

# 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

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## 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  
David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910  
Cell: (256) 614-3757

### 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*

## *One Bride for Seven Brothers*

**Berlin R. (Buc) Chumbley**

Ever met a Sadducee? No? Me neither. That's not surprising seeing that the last one died almost 20 centuries ago. And even then, there were not many of them. The Sadducees were a small, prominent sect, made up by members of the priestly class, or aristocratic families of Judea. They were generally corrupt, worldly and irreligious. When it came to religion, the Sadducees accepted only the books of Moses as their authority and rejected the oral traditions of the Pharisees. They also rejected the doctrine of the resurrection, and the existence of angels claiming there was no evidence in the Law of either.

In Matthew 22, the Sadducees came to Jesus with a story and a question. Their story involved a woman whose husband had died. Upon his death the widowed wife proceeded to marry her deceased husband's brothers one at a time, following the death of the previous brother. At the end of the story the woman had been widowed seven times over. Then came their question of Jesus, "*In the resurrection whose wife will she be?*"

Christ's answer goes back to the character of God himself. The question is not, 'Can we still believe in life after death?' but "Can we still believe in God?" If he is our Lord and we are his children, death is not the end of the story. Not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is what Paul meant when he said, "*To die is gain*" (Philippians 1:21). Those who know Jesus have entered into a relationship that even death cannot sever. Our hope for the future is as secure as the promises of God.

For the Christian, death is not the end but the beginning of life forever with the Lord.

When death comes to us, we can know this much for certain. The Lord who has been with us throughout our earthly journey will not abandon us when we need him most.

All that we believe about life after death rests on the faithfulness of God. We do not trust in what our eyes can see because all that we see testifies to the overwhelming power of death. But praise God that a day is coming when death will be no more.

A better day, a brighter day, a glorious day of resurrection awaits us.

# *A Troubling Question*

Ed Brand

Since I was a boy, I have heard many maxims or proverbial sayings which reflected a certain societal "truth." One such saying goes something like this: "An honest day's labor for an honest day's wage." Such a proverb teaches workers to do their work well and honorably—no sleeping on the job, etc. Jesus said it this way, "The laborer is worthy of his hire."

I think such advice is still good advice for all of us. Perhaps some labor problems would be corrected without bitter strikes if labor and management would follow such a proverb.

What would you think about an employer who gave his employees two day's wages for one day's work? I suspect most would like to find one like this, wouldn't we? However, I am pretty sure none exists. Generosity is nice, but a company won't stay in business long with a wage policy which pays two-for-one.

What is disastrous policy on the corporate level is expected policy on another level. Generosity of spirit is encouraged by Jesus for His disciples. In the great sermon, He told His audience, "...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). Like many of the Jews, we find it easy and even pleasant to "love our neighbors" and "hate our enemies." This maxim appears to be fair and appeals to men who know without a doubt which man fits into which category. Such men have no obligation to enemies, except to dislike them and castigate them. One of the great pleasures such thinking provides is the satisfaction one derives from associating with friends and scorning those who are the enemies of all right-thinking people. What can be wrong with such thinking?

Everything! Jesus said God neither thinks or acts this way. "He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matt. 5:45). God does indeed have enemies, but He is also kind and benevolent toward them.

Jesus ends this part of His exhortation with a troubling question: "What do you more than others?" (Matt. 5:47). This question was not designed to produce calculator ethics: the need to be in the plus column rather than owe someone a visit, a meal, or a kind word. The Lord

wants His people to be like God: be kind and good to all instead of being kind and good only to those who fit our definition of our "brothers." Shouldn't we strive to develop a spirit within us which will be generous to all, before we consider "Do I have to?" This will go a long way to make us into the kind of people Jesus envisioned.

It would also go a long way in improving attendance records on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Why don't you give it a try, even if you consider such meetings the enemy of your own leisure time?

## ***THE LEADERSHIP OF ELDERS***

PERRY COTHAM

Scripture teaches that in each local church, when fully organized, there are "bishops and deacons" (Phil. 1:1). The qualifications of these men are set forth by inspiration in I Timothy 3 and in Titus 1. Of course, Christ is the only head of the church; he has "all authority" (Matthew 28:18), and each congregation is a local independent unit of Christians, directly related to Christ (Ephesians 1:21-22; Romans 16:16).

There are three different terms used in the New Testament for the leaders of the church; each suggests some characteristic of the men and their work.

**Elder.** This word primarily means an older man, one of age, wisdom and spiritual maturity. The group of elders of a congregation is called the "presbytery" (1 Timothy 4:14).

**Bishop.** This word means an overseer. Paul called for the "elders" of the church at Ephesus to meet him at Miletus (Acts 20:17), then later he referred to them as "overseers" (v. 28), or bishops." Paul told Titus to ordain "elders in every city" (Titus 1:5), yet each one is called a "bishop" when he gave the qualifications in verse 7. (The footnote in the American Standard Version in both Acts 20:28 and Titus 1:7 is "overseer.") This suggests a man who oversees and directs the work of the church; he is a superintendent.

Pastor. Paul said that the Lord gave some in the church to be "pastors" (Ephesians 4:11). The word means the same as a "shepherd," one whose duties are to watch for enemies trying to attack and destroy the sheep, to defend the sheep, and to lead, feed and guide the sheep. The pastors of the church, as shepherds, care for the souls of the congregation, the sheep of God's pasture, in the same way that shepherds care for their flocks. Peter wrote concerning these shepherds:

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder ... feed [tend, ASV: shepherd, NASB] the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; nor for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (1 Peter 5:1-4; cf. Jeremiah 23:1-2; Ezekial 34:2-3).

The Bible never speaks of the preacher as "the pastor of the church," as the expression is often used in the religious world. The preacher is an "evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5), or a "minister" of the gospel (1 Timothy 4:6), whose duty it is to faithfully preach and teach God's power to save the lost (Romans 1: 16). Moreover, no one elder is the pastor of the church, although an elder may labor "in the word and doctrine" (1 Timothy 5:17), and a preacher may serve as one of the elders of the church if selected. All the elders have equal authority (cf. 3 John 9-10). So these terms tell us who these men are, what they do and how they do it.

The church must be governed by a plurality of qualified men who act as under-shepherds to Christ. On Paul's return from his first missionary journey, he "ordained them elders [plural] in every church [singular]" (Acts 14:23). The elders have the right to decide expedient ways to carry out the responsibilities assigned to them by the Lord, but they must give account at the day of

judgment of their stewardship (Hebrews 13:17). The elders do not make laws for Christ; He has already done that. They see that Christ's laws are carried out. The congregation is to "obey" the elders in their decisions (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). The church does not belong to the elders (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25), but to refuse to follow the leaders when they lead in the way that is right is rebellion against God's constituted authority. Elders have a great work and a great responsibility. (To understand the sin of rebellion against God's authority see Numbers chapters 16 and 17; Jude 1:6, 8, 11.) Nevertheless, it is possible for elders to make a decision that would violate the teaching of the Lord. In that case the Lord must always be obeyed, and it would not be wrong to go against the decision of the elders. "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29; 20:30). The widespread digression that came to the church many years ago would not have occurred if the elders of the churches had remained true to the Bible, and united in carrying out their responsibilities according to God's Word. The same is true today. As a rule, as the leadership goes, so goes the church.

## *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

James Johnson	Sherry Davis
Bobbie Adcock	Joy & Loretta Warner
Cornelia Pepper	Doris Lovell
Winfred Corsbie	Damien Powers
Linda Jones	Wayne Reyer
Ann Bush	Fredia Lowman
Perry Cagle	

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

Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Patsy Thomas	Ella Melvin
Priscilla Tucker	Lucille Craig
Cindy Glass	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Susan Cox
Wayne Gooch	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Al Pollard
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge

Cindy Walker Phillip Harwell  
Gene Carpenter Charles Burns

***In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:***

*Norman Hamm*; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville  
*Doris Reed*; Huntsville Hospital rm 1559

***Athens Health & Rehabilitation:***

JoAnn Gilbert, rm 117 Dorothy Draper, rm. 73  
Matty Murray, rm. 2 Christine Hudson, rm. 77  
Joyce Martin, rm. 63 Valeria Dalton, rm. 7  
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36 Wayne Faulkner, rm. 97

***Limestone Health Facility:***

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  
Virginia Meyer, Traditions  
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

**UPDATES:**

*Gayle Ball* is now home after spending a few days in the hospital...*Donna Wright* found out the results of her PET scan. she wil have another scan on Monday...

*Doris Reed, Marlyn Bradley's* mother fell and broke her kneecap and had surgery at Huntsville Hospital...

*Jennifer Sellers, Ella Melvin's* sister is in serious condition at UAB after kidney transplant...*Lucille Craig* is at home under Hospice Care...

*James Johnson* continues to be homebound....Congratulations to *Bob and Phyllis Broadus* who are grandparents for the second time.

*Callie Ruth Knutson* was born this past Thursday. Our sympathy is extended to the family of *David Andrews*, nephew of *Terry Andrews* after the death of their son *Daven*

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

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:**

Meeting at Jordan Park beginning this Sunday through Friday night. *Steve Klein* will be the speaker .

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of August 19th

Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 141  
Morning Worship ..... 184  
Evening Worship ..... 135  
Wednesday: Bible Classes ..... 109

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

***Sunday, August 26th:***

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader .....Ashton Gatlin  
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Harvey Nixon  
Assisting ..... Tony Thomas  
Serving .....Matthew Usery..... Mike Ogles  
.....Nathaniel Adams... Keenon Currier  
Closing Prayer .....Dan Reed

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer..... Marcus Morris  
Preaching..... Song Service  
Lord's Supper ..... Harvey Nixon  
Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith

Other Assignments for the week of August 26th:

Ushers..... Steve Bradley/ Terry Andrews  
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

***Wednesday, August 29th:***

Song Leader .....Larry Holt  
Bible Reading .....Hunter Cox  
.....Mark 7.14-23  
Prayer..... Harold Ash  
Invitation .....Russell Melvin  
Closing Prayer .....Bonnie Sutton  
Usher..... Russ Wulfekuhl

***Sunday, September 2nd:***

*Morning Worship*

Announcements.....Joel Hamm  
Song Leader .....Hunter Cox  
Prayer..... Wayne Vaughn  
Preaching..... Buc Chumbley  
Lord's Supper.  
Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz  
Assisting..... Larry Tucker  
Serving..... Russ Wulfekuhl... Charles Vaughn  
.....Clayton Hamm... Christian Usery  
Closing Prayer .....Marion Mitchell

*Evening Worship*

Announcements.....Joel Hamm  
Song Leader..... Tony Thomas  
Prayer..... Ashton Gatlin  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Tommy Coblentz  
Closing Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for the week of September 2nd:

Ushers..... Larry Mitchell ...Marvin Putman  
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams