

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

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No. 25

The Lure of the Easy Way

Dan S. Shipley

"And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David; if this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah" (1 Kings 12:26-27).

Whether or not Jeroboam's fears were well founded is uncertain. However, of one thing we can be sure. He was more concerned about the people's loyalty to him than to God. To accomplish his aims, he shrewdly baits his trap with something that entices most all men - the lure of the easy way. He told them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem..." Little did it matter, apparently, that he gave them idols, pretended priests and pagan worship. The most important thing was that he provided them with an easy religion - and that overshadowed all else. They became victims of the easy way.

Many are the mortals who have succumbed to the lure of the easy way, both spiritually and otherwise. Our advertising agencies have learned the devil's sales pitch well. They tell you how to lose weight - the easy way. They offer easy ways to quit smoking, to achieve physical fitness or financial independence. People haven't changed much since Jeroboam's day. They still fall for the same old bait, "the easy way"; and in doing so have filled the prisons, swelled the welfare rolls and lengthened unemployment lines (Not to mention the irretrievable waste of time, talent and potential).

And, as in Jeroboam's day, the easy way is still a popular way in religion. The prospects of having to "go up to Jerusalem" (or even across town) is still too much for too many. They would take the denying self out of following Christ; the giving diligence out of seeking approval; and the striving out of entering in at the strait gate. Such would have the benefits without the brother. As Jesus says of others, "They have their reward."

As might be expected, even the Lord's church has been touched by the

lure of the easy way. It is felt in our teaching program when preachers and teachers find it “too much” to make adequate preparation of their lessons and when Bible class students find it “too much” to study and prepare assigned work. It affects our visitation program when members find it “too much” to leave their comfortable homes and TV programs to call on the sick or unfaithful. It affects our personal evangelism program when brethren think it “too much” to try and teach others the way of salvation. It affects the purity of the church when we think it “too much” to finally discipline the unruly among us. Of all things that contribute to the weakening of the church, none is more influential than taking the easy way.

The narrow way can never be the easy way. Not only are the ways different, they lead to different destinations (Matthew 7:14). “Going up to Jerusalem” may require self-denial, sacrifice and hard work but it’s the way of the cross – and that leads home.

~via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia.



The Faith We Profess

Sam Stinson

“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.” (Galatians 2:11, ESV)

God’s people face two central challenges in our motives and behavior: (1) being sure not to tolerate and accept those things God would not have them tolerate and accept; (2) being sure to tolerate and accept those things God would have them tolerate and accept. If you struggle with these, you’re not alone. This conflict is old. For instance, a certain Christian man counsels a certain couple. This couple is comprised of a man who abandoned his family to be with the woman and the woman abandoned her family to be with the man. These two claim to be Christians. The Christian man

asks if their conduct is in keeping with the faith they profess. After considering the question, the two reject the coupling, repent, and return to their spouses. That same Christian man counsels another couple. This couple is comprised of two men who are in a homosexual coupling. These two also claim to be Christians. The Christian man asks the two if their conduct is in keeping with the faith they profess. Yet again, these two reconsider, repent and return to their wives. Now, That same Christian man is approached by several other Christians. They applaud him for his counseling with the four Christians above. They then tell him this, “Friend, you’re considering marrying a Christian of another race. You shouldn’t put a stumbling block in the way of a other brethren in practicing this behavior. Besides, consider what your children will look like.”

Notice the irony? The same Christian man who is applauded for his work in speaking the truth of God’s word on two matters which should not be tolerated and accepted is counseled that he should not practice something that God does tolerate and accept. If your view is similar to this last example, please reconsider. Yes, Yahweh divided nations and tongues but he is also the one who unites them in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God made all nations from one man: there is one race from him (Acts 17:26). All people resemble Adam and Adam’s Father (Luke 3:38). If you are a Christian, you are already in a biracial family: what race do you suppose Jesus was? What color was his skin? What color is yours? In Christ, we are one people, one nation, a single, chosen race (1 Peter 2:9).

Certain early brethren preached that all Christians must look and act like them so they preached if you were not circumcised, you could not be saved (Acts 15:1). When Peter’s band began to segregate along racial lines, Paul called him out for his hypocrisy. Peter stood condemned (Galatians 2:11ff). Do you suppose that you’ll fare any better if you preach unity in Christ but do not truly practice, refusing to tolerate and accept what God does? Brethren, is your conduct in keeping with the faith you profess?

~via *Westview Bulletin*, Hamilton, Ohio.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

The Tremendous Love of Christ

Jimmy Pettigrew

Love is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, elements that we experience in Christianity. Paul said, without love I am noise, I am nothing, and I profit nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1 ff). Love should be the motive by which we do all things. "Let all you things be done with charity," (1 Corinthians. 16:14). "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness," (Colossians 3:14).

Love is the strongest word in the Bible, for we read, "God is love," (1 John 4:8). This love motivated Jesus Christ to die for us! The tremendous love of Christ is shown throughout the Bible. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," (Romans 5:8). Jesus Christ demonstrated the real love in His life and death. Jesus demonstrated the superior love, "Because he laid down His life for us," (1 John 3:16). We never knew the meaning of love until Jesus demonstrated it in His life. Jesus is our dearest friend. He was unselfish with others, the meaning of love. Paul said, "Love seeketh not her own," (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

What made the love of Christ so tremendous? He just didn't walk around saying, I love you; He showed us love! Love motivated Him to put His words into action. Jesus showed us love by keeping God's commandments; He contended for the word of God, and He sought the lost. He was a man of proper value.

We as God's children must follow the example of our Savior and let love motivate us. Love is evidenced in keeping His commandments (John 15:10). The Lord does not ask His disciples to do that which He himself does not do. As it was necessary for Him to keep the commandments of His Father to abide in the Father's love, so it is necessary for disciples to keep the Lord's commandments to abide in His love.

Jesus Christ showed His tremendous love by being a man of stern rebuke. He told the Sadducees, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God," (Matthew 22:29). He showed again His tremendous love by trying to keep the word of God pure. Jesus knew to stand for the truth; it is equal to loving God. The love Jesus taught is the emblem or badge of discipleship. By

this love one may know that he is His disciple. This love proves to others that we are disciples of Christ. This love should motivate us to do more for God!

~via *The Voice of Truth*, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Gayle Ball	Marvin Wales
Gwen Bullock	Betty Hastings
Wynell Casteel	Abby Gilbert
Will Carl Sullivan	Charles White
Jerry Taylor	Robin Legg
Ava Brooke Cambell	Charles Burns
Barbara Piper	Phillip Harwell
Matt Poff	Una King Currier
David Hartsell	

In The Hospital:

Judy Vaughn, Huntsville Hospital, rm. 664
Elizabeth Kate Miller, St. Jude's Hospital; – Memphis

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Matty Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 43	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

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	

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Jack Cannon, rm. 91

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
David Rice, Mobile, Alabama

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

OUT OF TOWN: The *The Wulfekuhls: Russ, Lisa and Ali* are in Florida this week this week on vacation... *Nancy Hardison* is in North Carolina visiting her sister.

GOSPEL MEETINGS/VBS: The *Tri Cities church* in Muscle Shoals is beginning a gospel meeting this week with *Wilson Adams* preaching. The meeting will continue through Friday... The *Midway church* in Greenhill is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. *Ron Roberts* preaching... The *Jackson Heights church* in Columbia, Tennessee will begin a Vacation Bible School Monday evening at 7:00 and it will continue through Friday... The *Jordan Park church* in Huntsville will begin a Vacation Bible School Monday evening at 7:00. It will continue through Friday... The *New Georgia church* in Lauderdale county will begin a Vacation Bible School Monday morning at 10:00 and it will continue through Friday. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker in the adult class.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are studying the books of "Proverbs". All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember *Mitzi Carruth's* son-in-law, *Joel Smith*, who is in Afghanistan serving the U. S. military. Keep him in your prayers.

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.

THE RECORD: Attendance for Week of June 16th
Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 131
Morning Worship 186
Evening Worship..... 118

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 108



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, June 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Joel Hamm
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Terry Andrews
Assisting Larry Mitchell
Serving Will Chumbley..... Landon Adams
..... Bart Brown..... Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements Kenneth Smith
Song Leader Marty Adams
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 23rd:

Usher Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, June 26th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
Bible Reading..... Mark 2:13-17
..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer Keith Hinkle
Invitation Todd Williams
Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Sunday, June 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Marcus Morris
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Ronnie Locke
Assisting Jonathan Keenon
Serving Stefan Fudge..... Tommy Burns
..... Norman Brown Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader Joel Hamm
Prayer Steve Bradley
Preaching Marty Adams
Lord's Supper Ronnie Locke
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 30th:

Usher Keenon Currier
Work Sound System Terry Andrews