather gets got, there is a tendency for Christians to get cold. If we’re not careful, we can become so caught up in making plans and going different places that we neglect the work that must be done right here at home.

I understand the value and joy of family trips, days away from the office, and other leisure activities. And

there are few things that I enjoy more than grilling out in the backyard or watching a baseball game on television. But may I offer a few reminders to help us maintain our enthusiasm and zeal through the upcoming summer season?

Don't take a vacation from the Lord. The kids will soon be out of school. The college students are coming home. People will take time off of work. All of these things are necessary because they allow us to relax and refresh and regroup. Even Solomon said that we need to see the good and reward from our labor, realizing that such activity is "the gift of God" (Ecclesiastes 3:13; 5:18).

But no matter what time of year it is, we must keep in mind that we are still workers for the Lord. We are still accountable for our commitment. It is year-round. That means that there is no such thing as a holiday or a long-weekend for the Christian. The Lord wants us righteous and godly all the time, in season and out of season. That includes June, July, and August.

Make the most of your summer time. How often do you wish that you had more time? "If only there were more hours in the day, more days in the week, more weeks in the month," we sometimes say. In fact, I can remember a few occasions when I would have been satisfied to have just thirty more minutes. But we have no right to ask for more time when we are poor stewards of the time we have been given. Everyone is apportioned the same amount each day. It's what you do with it that counts (Ephesians 5:16).

What are your plans for this summer? Young people will be free from the distractions of homework and school-related activities. That leaves plenty of time for reading THE book and preparing for Bible class. Many people use up a week or two of vacation from their jobs. What about investing some of that time in improving your relationship with God and the work He has called you to do? No matter what the calendar says, the time is now.

Resist waiting for the fall. There is a temptation to save our best work for when the summer is over. "We'll wait until school starts." "Let's hold off until everybody's back in town." "It's just a few more weeks." Not only does that attitude promote the failure to recognize that "today is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2), it most likely breeds more procrastination once fall finally does arrive.

But what if the Lord should come before September? Surely the summer months fit the description of Him coming as "a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). What a shame to think that our recreation and leisure time could cause us to be unprepared for the judgment. We must realize that putting off our responsibilities is as deadly during the summer as it is every other season. The Lord is not going to wait around for us.

There is no need for a summer slump this year. Rather, let us value every moment God has blessed us with in this life under the sun.

~via *Perry Hill Road Bulletin*; Montgomery, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Robert & Mot Beasley	Helen Blankenship
Joe Leopard	Virginia Miller
Wynell Casteel	Yvonne Sherbert
Mary Ruth Gardner	David Hartsell
Betty Faye Holt	Ava Brooke Campbell
Brent Lowman	Matt Poff
Faye Cary	Leroy Davenport
Phillip Harwell	Hailee Walton
Una King Currier	Barbara Ogles
Gladys Sandlin	Jeffery Miller

In The Hospital:

Gladys Johnson; Athens-Limestone Hosp. – ICU
Bobbie Adcock; Athens-Limestone Hosp. – rm. 206
Frances Bowers; Athens-Limestone Hosp. – rm. 322
Charles Burns; Crestwood Hosp. – rm. 326
Kenneth Pressnell; Decatur General Hosp. – CCU
Eli Williams; St. Jude's Hospital; Memphis, Tenn.

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 10 Mary Holt, rm. 100
 Beulah Pope, rm. 100

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Mae Bragg, rm. 57
 Albert Norton, rm. 36 Marie Bates, rm. 97
 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Cogburn Health & Rehab - Huntsville:

David Gardner, rm. 101-B

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

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies Bible class will pick back up in meeting on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. They took the week off last week due to the VBS that was on-going. The class is going very well with excellent attendance.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Wulfekuhls:* Russ, Lisa and Ali are out visiting with family in Cherokee this weekend... *The Williams:* Julie, Matthew and Philip are in Sulligent this weekend visiting with family.

GOSPEL MEETINGS & VBS: *The Kelly Spring Road church* near Harvest is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Don Truex*... The *Midway church* in Greenhill is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Phil Robertson*... The *Jordan Park church* in Huntsville will be engaged in a Vacation Bible school this week at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: This past week we were engaged in a Vacation Bible School (Monday through Thursday). The VBS attendance was: Mon.-132; Tues.-176; Wed.-140; Thurs.-172 and we averaged 155 for the week. I appreciate all those that worked so tirelessly in preparing, inviting and prayer for this effort. The VBS is a work of the Market Street church and the elders are to be commended for their foresight to have a VBS each year. The good that results from a Vacation Bible School is great. May the Lord continue to bless our labors at Market Street as we seek to serve Him and strive to teach the gospel to others.

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

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of June 17th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 131

Morning Worship 188

Evening Worship 125

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 121

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Stuart Wilson
Assisting Tommy Coblenz
Serving Will Chumbley Jordan Lovell
..... Russ Wulfekuhl ... Nathaniel Adams
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements Marcus Morris
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Stuart Wilson
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 24th:

Usher Jonathan Keenon
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, June 27th:

Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Bible Reading Isaiah 44:21-28
..... Landon Adams
Prayer Tyler Cox
Invitation Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Sunday, July 1st:

Morning Worship

Announcements Wayne Vaughn
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Jerry McGlockln
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Jordan Lovell
Assisting Joel Hamm
Serving Marvin Putman Dan Lovell
..... Marcus Morris Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer Jonathan Keenon

Evening Worship

Announcements Wayne Vaughn
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 1st:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Landon Adams