

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
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Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume IV

August 5, 2012

No. 32

More Than Once For More Than One Reason

Harold Hancock

Too many churches are plagued with an attendance problem. Some Christians think if they partake of the Lord's supper Sunday morning there is no need for them to assemble with the saints that evening or mid-week. This accounts largely for the difference between the crowd Sunday morning and the few that assemble Sunday evening and during the week.

I have seen some who would come and partake of the Lord's Supper and then leave immediately. They would not even stay for the remainder of the one service, much less come to another. Then there is the story of the vacationers who asked that the Lord's Supper be brought out to their car so they could take it and then be on their way without sin. What is ahead? Buildings with drive in windows so one can drive through, take the Lord's supper and be finished with his duties for the week? I do not think it works that way! Many seem to think that the Lord's Supper is the most important part of worship. Some think that to partake of the Lord's Supper is the only reason we are commanded to assemble. All the rest of the things we do (sing, pray, preach) are just to fill the hour. They consider them incidentals. It is just a good time to do some of them since we have already come together.

Their reasoning seems to be based on Acts 20:7, "When the disciples came together to break bread..." This shows purpose (it is argued); and it is the only purpose mentioned in this passage. This is the same grievous mistake made by those who advocate "belief only" for salvation. They have seized one passage on the subject and have looked no further. Other passages tell us other reasons for assembling together.

Some have tried to limit Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." to the assembly at which the Lord's Supper is offered. But, it is not so limited. Note the context of the passage. The Lord's Supper is not even under consideration. The writer has instructed us to consider one another and to provoke one another unto good works

(v. 24). This is the purpose of the assembling spoken of in the text. It is for edification and exhortation.

When one looks to the early church, he finds that “togetherness” is stressed. The early Christians met together often and for many different reasons. Sometimes they assembled together to learn what was happening in the name of the Lord and to pray and to praise God (Acts 4:31). Occasionally they met to discipline the unruly (1 Corinthians 5:4). They assembled to make provisions for caring for the benevolent needs of disciples (Acts 6). All of this was in addition to and along side of meeting for the purpose of teaching one another and exhorting one another and partaking of the Lord’s supper. These passages and examples are given to us for a reason. They are worthy of imitation.

Does not our attendance say something about our attitude toward God, the church, and things spiritual? Attendance is a good thermometer by which to gage our spiritual temperature. Whose company is it that we deem higher than the saints of God? What is it that we do that we think is more profitable and enjoyable than singing, praying, or learning of God? May we all assemble as often and for as many good reasons as did the Christians of old.

~via *The Beacon*; Columbia, Tennessee.



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

How Firm A Foundation

Hal Hammons

The Christian life begins with Jesus. It really is that simple. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:11, “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Paul calls the gospel “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” earlier in the same book (2:2). Later he writes that the gospel was that Jesus died, was buried, and was raised from the dead on the third day (15:1-9). He told the Ephesians they were “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets” – that is, the teaching they had heard from him and other inspired speakers and writers. Jesus Himself said the one who built upon a firm foundation was parallel to the one “who hears these words of Mine and acts on them” (Matthew 7:24).

All these passages give us the same message: Jesus Christ Himself – the life He lived, the death He died, the crown He wears, the message He sends – Jesus must be the focal point of our existence. Our lives must be squarely and firmly fixed on Him. That is the whole point of a foundation. To build elsewhere is to deny its importance and is doomed to failure.

Any efforts on our part to elevate man’s teaching to the level of Christ’s teaching is a violation of this most fundamental principle; “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men” (Matthew 15:8-9). To dismiss any aspect of His doctrine as dated, irrelevant or optional is similarly unacceptable; “Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar” (Proverbs 30:5-6). “If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book” (Rev 22:18-19).

But more important even than our repeated efforts to build our own foundation is our contempt for the one that already exists. To lay a new foundation is to argue that the Lord Jesus is Himself somehow inadequate. Could we possibly argue that the One who maintains

the universe is incapable of maintaining our lives in His service? To ask such a question is to answer it. But we must believe in His all sufficiency in deed, not just in word. If we are to begin constructing a church that is truly a temple, bringing honor and glory to God (1 Peter 2:5), we must begin with the assumption that all the necessary instructions are found within His revealed word. Likewise, if we are to be individual stones in that temple, we must have confidence that He is able to make us “adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). To do otherwise is to build on our own foundation instead of on Jesus Christ.

~via *The Melrose Memor* Richardson, Alabama



Faithful To — What?

Robert F. Turner

I believe Christians may “depart from the faith,” “fall away from grace,” even “deny the Lord that bought them” (1 Timothy 4:1; Galatians 5:4; 2 Peter 2:1) for the scriptures clearly teach this. Our Baptist friends err when they apply 1 John 2:19a to “all” (note 19b) who fully backslide.

But “we” err in thinking that all who are baptized, and are “faithful” in their home-town, are truly converted to Christ.

It is a common cry in California, Arizona — and I suspect in the northeastern industrial areas---that many “faithful Christians” from Tennessee, Oklahoma or Texas, come there to work, and “never darken the church doors.” Friends write that they were “faithful to the church” back home.

And that is it---exactly. They were indeed “faithful to the church” (apparently) but were not faithful to the Lord. Many “grew up in the church” without really knowing, in a direct and personal way, the truth. They may have been drilled in “the right answers” concerning baptism, the Lord’s Supper, instrumental music, etc., yet never have committed themselves to honest Bible study—never have given themselves whole-heartedly

to Christ.

“Back home” their parents — and later, their friends — expected them to “be faithful” (meaning, attend the “services”) and they did so. But away from home, separated from home-town pressures to conform, their lack of genuine ties to Christ is apparent. It was not “worldly California” that drew them away — although I offer no rose to materialism in California or Tennessee. They simply were not bound by the love of God in the first place.

Much of our lament about the young people who “quit the church” is equally misdirected. “Area-wide” socials, “church skating parties” and other “fellowship hall” activities do not bind the youth to Christ. They actually increase the rate of apostasy when these young people leave home and are thrown into an environment that calls for spiritual strength. We have fed hungry souls with hamburgers. We have deprived them of training for the church-world, light-darkness battles they must meet in an adult life.

Is “churchanity” responsible for much of the weak spiritual fiber seen in those who go astray? I believe it is — and have, for twenty years or more, been preaching the evils of “party line” religion. But God forbid that I should deny the existence of the divinely authorized local church, or the organized functions of its members. Sectarianism arises among God’s people — whether they call themselves “church” or “group” — when they regard themselves as the standard for “soundness.” “No church” may be as much a party line as any “church-of-Christ” ever preached.

The church doesn’t need another saviour; we (the church distributively) simply need to be faithful to the Saviour we have. By this example, and by objective, non-sectarian appraisal of our practices in the light of the word of God, we may be able to teach the next generation to turn to the Lord, and cleave to Him (Acts 11:20f).

~via *The Auburn Beacon*, Auburn, 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

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Bobbie Adcock	Gladys Johnson
Wynell Casteel	Yvonne Sherbert
Mary Ruth Gardner	Will Carl Sullivan
Betty Faye Holt	Charles Burns
Ava Brooke Campbell	Jeffery Miller
Henry Hobbs	Matt Poff
David Hartzell	Mary Holt
Reverie Barksdale	Marie Bates
Leroy Davenport	Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier	Gladys Sandlin
Steve Klein	Joe Olson

In The Hospital:

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
 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
 Albert Bowers rm. 115-B

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.

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 July 29th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 133
 Morning Worship 164
 Evening Worship..... 121
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 92

Men Privileged To Serve:

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 Coblenz
 Serving Russ Wulfekuhl Heath Dollar
 Jonathan Keenon Landon Adams
 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

Wednesday, August 8th:

Song Leader Stuart Wilson
 Bible Reading..... Isaiah 47:1-11
 Will Chumbley
 Prayer Marion Mitchell
 Invitation Todd Williams
 Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, August 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Tyler Cox
 Prayer Steve Bradley
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Terry Andrews
 Assisting Stuart Wilson
 Serving Will Chumbley..... Tommy Burns
 Stefan Fudge..... Danny Johnson
 Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Evening Worship

Announcement..... Kenneth Smith
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Dan Reed
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 12th:

Usher Marvin Putman
 Work Sound System Landon Adams