

# 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

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

#### 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

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#### 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*

(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**

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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 Hartsell	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 Coblentz
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