

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 VI

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No. 2

Truth Safeguards Against False Doctrine

Roger Shouse

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?" (Matthew 7:15-16).

Warnings - without them life would not be safe. Storm warnings call us to seek shelter. Product warnings remind us to be careful and safe with certain things. Here Jesus gives us warnings for our soul. Not everyone that teaches, teaches truth.

This warning was not new for the people of God. Ever since the Garden of Eden, when Satan twisted what God said, false teachers have been busy at work. All through the Old Testament we find warnings and stern judgments against those who are teaching false. The New Testament warns of "False Christ," and "antichrists" and false teachers. Satan is busy trying to confuse and create doubt in the minds of God's people. God's word is what makes the difference. It is what defeats Satan. Twisting that message, changing words, redefining words is one of his most intense works.

Jesus tells us that the false prophets look like sheep. They look like us. From a distance, looking on a hill of sheep, a person wouldn't recognize the hidden wolf. Everything looks normal. Everything looks peaceful. It's not. There are wolves hiding, waiting and wanting to destroy the sheep. They won't get all the sheep, even though they'd love that. But one at a time. The wolves are careful, patient and watching. The innocent sheep grazes right beside the wolves. They think the wolves are one of them, but they are not, they are a wolf. They have killed other sheep previously, this is how they got the sheep skin on them. The nature of wolves is different than sheep. Jesus' point is powerful. You can't tell which is which by looking. The difference comes in listening. The poisonous fruit of false prophets is error. They are not teaching the truth.

The fruit of wolves is not build up, strengthen and continue on in the word of God. Wolves question what you have always heard. They introduce something new, different, and obviously, better. They ignore

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 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
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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

centuries of solid teaching and evidence from God's people. They cast it off in one broad sweep, declaring what you have heard is "traditional." They hold what is "non-traditional." That expression is the new flavor of the month. Folks swarm to that. They don't want to be known as traditional. The "non" is presented as better, and more spiritual. If you hold on to the traditional then you are out of touch, you haven't been enlightened, and you are simply following the masses. It's the "non-traditional" folks that know. They are closer to Jesus. Their worship is better and their insights are right.

With that kind of beginning, sheep start to flock around the wolves. The wolves have insight that no one else does about Jesus, church, second coming, salvation, and all kinds of things. A verse here, a verse there, logic, sprinkled with a few complaints about the traditional way of thinking, and before you know it the sheep have left the shepherd and are standing all alone with a wolf who is ready to devour them. It's happened. Jesus knows that. It continues to happen. The wolf isn't some slick TV preacher that wears bright green suits who look like a phony. No, he appears to be one of us. Most likely, he's been right with us for a while. Just waiting for the right time.

Jesus said, "You'll know them by their fruits." What they offer is sour. It's not right with what the Bible says. In time, wolves are exposed. Their words are crooked and their deeds selfish. In time everyone will know. But before that, how many will be hooked in with them? Before that, how many will be killed by the wolves?

These words make sense to us, until that wolf could be our friend, our family member, one of our leaders. All of a sudden we want the shepherd to be easy with the wolf. We want to tame the wolf. Maybe, we think, if we let him hang around us, he'll start to like us and will change. Dumb thinking! It's exactly what Satan wants. That thinking falls right into his trap. Friend or no friend, if he leads us away from God's word and the truth about Jesus, he's dangerous. His innocent ways of teaching and presenting new ideas are a ploy to trap us, trick us and get us. It works. He is a wolf. Wolves and sheep do not mix.

What really makes the wolf so successful is sheep who do not know good fruit from sour fruit. When we don't know what the Bible teaches...when we are not sharp, error prevails. The death to wolves is folks who stand up and defend the word of God. When they understand

that they are not "traditional," but rather, "Biblical," wolves can't accomplish what they want. Satan himself could not overcome the message of God's word when presented to him. Jesus did that in the temptations. Satan fled. He always does. He's a coward.

Know God's word. Study it. Become comfortable with it. Be Biblical, The wolf has no chance against such a person.

Borrowing a title from a movie, far too many today are "Dancing with wolves," rather than standing guard against them. Spiritual wolves out there. They present false and dangerous ideas through books, sermons, casual conversations, websites, and any other method available. Don't become the next lunch for a wolf, beware and be on guard by standing solid on God's word.

-via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama.



Humility

Bill Robinson, Jr.

AUGUSTINE SAID, "...Ask me what is the first precept of the Christian religion I will answer, first, second and third, Humility."

Humility, as an intellectual virtue, is not an abstract or theoretical concept. To the contrary, it is practical. The Bible demonstrates humility's practicality by showing it as an activity. The model of humility is Christ, "he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8).

To be sure, humility is to be a mindset. "Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus..." (Philippians 2:5). Yet, it is also a demonstrable virtue. It is to be demonstrated in prayer (Luke 18:8-ff). It is characterized by greatness being reflected in a child-like reception of the kingdom (Matthew 18:1 ff) and serving others (Mark 10:43).

Humility is essential to developing a proper view of and conduct in life. It must begin with a humble attitude toward God. "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell

in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite” (Isaiah 51:15). We must recognize the greatness of Jehovah in relation to man as it is reflected in the question of the Psalmist, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him?” (Psalm 8:4).

As created beings, in our own creative accomplishments, we often forget the seemingly insignificant and the less fortunate people. This is not so with God. In spite of His power and accomplishments in creation, He is mindful of us.

Jesus own view and way of life is demonstrated by His “meekness and lowliness” (Matthew 11:28 ff). Humility towards others is “counting others better than self” (Philippians 2:3). The foundation for such humility toward others is grounded in a proper view of self “...not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think...” (Romans 12:3). For Jesus, true humility (i.e. Self-denial), is only achieved by doing the will of God, “...if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39).

-via *Remembering The Time*; Athens, Alabama



What The People Want

Bobby Key

Most of the people I meet make a pretense of being religious. They either belong to some religious group or expect to join one before they die. Some seem to think that all churches are just like so many articles on the shelves of a department store, and they can shop around until they find a church that suits them. Too many preachers are like clerks and managers of these stores. They try to find out what the people want, and then endeavor to give them just that. Who would deny that leaders in the churches built by men are trying to give people what they want in religion? All too often preachers are found trying to please the people instead

of pleasing God. Paul said, “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet please men, I should not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10). There is just no way to please men and God at the same time. It is like trying to ride two horses going in opposite directions!

I find that most people want a church which will not interfere with the way they want to live. They want their name on the roll without having to attend the services or give of their income. They never want the preacher to say anything about social drinking dancing, marriage, and divorce, giving , or dedicated Christian living. They want a place to turn in the hour of death or trouble. They like to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds!

My friend, if you look hard enough you will find a church that suits you. You might remember however, that a church that stands for nothing can offer nothing. A church that will not stand against the evils of our present world, cannot save it. Beware of a religion that costs nothing, calls for no self-denial, never keeps you from a single worldly pleasure, does not make you sorry for your sins, and does not require the best that is in you! Let us forget ourselves and strive to enter the strait gate and please the Lord who died for us. Christ’s way is not the easiest way, but it is the best way.

-via *What Is True?*, Little Rock, Arkansas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Bonnie Sutton
Delmer Carter
Jennifer Threet
Gwen Bullock
Gilbert Hardy
Carol Locke
Ava Brooke Campbell
Jerry Taylor
Phillip Harwell
Charles Burns
Abby Gilbert

Franch Barksdale
Majorie Dunnivant
Fay Ferguson
Joyce & Crutcher Harbin
Lisa Swafford
Eli Williams
Brittney Murrell
Una King Currier
Elizabeth Kate Miller
Mark Hargrove

In The Hospital:

Billy Abernathy; Memphis Hosp.

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100 Mattye Murray, rm. 60
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Mable Crafts, rm. 63

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Jack Cannon, rm. 111A
Albert Norton, rm. 36 Mary Ruth Gardner, r. 107
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Wynell Casteel, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Mary Ruth Gardner, at home
Betty Hasting, at home
David Rice, Mobile, Alabama
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

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 Two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Jan. 5th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 123
Morning Worship 184
Evening Worship..... 110
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 109



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 12th:

Morning Worship

AnnouncementsJerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Keith Hinkle
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marion Mitchell
Assisting Marty Adams
Serving Bart Brown Russ Wulfekuhl
..... Danny Johnson Mot Dollar
Closing PrayerJoel Hamm

Evening Worship

AnnouncementsJerry McGlocklin
Song LeaderStefan Fudge
PrayerRoss Melvin
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 12th:

Usher Paul Hasting
Work Sound System Landon Adams

Wednesday, January 15th:

Song LeaderTodd Williams
Bible Reading..... Mark 10:13-22
..... Terry Andrews
Prayer Natthaniel Adams
Invitation Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Sunday, January 19th:

Morning Worship

AnnouncementsMarcus Morris
Song LeaderJoel Hamm
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper
Presiding Kenneth Smith
Assisting Tommy Coblentz
Serving Marvin Putman Heath Dollar
..... Larry Mitchell Jonathan Keenon
Closing Prayer Marty Adams

Evening Worship

AnnouncementsMarcus Morris
Song Leader Todd Willams
PrayerJerry McGlocklin
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Norman Brown

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 19th:

Usher Delmar Carter
Work Sound System Terry Andrews