

# 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

January 26, 2014

No. 4

## *Where The Pharisees Erred...*

**Greg Chandler**

When Jesus Christ came to the earth, the Pharisees were a very prominent and powerful religious group. While small in number, this group was viewed by most of the Jewish community as the authority on Law and would seek them out to find the answers to religious questions. The Pharisees, however, had a grave problem. While their teaching included elements of the Law of God, it also contained a number of traditions passed down from their ancestors. Many of these traditions developed in order to make the Law relevant, at least in the eyes of the Pharisees, to every situation of life. They also developed because this group originally sought holiness by staying far from wickedness. They often developed elaborate traditions in order to avoid sin. While this was a wonderful idea, over the years they began teaching these traditions as though they were on par with the Law of God. By the time of Christ's earthly ministry, their teaching was riddled with error and polluted with human creed. Because of this, Jesus stated: "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men'" (Mark 7:6-7).

In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ spoke of the dangers posed by the Pharisee's teaching. To His followers, He stated: "For I say unto you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 5:20). Many of those who heard this statement of Jesus would have gasped in shock. Jesus had brought charges against those viewed as the most righteous of the day. Still, the truth had to be taught. From this point in his sermon, Christ separated the truth of God from the traditions taught by the Pharisees. While this caused the Pharisees to grow bitter toward the Lord. His teachings opened the way of truth to those who would heed Him.

Sadly, many still fall prey to the same problems that plagued these Jews of long ago. Often, "service" to God consists of customs and prac-

### 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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[MarketStreet-church.com](http://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*

tices handed down from generations past. While it is the duty of godly parents to teach children the ways of righteousness, each individual must seek the truth from the word of God on his or her own in order to make sure that the teaching received is accurate. Many times, people refuse to accept the truth because it conflicts with the teachings and practices of a family member. There is grave danger in such an approach because the standard should never rest with an individual, but only with the Lord God.

In a similar manner, churches must examine their practices and beliefs to insure that they are in accordance with the New Testament pattern. If a church blindly follows tradition, it will not be pleasing in God's sight and will have its lampstand removed from the presence of Christ. Note the strong words to the church at Ephesus when the Lord said "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent" (Revelation 2:5). While traditions are not necessarily bad, they must always be viewed as tradition and never placed on par with God's word. They must also enhance service to God and never cause one to go against a godly standard.

The Pharisees have long ceased to exist, yet the problems that plagued this group still plague mankind today. Each person must study the Bible and follow it as the sole standard of authority. Beliefs and traditions that conflict with what is found in God's Word must be laid aside so that God will be served as He demands and desires.

-via *Teaching Truth*; Madison, Alabama.

## Beacon of Truth

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ  
514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

## *Excuses Are Not Reasons!*

Dee Bowman

The difference between a reason and an excuse should be obvious. If a person has a reason for his conduct or behavior, he will certainly use it, and legitimately. A person who gives a "reason" that is actually not a reason but an excuse, has a problem. I can find little difference—if any—between an excuse and a lie.

In fact, if a thing is presented as a "reason" when it's not actually a reason, how else would you describe it? A reason is the ground, motive, or cause for which a thing is done. It gives an answer that actually justifies some action, belief, or event. On the other hand, an excuse, given ostensibly to explain the facts in a case, in reality hides the truth and so is merely a pretext or subterfuge.

If folks who are constantly giving excuses for their lack of participation knew how utterly foolish are some of their "reasons," they would likely desist from their usage right away. Let me illustrate. These are a few of the more common excuses for people's lack of involvement and particularly for their lack of attendance at the services of the church.

*"I've just not felt very well a lot lately."* This "reason" is one of the most commonly used. Actually this "reason" is given by some who are not very interested in the work of the church, but just don't want to openly admit it. The person who uses this "reason" never uses it in regard to his work, or the Friday night lights, or his presence at the golf course. Shame! Do you not know the difference between a reason and an excuse? If the person who constantly uses this "reason" were sick every Thursday in the same way they are every Sunday, they would go see the doctor about it. Or if they felt bad every Tuesday evening they would want to know why. Now it is certainly so that some people—some older folks, some who are chronically ill, can't be out. But to them—don't you see?—the statement is a reason, not an excuse. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

*"I've been real busy with my job lately."* I've seldom known a person who makes this excuse who didn't have time to take off from his business for his golf, for his fishing, for a football game, the kids baseball game,

or some other interest. We all have the same amount of time. It's with its management that we encounter the difficulty. Let me say something to those who give business "reasons" for not attending or being otherwise involved in the work of the church. If you're too busy to engage yourself in serving God— you're too busy! If you're too busy to attend the worship services—you're too busy! You need to back off and take a look at where you're headed. You're not having trouble with your job, you're having trouble with the world and it's about time got your time-priorities straightened out. (Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 4:5)

*"I have to take care of my family."* This is tantamount to saying, "I love my family so much that I don't have time to serve God." Listen to this: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37-38). Hear me carefully—the worst kind of child abuse is to bring a child into this world and give him little or no spiritual guidance. If you want to genuinely care for your family, what better thing than to take them to worship God? I don't care what your child becomes, how popular he becomes, or how much money he makes, without God he has failed, miserably failed. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

*"People there just aren't friendly to us."* It's one of the most oft used "reasons" for not attending. 'Tis a foolish excuse. Don't you see that in order to expect friendliness, you must yourself be friendly? Folks who give this "reason" very often run toward the door when the last "amen" is said, hit the parking lot, and speed off home or to the restaurant. Consider this: it's hard to be friendly to folks who are running for the door. What do you expect? That they should trip you, run you down, and hug your neck? Let's be serious. What kind of "reason" is that? (I John 4:7-12; Romans 12: 19)

We better be careful that we don't try to excuse ourselves with some "reason" that's not really a real reason. Think it over."

-via *SouthSide Sunday*; Pasaena, Texas.

## Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

# Third Annual Singing

Friday, February 28, 2014 — 7:00 p.m.

Songleaders:

David Deason, Joe Greer & Steve Klein

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## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Jewel Dean Kennemer	French Barksdale
Jennifer Threet	Fay Ferguson
Gwen Bullock	Joyce & Crutcher Harbin
Gilbert Hardy	Matt Poff
Mark Hargrove	Eli Williams
Ava Brooke Campbell	Brittney Murrell
Jerry Taylor	Una King Currier
Phillip Harwell	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Charles Burns	Abby Gilbert

### *In The Hospital:*

*Bob Richter*, Huntsville Hosp.; NICU  
*Carol Locke*, Huntsville Hosp.; rm. 429  
*Billy Abernathy*; Nashville 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

**LEON BROOKS (1930 – 2014):** It is with sadness that we note the passing of brother **Leon Brooks** this past Sunday evening. Leon had been struggling with sickness in the recent weeks, but thought he was getting better. He suffered cardiac arrest on Sunday evening. Even though the Brooks had only been a part of the Market Street church for a short time, Leon had made a strong impression for his desire to please God. May the Lord bless *Hazel, Nathan and all the family* in Leon's passing. His funeral was Wednesday afternoon at Spry Funeral Home. He was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

**PICTURES:** There are just a few pictures that we still need to get made to for the new directory. If you have not had your picture made yet, please try to get them made by next Sunday.

**ACTIVITY FORMS:** There are activity forms at each entrance/exit for each member to fill out for the work they would like to do. Please pick up a form, mark it and place it in the baskets where the forms are. Please do this as soon as possible.

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

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of Jan. 19th

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes.....	126
Morning Worship .....	169
Evening Worship.....	124



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

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, January 26th:**

*Morning Worship*

- Announcements ..... Tommy Coblenz
- Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox
- Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding ..... Jerry McGlocklin
- Assisting ..... Keith Hinkle
- Serving ..... Paul Hasting..... David Terry
- ..... Keenon Currier ..... Dan Lovell
- Closing Prayer ..... Mot Dollar

*Evening Worship*

- Announcements ..... Tommy Coblenz
- Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns
- Prayer ..... Terry Andrews
- Preaching ..... Song Service
- Lord's Supper ..... Jerry McGlocklin
- Closing Prayer ..... Todd Williams

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 26th:

- Usher ..... Russ Wulfekuhl
- Work Sound System ..... Marty Adams

**Wednesday, January 29th:**

- Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge
- Bible Reading..... Mark 10:46-52
- ..... Danny Johnson
- Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell
- Invitation ..... David Cox
- Closing Prayer ..... Hunter Cox

**Sunday, February 2nd:**

*Morning Worship*

- Announcements ..... Marty Adams
- Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge
- Prayer ..... Keith Hinkle
- Preaching ..... David Cox
- Lord's Supper
- Presiding ..... Larry Mitchell
- Assisting ..... Ronnie Locke
- Serving ..... James Johnson ..... Russ Wulfekuhl
- ..... Delmer Carter ..... Landon Adams
- Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith

*Evening Worship*

- Announcements ..... Marty Adams
- Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm
- Prayer ..... Marcus Morris
- Preaching ..... Jordan Lovell
- Lord's Supper ..... Larry Mitchell
- Closing Prayer ..... Ross Melvin

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 2nd:

- Usher ..... Danny Johnson
- Work Sound System ..... Nathaniel Adams