

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 V

September 15, 2013

No. 37

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

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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

Why Aren't Instruments Part of the Pattern?

Edwin Crozier

Sometimes I fear we have become a people of rules for rules' sake. No doubt, God has given us a law (1 Corinthians 9:21). Certainly there are rules we should follow. But our God is not a capricious and arbitrary God. He has not established a pattern simply to see how well we can follow a pattern. He is not simply testing our ability to follow directions. God has a reason for His pattern. I believe Colossians 2:20-23 demonstrates this. There are no rules just for rules' sake. God is interested in helping us overcome the indulgences of the flesh. If God were actually telling us not to touch, taste, or handle something, He would have a reason for it.

So, why aren't instruments of music part of God's pattern? I fear sometimes we today treat this in a vacuum. We have come up with our means of establishing authority and simply have determined that instruments are against the rules. So, we shouldn't have them. Is that why there aren't part of the pattern? simply to see if we can follow some instructions? I don't think so.

First, we do recognize that instruments are not part of the New Testament pattern. All we ever see in the New Testament is singing. In Ephesians 5:19 we are commanded to sing. In Colossians 3:16, we are commanded to sing. We see examples of singing (e.g. Acts 16:25). but we never once see examples of playing instruments to worship God or edify one another.

But is the point simply to figure out a rule and see how well we can follow it? Or is there a deeper purpose behind this pattern?

I can't help but notice when we go into the second century of Christianity and see the arguments made by those Christians against instrumental music as worship and edification, they actually put forth a reason, not just a rule.

Clement of Alexandria, who lived from 153 A.D. to 217 A.D. wrote on the subject of instruments. In one place, he wrote:

Therefore He cried to humanity, "Let every breath praise the Lord," because He cares for every breathing thing which He hath made. For man is truly a pacific instrument; while other instruments, if you investigate, you will find to be warlike, inflaming to lusts, or kindling up amours, or rousing wrath.

In their wars, therefore, the Etruscans use trumpet, the Arcadians the pipe, the Sicilians the pectides, the Cretans the lyre, the Lacedaemonians the flute, the Thracians the horn, the Egyptians the drum, and the Arabians the cymbal. the one instrument of peace, the Word alone by which we honor God, is what we employ. We no longer employ the ancient psaltery, the trumpet, and timbrel, and flute, which those expert in war and contemners of the fear of God were wont to make use of also in the choruses at their festive assemblies; that by such strains they might raise their dejected minds (Ante-Nicene Fathers, Hendrickson Publishers, 1995, pp248-249).

Now, I admit that I don't agree with Clements approach on the instrument question in every point. Further, Clements writings are not our authority and guide. But I thought Clements reason for no instruments was profound. Did you see it? The instruments are means of arousing flesh. They are "warlike, inflaming to lusts, or kindling up amours, or rousing wrath." The pagans used them in their festive assemblies so that "they might raise their dejected minds." For Clement the lack of instruments was not just a matter of keeping some rules. There was a real reason. We are spiritual people. Our worship is spiritual. Those who worship God are to worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Worshipping God and edifying one another is not to be about our flesh. It is not about making us feel good, arousing our passions, satisfying our flesh. It is about connecting our spirits to God. So, Clement explained, we don't use instruments in our assemblies like the pagans do because what we are doing is not about the fleshly passions.

Go back to Colossians 2:20-23. Paul didn't want us simply submitting to rules for the sake of rules that had nothing to do with protecting against the indulgences of the flesh. But Clement argues this issue of God's pattern for New Testament worship very much has to do with protecting against the flesh.

God doesn't have to always spell out His reasons behind His pattern. but we can rest assured there are

reasons. Why aren't instruments part of the pattern? Because we worship in spirit, not in the flesh.

-via *Family Items*, Athens, Alabama.

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A Heart Will Find Its Home

Gary Henry

"...eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 2:7-10).

In Our Heart of Hearts, Each of Us "Seek" Something. The evidence of our daily words and deeds may suggest that we're actually seeking something different than what we *say* is most important to us (Romans 6:16), but the fact remains, we each seek something. By our nature, we are seeking creatures. We're always moving, always "growing" in some direction or another.

Every kind of seeking that we may engage in has its own set of consequences. Ungodliness, for example, cannot lead anywhere except away from God. If a person travels that path and refuses to change, there is only one direction he can arrive at. Similarly, godliness has an inevitable destination, albeit a very different one.

Depending on what we seek, we will each arrive at a "goal" that is the ultimate outcome of our seeking. The Scriptures speak of the "end" of our choices in this world. In one place, for example, Paul asks those who had become Christians, "What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the *end* of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the *end*, everlasting life" (Romans 6:21-22).

So there is a sense in which our hearts *WILL* find their way to the "home" that they have sought.

It is senseless to suppose that a person can spend his lifetime seeking the things of this world and then in eternity find himself enjoying the things of God. No, the worldly heart will find its way to a very different home than the heart set on God. It will reap what it has sown (Galatians 6:7-8).

But our destiny is not determined by fate or divine decree. If we have to admit that our hearts have not been seeking God, we can decide to start doing so. We can learn to love God with all our hearts, and when we do so, we'll begin moving towards the home that will someday be found by all who have truly loved Him.

“Every love has its own force; and it cannot lie idle in the soul of the lover. Love must draw the soul on. Do you, then, wish to know the character of a love? See where it leads” (Augustine of Hippo).

-via *Teaching Truths*; Madison, Alabama.



Small Steps Count In A Big Way

Blake Edwards

44 years ago we landed on the moon. The Apollo 11 mission to the moon was a success and 44 years ago the famous words of Neil Armstrong were uttered, “that’s one small step for (a)man, one giant leap for mankind.” Some of you woke up on July 21st, 1969 and were told of Mr. Armstrong stepping out into the moon’s surface and making this claim. He understood that the step he was taking was not difficult or physically a big step, but in terms of its significance, it was a giant step. It was more than a step, it was a leap. It meant something in the history of man.

What small step can you make that in all actuality is a giant leap? Your small steps can make a big difference in your life and in others’ lives. I want to suggest some “small steps” that you can take and understand the enormous significance those steps will make.

1. Ask someone how you can help them

When you go out of your way to help a brother or sister in Christ, you are becoming more comfortable with the concept of serving others. You are definitely

helping someone else, but there is a great benefit you experience too.

2. Ask someone for help

When you admit to someone that you need help in a certain area, it does so much for both of you. It helps you to accept the harsh truth that you aren’t perfect and can’t do everything by yourself. It helps both of you by building a stronger relationship as you mend your relationship with God.

3. Try to find a new talent

No matter if it is public or private, we should all be finding new ways we can serve or lead. When you find new talents and put them into practice, you cause growth of the whole body of Christ (Ephesians 4:16). Just one little thing can go a long way.

4. Encourage someone else to use their talents

It’s not always about taking care of what I can do or am good at. We should also try and help each other to get to work. If you’ve been serving in a certain way for a long time, try and train someone else to do that so you can move on to other things. If you teach a class, find someone who normally doesn’t teach to sit in and eventually teach it themselves.

This might become a recurring thought. We should all seek even the smallest way to improve ourselves or help others. Those “small, kindly” deeds really are the work God wants us to do. They aren’t as small as we think, but rather are some giant leaps.

-via *College View Columns*, Florence, Alabama.

Gospel Meeting

October 13-17, 2013

(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.

Gardner Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street

Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Larry Mitchell	
Betty Pepper	Mot Beasley
Benton Ball	Betty Hastings
Wynell Casteel	Gwen Bullock
Charles Burns	Abby Gilbert
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Will Carl Sullivan	Barbara Piper
Matt Poff	Anita Willis
Jerry Taylor	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Ava Brooke Cambell	

In The Hospital:

Gladys Johnson; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm 310

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100	Mattye Murray, rm. 60
Harvey Pope, rm. 18	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Mable Crafts, rm 71	

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B
Albert Norton, rm. 36

Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Jack Cannon, rm. 82

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.

Sympathy: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to the **Marlon Meals Family** and **Rachel Grubbs** in the passing of their nephew Andrew White. He was in the Marines in Hawaii and will be laid to rest September 18th in Texas... We also want to extend our deepest sympathy to the **Bobby Graham** family in the passing of Bobby's father, Leon Graham. He was laid to rest in Greenview Cemetery in Florence, AL on Friday.

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.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Dan Reed
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Kenneth Smith
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Tommy Burns Marvin Putman
.....	Keith Hinkle Brandon Griswold
Closing Prayer	Marty Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements	Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Ronnie Locke
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 15th:

Usher	Danny Johnson
Work Sound System	Landon Adams

Wednesday, September 18th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading	Mark 5:35-43
.....	Russ Wiulfekuhl
Prayer	Terry Andrews
Invitation	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Mot Dollar

Sunday, September 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Larry Mitchell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Joel Hamm
Assisting	Marty Adams
Serving	Bonnie Sutton Marion Mitchell
.....	Delmer Carter Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer	Tommy Coblenz

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Todd Williams
Preaching	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 22nd:

Usher	Paul Hasting
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams