

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) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm (256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell (256) 777-8998

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 V

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No. 1

Essentials To Spiritual Progress

Matthew H. Allen

Jesus wants to change your life! God wants nothing but your success! God provides us with the tools to change our character. We have unlimited potential because of the spiritual blessings we received when we were adopted by God in obedience to the gospel. Everyone of us can become *imitators of God*, Ephesians 5:1. But yet, we are all aware of a sad truth: some never complete the process of discipleship. Some outwardly appear that they have obeyed, but they have not really been converted to Christ. This is why we must learn what is involved in turning to Christ. What is essential to our spiritual progress?

We must make a "clean break" with the world. So many new Christians crash and burn because of divided affections. Too many people try to serve God while holding onto their former lifestyle. *Progress always consists in taking one or another of two alternatives; abandoning the attempt to combine them.* (Albert Schweitzer) Christianity is an either/or commitment! Why is this so important? Consider that non-Christians often hold to different value systems and have different goals and hopes in this life. Christians stand apart from this because they realize what is truly important in life. In speaking of the need to make a clean break with the world, Paul called on Christians to *come out and be separate* in 2 Corinthians 6:17. Yes this can be difficult, but eternity in heaven is worth every ounce of effort we can muster!

For example, there are lines that the Christian must not cross. Think of how our behavior should change once we begin growing up in Christ. Read the following passages and see if you can find identifying marks of proper Christian conduct: Titus 2:3, James 3:13, 1 Peter 2:12, 3:2. Clear and distinct lines have been drawn as far as who we associate with, 1 Corinthians 15:33. Christians need to evaluate the places they go (1 Peter 4:3-4), what they say, think, and how they deal with people. Our lives must be marked by sheer determination to avoid all sin and error! Why? There is no middle ground. Jesus said, *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one*

and despise the other, Matthew 6:24. There should be no room left in our heart, soul, or mind to love the world.

This involves courage. Ask, *am I willing to take a real risk based on my trust in what God can do?* In Luke 14:26-33, Jesus taught us that there is a cost with Christianity that **MUST** be counted, and if we are to be successful, then we must be totally committed to Jesus Christ. And yes, there may be some major changes we have to make in serving God. It may involve the loss of *so-called* friends, rejection by co-workers, etc. And that is where brothers and sisters in Christ come in. Those who have been in Christ for a long time must not forget that new Christians are making major changes in their life and will need their support, encouragement, and most importantly, their friendship. We need to be here for each other! The courage to change comes out of character. *What kind of person am I? Do I have any "root" in myself? Do I have what it takes to deal with difficulty?* Courage that comes from character is a matter of choice on our part.

We must become committed to the conversion process. Salvation requires more than a "whim" or a "passing moment." Commitment involves a conscious decision to act! When we obeyed the gospel, we went on record, confessing our loyalty to Jesus Christ and our desire to live for Him. Have we made a promise to ourselves **to do** what we have **decided**? *You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one*, (James Anthony Froude). Just the possession of a desire to get to heaven is not enough. We must act on our desire. We must make a little progress each day in finishing what we have started. Paul wrote, *But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability*, 2 Corinthians 8:11. God calls us to move in faith, not with a wavering, wishywashy spirit. This principle is seen in James 1:6-8: *But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways*. God has no room for doublemindedness! *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded*, James 4:8. We cannot indefinitely "think about" what we are going to do—we must make a commitment to actually do it!

Are you willing to acknowledge your faith? Will

you confess your faith, Romans 10:9-10? Will you confess the truth, Ephesians 4:15? If you will, you are an imitator of Jesus. The person who does not continually confess his faith is not likely to keep it. We must bear witness to the truth in every situation and verbalize our commitment to live for Christ. Are you maintaining your confession? *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful*, Hebrews 10:23. God calls on us to make a commitment to truth. Doing so will ensure spiritual progress. Are you making spiritual progress?

~via *New Living* ; Brownsburg, Indiana.

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Why Does Sin Exist?

Phillip Mullins

Why does sin exist? It is a question we should think about. I believe God asks it often. The Bible tells us how that sin came into existence. According to Genesis 2:16-17, the first man and woman were given a choice to obey God or rebel against Him. They choose to rebel by eating of the forbidden fruit. Since that time, man has continued to disobey God. From the beginning we see that God has allowed mankind the choice of serving Him or not. Therefore, sin exists because man has chosen to bring it into the world.

The question still lingers though, not from the standpoint of how sin exists, but why. Why did Adam and Eve sin when God had blessed them with such a wonderful place to live in? Why did they sacrifice all of God's gifts for a piece of fruit? Why did they exchange God's command for Satan's lie?

Why did the ancient Israelites chase after idolatry when the Lord had displayed His great power and love over and over again? Could there be a god any stronger or wiser or more caring than Jehovah?

Why did David steal Bathsheba from Uriah when God had been so good to him?

Why did Solomon pursue the vanity of idolatry when He knew and was richly blessed by the only true and living God?

Why did Judas betray Jesus? Why did Peter deny Him? They had witnessed His great power. They had known His perfect character.

Why do you sin? Why do I sin? How could we turn our backs on the God who has made the whole world for us to live in? The God who sends the rain and the sunlight to nourish our planet. The God who has blessed us with friends and family to be loved by and to love. The God who planned to deliver us from sin even before we were born (Ephesians 1:4). The God who weaved together people, nations, and events over a period of thousands of years to piece together His wonderful scheme of providing a Savior. How can we sin against the God who took human flesh and spilled His blood on the cross to pay for our wicked deeds? (John 1: 14; Acts 20:28) Each time we sin we should ask ourselves why. Why do I sin against a God who is so wonderful and so good to me? I believe God is asking and waiting for the answer.

~via *Messages*; Kingsport, Tennessee.

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Unhappy With Things

Michael W. McLemore

An interesting story is told of a rich man who wanted to help a poor man. The rich man hired the poor man to build a house on the hillside and went away on a long journey. The carpenter said to himself, "my boss is away and I can use cheap materials for the parts of the house which will not show. The house will be weak and undesirable but nobody will know except me."

But when the rich man returned he said, "The house isn't for me - it's for you!" The carpenter accepted the key in astonishment. Instead of a first class home, he now had a fourth class home.

Increasingly Christians are heard to complain about

this and that when it comes to the local church. Our consumer oriented society has infiltrated the kingdom. We need better classes, better singing, more thoughtful prayer leaders, more involved service, *ad infinitum*. But, when calls are made for assistance in these areas, those same critics are nowhere to be found. It seems to me to be happy with the church is to be with one's self. After all, said the Lord, "the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21).

God gives us a job, a life to build, a kingdom to perpetuate. We have to live in the house we build! If we do a shabby job, we cheat one person, ourselves. Diligence in our own personal service has a way of humbling the critic. It squelches disparagement and opens the eyes to personal responsibility.

Unhappy with the church? Look inside. You might just find shabby workmanship that needs correction.

~via *The Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jo Dunnavant
Kim Rogers
Lawinda Keenon
Gilbert Hardy
Wynell Casteel
Bruce Mordecai
Ronald Harrison
Abby Gilbert
Phillip Harwell
Charles Burns
Matt Poff

Kevyn Currier
James Adams
Gwen Bullock
Mary Ruth Gardner
Wayne Gooch
Una King Currier
Carrie Miller
Betty Faye Holt
Ava Brooke Campbell
David Hartsell
Shelia Dunnavant Douglas

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 7 Beulah Pope, rm. 100
Mattye Murray, rm. 60

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B
Albert Norton, rm. 36 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74 Billy Sutton, rm. 29

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 29-E

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. 45

Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class will resume meeting this Tuesday, January 8th and continue the study, "*The Barnabas Factor*".

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

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Beverly Sutton**, in the passing of his cousin, *Mickey-Adams*. She passed away on Wednesday. The visitation and funeral was Saturday afternoon at Limestone Chapel.

NEW QUARTER BEGINS TODAY: The new quarter in our Bible classes at Market Street begins today. I appreciate those who have taught this past quarter in our classes. Now would be a great time to begin participating in our Bible classes if you are not. Come join us as we study the Word of God.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: The Children's Bible Drill is each Sunday afternoon at 4:40 and lasts about 15 minutes. It meets in the auditorium and will end about 5 minutes before the beginning of our evening service. I hope that all of our children will be able to be present this evening for the Bible drill.

THE RECORD: *Average Attendance for 2012*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 129

Morning Worship 171

Evening Worship..... 114

Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 103



**The Market Street
church of Christ Website at:
MarketStreet-church.com**

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Terry Andrews
Assisting Wayne Vaughn
Serving Dan Lovell Delmer Carter
..... Harold Davis Paul Hasting
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Jonathan Keenon
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Jack Cannon

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 6th:

Usher Marion Mitchell
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, January 9th:

Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Bible Reading Isaiah 58:1-14
..... Dan Reed
Prayer Kenneth Adams
Invitation Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Sunday, January 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Marty Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Tommy Coblentz
Assisting Marcus Morris
Serving Keith Hinkle Nathaniel Adams
..... David Terry Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 13th:

Usher Keenon Currier
Work Sound System Landon Adams