

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

July 29, 2012

No. 31

Which Church Is Right?

David A. Cox

As one goes about his daily activities, he cannot help but notice the numerous religious groups. Throughout our society, slogans such as: "Attend the church of your choice" or "Join the church of your choice" are very popular. As I begin to contemplate these statements and the implications made, I wonder if the majority of our society has forgotten that it is God's choice that we should be concerned with. In Isaiah 55:8-9, we read "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." The choice that we make may not necessarily be the choice that God has made and God's choice should be our only concern.

As one begins to consider the church that God approves of, the questions may be asked, "Which church is right, since all churches claim to follow Christ?" Or, "Could all of the denominations (with the conflicting doctrines they teach) be pleasing to God?" To answer this, let us look to the Bible to see what the mind of God has revealed to us. First, we will notice the church God approves of is the church that Christ built. In Matthew 16:18, we learn that Christ said, "*Upon this rock I will build my church.*" We can clearly see that Christ said that He was going to build His church, not churches. The apostle Paul stated that Christ did exactly that when he said that Christ gave himself for the church and purchased the church with His blood (Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28). Notice what Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus. Speaking of Christ he said, "*And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body*" (Ephesians 1:22-23). Then, as we look at Ephesians 4:4, we learn that there is one body or one church. Therefore, we can see that the Bible only speaks of the church in the singular sense and that the one church spoken of belongs to Christ. Since the church belongs to Christ, it should wear His name. In Acts 4:12, Peter speaking to the rulers of the Jews concerning Christ said, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men,*

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

whereby we must be saved.” Therefore, a church that claims to have been built by someone other than Christ or follows the teaching of some man other than Christ, is not the one church approved of in God’s sight.

The question then follows, “How can one identify the New Testament church?” The church that God approves of will be the church that we read about in the Bible. It will be the church that began at Jerusalem, on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2). Therefore, the church that is pleasing to God will be one that uses only the inspired word of God as its rule of faith with regard to its practices. It is evident that conflicting doctrines are taught by the various religions that exist. These conflicting doctrines do not originate with the word of God, but by the creeds and traditions of men. In Matthew 15:9, Christ said that the Jews were worshipping Him in vain because they taught for their doctrine *“the commandments of men.”* The gospel of Christ is sufficient; we see this is Paul’s statement to the Galatians that *“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). God is pleased with those that abide in the pure gospel; those who *“speak as the oracles of God”* (1 Peter 4:11). The church that follows the word of God, in all that its practices, can be identified from what we learn from the Bible about the worship, work and organization of the church in the New Testament. The church that uses only the Bible will bear fruit whereby it can be identified. Christ said in Matthew 7:20, *“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”* Any group that teaches anything that is not in keeping with what the Bible teaches, is not the one church that God approves.

There is no doubt that there is much confusion in the world concerning religion, but I want it understood that this confusion comes from men and not from God. God desires that men do His will. This is exactly what Christ taught in the sermon on the mount when he said, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 7:21). Doing the will of God is imperative if we are to be pleasing to Him. Many people may have good intentions, engage in works that they believe are good and attend a church that they have chosen by their standards, but Christ said that if they did not do the Father’s will, they would be classified as workers of iniquity (Matthew 7:22-23). We should never attend the church of our choice, but

we should always insist that the church of God’s choice be attended.

Let us examine the scriptures to learn what the church of God’s choice is. May we never seek our own choice, but rather look for God’s choice.

∞

The Perfect Tree

Tim King

After four years of baseball training in St. Petersburg, Florida, there are some things I will never forget. I will always remember the morning agilities and stretching that took place on dew filled grass with the morning’s heat rays flowing from the surface. I can still see some of the nation’s top prospects crushing baseballs over the fence and gassing 96 mph fastballs. Along side that is the athletic enthusiasm that is as contagious as a yawn.

Then there’s the tree. Almost sounds dull after spouting off those memorable events that took place daily, huh? This tree that stands perfectly postured beyond the leftfield fence and has possibly never been noticed by anyone else. But I noticed it. I’ll never forget it. I regret not taking a picture of it. Day after day, my attention would be directed towards this tree because of its full and sound features. This tree is complete, its color is entirely blended testifying of its health, the branches are in well circumference and the overall appearance from afar is catching. I could go on and on about the attributes of the tree. Especially the shade that thing can produce.

Along with mesmerizing over its wholeness, I remember thinking to myself, “I only hope I can be like that tree.” Spiritually, I desire that. To be sheer and absolute. To be good and intact. To be undamaged, unbroken. I only hope.

As Christians, we have the opportunity to reach the heights of spirituality. Today is a new day and if the Lord wills, tomorrow will be, too. Therefore it is a

new beginning. Or an opportunity to make addition to what has been reached. We will have our bodies and souls broken at times but our God is here to take care of that stuff. When a limb of the tree is broken, it gets past it. We must do the same.

We are obliged to achieve higher standards and invest our bodies for new growth and development. To know where you are rooted is important. What I mean is your surroundings. Are they healthy or unwholesome; productive or inefficient?

The Bible compares it to being “like a tree firmly planted by streams of water” (Psalm 1:3). It is healthy, vibrant, bearing its fruit and persistent through all weather due to firmly attached roots. Its depends on the stream of water that refreshes it continually. “Long for the pure milk of the word so that by it you may grow” (1 Peter 2:2). Through His word we receive augmentation. “His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). His word provides what we need to weather any storm. “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17). He is our source, our stream, and our life.

The writer of Ecclesiastes says, “there is a time for every event under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Spiritually, we are going to spend time in cold, sometimes freezing weather. We are going to live through fiery circumstances as well. It is all part of God’s perfect plan. We will feel at times thirsty and other times broken. It’s all part of increasing our spiritual stature.

Our brother James tells us to be joyful during trials, knowing that our faith is being tested to achieve perseverance (James 1:3). Your successful triumphs will then be illustrated for others to see your productivity, what God irrigated within you. We can make ourselves known amongst men when we personify godliness in our lives—when we portray His beautiful features, when we show our unbounded goodness, when we display our unique characteristics, thus becoming the perfect tree.

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.

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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gladys Johnson
Yvonne Sherbert
Will Carl Sullivan
Charles Burns
Jeffery Miller
Matt Poff
Mary Holt
Marie Bates
Phillip Harwell
Gladys Sandlin

Wynell Casteel
Mary Ruth Gardner
Betty Faye Holt
Ava Brooke Campbell
Henry Hobbs
David Hartsell
Reverie Barksdale
Leroy Davenport
Una King Currier

In The Hospital:

Steve Klein; UAB Hospital -Birmingham

Joe Olson; Huntsville Hosp. – rm. 652

Eli Williams; St. Jude’s Hospital; Memphis, Tenn.

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 10

Beulah Pope, rm. 100

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Mae Bragg, rm. 57

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Frances Bowers, rm. 37

Bobbie Adcock, rm 113-A Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Limestone Manor:

Albert Bowers, rm. East 26

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Huntsville 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

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies’ Bible class meets each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. If you are a lady, and are able to meet with them, please join them in this study.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Pleasant Valley church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. Services Monday through Wednesday will be at 7:00p.m. *Bill Hall* is the speaker in this meeting.

DEACONS: Remember the elders have asked the congregation to look out among us and see if there are

any men that would be qualified to serve as deacons and desire to do so. For those you know that are qualified and desire to serve please turn their names in to be placed before the congregation. There are sheets of paper for you to write your name and the name of those you believe should be appointed, on the table by the bulletins at each exit. The names need to be turned in this week.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Adams: Marty, Marvella, Landon, Nathaniel and Kenneth* have been in South-haven, Mississippi for the Cal Ripken World Series... *Nancy Abernathy* has been in Little Rock, Arkansas this past week... *Janice Cagle* has been in Little Rock, Arkansas for the last couple of weeks... *Will Chumbley* is Florida this week... *David Cox* is in Barbados preach-ing for the next week and a half.

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

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

THE RECORD: *For the Week of July 22th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 136
Morning Worship 175
Evening Worship..... 125
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 112



Gospel Meeting

September 16-20, 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.

Buc Chumbley, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 29th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Terry Andrews
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Kenneth Smith
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Nathaniel Adams... Keenon Currier
..... Brandon Griswold... Delmer Carter
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Stuart Wilson
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 29th:

Usher Marion Mitchell
Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, August 1st:

Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 46:1-13
..... Mot Dollar
Prayer Jack Cannon
Invitation Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Sunday, August 5th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Ronnie Locke
Assisting Tommy Coblentz
Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Landon Adams
..... Jonathan Keenon..... Heath Dollar
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcement..... Marty Adams
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Bonnie Sutton
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Todd Williams

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 5th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams