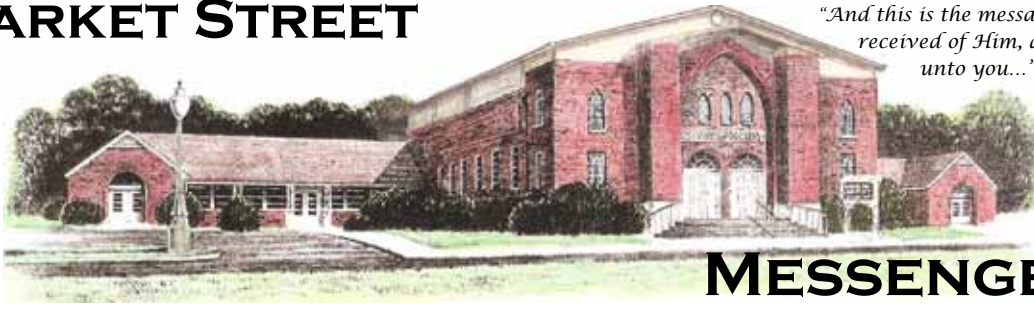


# MARKET STREET

*"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  
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Athens, Alabama 35612  
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume X

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## *Three Responses To Paul's Sermon*

**David A. Cox**

### 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

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843  
Tommy Coblentz..... (256) 232-3312  
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737  
Bonnie Sutton ..... (256) 232-2081

### Deacons

Joel Hamm ..... (256) 278-1977  
Danny Holt ..... (256) 206-2746  
Larry Mitchell ..... (256) 230-0185  
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871  
Russ Wulfekuhl ..... (256) 683-9396

### Evangelists

Buc Chumbley ..... (256) 777-1065  
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### Visit Us On The Web

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### MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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*David A. Cox, Editor*

*"And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them" (Acts 17:32-34).*

Paul had preached his sermon to the men of Athens at Mars Hill; he concluded by telling them that God commands all men to repent and then reminded them of the coming judgment. In verses 32-34 there are three responses from those who heard Paul.

1. **Some mocked him (v. 32).** Luke says that some who heard Paul "mocked" him. They had heard Paul preach the truth of the gospel, but instead of accepting the preaching of Christ they were unwilling to change their lives to do what was acceptable to the will of God. There was a similar response of those on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:13), they belittled or mocked the preaching of the apostles. It is a disposition like this that Paul mentioned to the Corinthians when he referred to people thinking the preaching of the cross as foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18, 21).
2. **Some were wanting to hear more (v. 32).** The second response is seen by those who heard and said, "We will hear you again on this matter." They were not out-right refusing to listen to Paul, but they wanted to wait. Perhaps it was a difficult decision for some to hear the truth and obey it. They still desired to learn more, but they needed to respond. It is this disposition that Felix displayed (Acts 24:25). The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 teaches the importance of not waiting because while we delay our life may end without being prepared.
3. **Some of them who heard believed (v.34).** There were some among those who hear Paul preach who believed. There were those that as Paul preached the of God, their hearts were pricked and they responded and continued on in the work of the Lord.

The responses to Paul's sermon were three-fold, and the reactions Paul

encountered are the same responses people have today to the preaching of God's word. What is our response to the preaching of the gospel? Do we mock the word of God by defying the necessity to obey or mock those who are striving to live right? Are we waiting to hear more? Are we ready to commit to obey and cleave to God's word? Let us remember the lessons of God's word and believe and obey Him now; not mocking or waiting until a convenient time.



## *Sin In The Camp*

Shawn Jeffries

After miraculously crossing the Jordan and conquering the city of Jericho, defeating the people of Ai should have been easy for Israel. Unlike Jericho, Ai was a small city of about 12,000 people (Joshua 7:3). It was an insignificant city and not as heavily fortified. If the nation was able to conquer the strong city of Jericho, surely they would be able to conquer Ai.

They might have thought that. But unfortunately, it did not work out that way. After sending 3,000 men to conquer the city, Joshua was devastated to learn they had been defeated and forced to flee (Joshua 7:4). Their defeat resulted in Israel's feeling weak and demoralized (Joshua 7:5).

How could this happen? How could Israel easily conquer the strong city of Jericho, but fail to do so with the small insignificant town of Ai? The answer: sin! Sin was in the camp of Israel. Sin had crept in and was present somewhere in the army of God and had caused God's blessing and presence to depart from them. Until the sin was removed and properly dealt with, God would not allow His people to conquer Ai (Joshua 7:10-15).

But where? Where was sin in the camp? After talking to God about the matter, Joshua discovered that the sin had to do with a man named Achan (Joshua 7:20). After Israel conquered Jericho, Achan took some of the spoils (things that actually belonged to the treasury of the Lord) for himself. Joshua confronted Achan and exhorted him to confess his sin (Joshua 7:19). Achan confessed his covetousness (Joshua 7:20-21). In obedience to God, Joshua then had Achan and his family

stoned and burned with fire (Joshua 7:25). The place where Achan was put to death became known as the Valley of Achor ("trouble").

What does God want us to take away from this tragic story?

- **Sin is serious business.** While many in our culture try to minimize and trivialize sin, God does not! God did not lightly brush aside Achan's sin. Instead He exposed it and held him accountable. The killing of Achan and his family shows just how much a big deal sin is to God. We find something similar taking place in the New Testament with Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
- **Our sins impact others.** Achan's sin not only impacted him, but also all of Israel. Because of his actions, Israel was not able to defeat the people of Ai. Because of his actions, God's hand of blessing left His people. This is the point Paul is making when he says, "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump" (1 Corinthians 5:6)?
- **We can't be victorious without God.** In this case, Israel thought they would be able to defeat their enemies by their own might and strength. Achan's sin revealed the truth. Without God's blessing, Israel would not even be able to conquer a small city. If Israel was going to be able to finally take the Promised Land, they would need God to fight for them. But He wouldn't unless they remained pure and apart from sin!

While Achan's story is tragic and sad, it does teach us something important about always striving to be right with God. When God was with Israel, there was a totally different result than when He was not! Let us learn from their example and always strive to keep sin out of our camp.

~via *With God's Word*; Columbia, Tennessee.

## *Gospel Meeting*

September 16-19, 2018

(Sunday through Wednesday)

Paul Sheehan, Speaking

**MARKET STREET  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

514 WEST MARKET STREET  
ATHENS, ALABAMA

## Building Community

Antoine N. Holloway

When a person obeys the gospel by being baptized into Christ, then God adds them to His church (Acts 2:41-47). This church is a community of believers. As a church of Christ, we are to have common interests and characteristics. We share a love for God, our brethren, the lost, and our own souls. We are interested in worshipping God, studying God's word, having fellowship with brethren of like precious faith, and engaging in the work of evangelism. Nevertheless, the question was, "How do we build upon this?" We build this community through communion, communication, and commitment.

Communion is the fellowship we are to have with one another. Building community demands that brethren in need communicate their need, so they do not rob their brethren of the opportunity to be blessed (Acts 20:35 & Romans 15:27). Building community demands that we work diligently to support gospel preachers. The church is stronger when men sacrifice possessions, stability, and financial affluence in order to preach, study, and evangelize as their life's work. This is a burden, but it is eased when his allegiance is not divided with secular work (1 Corinthians 9:12-14 and Galatians 6:6).

Communication is the teamwork we are to have with one another. T.E.A.M = Together Everyone Achieves More (Proverbs 27:17, Nehemiah 4:6, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, and 1 Corinthians 3:6-9).

We are a talented group of Christians. If we selfishly decide not to worship together through talking, meeting, planning, organizing, agreeing, and carrying out the plan, then we will survive as a church, but not thrive as a congregation. We will not be productive, although active. Where does God get the glory in disunity?

Commitment is our dedication to Christ, His work, and each other (Acts 14:21-23). Are we committed to evangelism, baptizing the lost, reinforcing biblical principles, edification, sacrifice, remaining scripturally organized, and drawing nearer to God? Building community demands that we are committed to all these things by answering to Christ alone and holding one another accountable when non-performance is displayed.

~via *Northside Exhorter*; Tucson, Arizona.

Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

James Johnson	Dwaine Allfrey
Marcella Coblentz	Peggy Pepper
JoAnn Gilbert	Cornelia Pepper
Bobbie Adcock	Doris Lovell
Linda Jones	Wayne Reyer
Ann Bush	Damien Powers

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

Irene Inman	Jeanette Weir
Janice Cagle	Patsy Thomas
Priscilla Tucker	Ella Melvin
Cindy Glass	Una King Carrier
Matt Poff	Susan Cox
Elizabeth Howard	Al Pollard
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Wayne Gooch	Ava Brooke Campbell

### *In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:*

*Norman Hamm*; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville  
*Winfred Corsbie*; J.W. Summers Rehab - Muscle Shoals  
*Perry Cagle*; Madison Hospital - Madison, rm. 423

### *Athens Health & Rehabilitation:*

Virginia Meyer, rm 98	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Joyce Martin, rm. 63	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Lucille Craig, rm. 116 Stan Stanford, rm. 105

### *Shut-In or Away From Home:*

Robert & Mot Beasley, at City Center, Decatur  
Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor  
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison  
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle  
Irene Inman, at home  
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

### *Updates:*

**Bonnie Sutton** is at home following his hospitalization after his auto accident... **Jeanette Weir** has completed her radiation treatments and will be going to the doctor... **Dwaine Allfrey** was able to be at services Wednesday night following his surgery and hospital stay... **Ann McLemore** had a follow-up surgery to the recent surgery she had on her bladder... **Donna Wright** is scheduled for

