

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
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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
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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

By What Authority?

David A. Cox

Authority means "the power or right to command, make decisions and enforce obedience." Who has a right to give commands, make decisions and enforce obedience? This question concerning authority is an old, but important question.

In Matthew 7:28-29, as Jesus had concluded His sermon on the mount, Matthew records, "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." As times passed, Jesus continued His teaching, and in Matthew 21:23 we read, "And when he had come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" Although the chief priests and elders were not honest in this inquiry of Jesus but were dishonest by their own admission (vs. 25-28), it does not diminish the fact that the question of authority is of utmost importance. It is a question that all God-fearing people should ask and consider as they seek to worship and serve God pleasingly (John 4:24; Colossians 3:17).

Men place authority in religion in many different things. A man places authority in his own conscience and feelings; and sometimes in other men such as Joseph Smith, Martin Luther, and John Calvin. Sometimes a man looks to a council, a convention, the "majority" or even his ancestors. When men do not use the same source of authority, confusion and division are created among the religious world. Paul mentions the confusion and division that existed at Corinth due to their using different sources of authority. They were saying, "I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:12). Paul made it clear that division was not to be among them. Paul said, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (1 Corinthians 1:10). Paul told them not only to have unity but how they could achieve unity, "...by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." It is

evident that Paul saw the source of division at Corinth was due to authority being placed in different people, and not in the one true authority.

Christ has all authority (Matthew 28:18). In the position of authority “He has put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church” (Ephesians 1:21-22). Christ will have this authority until the end “when He delivers the kingdom to God, even the Father, when He puts down all rule and all authority and power” (1 Corinthians 15:24).

Christ is our authority today. He has the right to give commands, make decisions and enforce obedience. Therefore, we should be obedient to the gospel of Christ. At the judgment, we will be judged according to the things that Christ has spoken (John 12:48) and our obedience or disobedience to His word.



What Really Lasts?

Mark Roberts

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has charged me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him. Let him go up’” (2 Chronicles 36:22-23).

In 1879, British archaeologists uncovered a small clay cylinder covered with cuneiform writing. It is about nine inches long and about four inches in diameter. When the carefully lettered inscription was deciphered it was found to be the proclamation of Cyrus returning peoples to their homelands to live peacefully and worship their gods. It is solid evidence for the kind of proclamation the Bible records in Chronicles (see also Isaiah 44:28-45:1). Now known as the Cyrus Cylinder, it normally resides in the British Museum in London.

However, currently it is on a U.S. tour. Several

months ago it was displayed in Houston. On my way to a gospel meeting in southeast Texas I detoured a bit through Houston to see it. Contained in a relatively small room, along with a few other Persian relics, one of the greatest archaeological finds of all time was there for all to see.

I spent some time gawking at it from every angle, asking a guide if I could take a cell phone picture (no), and thinking about how to sneak a cell phone photo when she wasn't looking (decided against it). It was an impressive exhibition, and again I was reminded of how even the greatest kings are simply water in God's hands to do His will and bidding (Proverbs 21:1).

As I left the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, I noticed something: most of the advertising in the museum and most of the fuss going on was for an exhibit upstairs. What was so important that the Cyrus Cylinder exhibition wasn't getting much publicity and seemed to be going on almost unnoticed? I went upstairs to find... a Picasso exhibition. While I had seen the Cylinder for free the Museum wanted \$20 to see Mr. Picasso's works. The decision to pass on Picasso wasn't a hard one.

As I drove on to southeast Texas, all this made me think: what really lasts? The Cylinder is over 2000 years old and yet it still is a focal point of study and interest. Picasso's works are barely even a century old. Without denying Picasso's role in the development of art, or his importance in art history, I must wonder if in 2000 years anyone will even know his name. More than likely, he will be little more than an obscure footnote in some art history text, as unknown then as any famous painter in Rome of New Testament times is today. But Cyrus? He will still be known. Not because he is important or wonderful or even because he was such a great ruler. He will be known because his name is in God's Word. That is what lasts: the Word of the Lord.

Remembering that a little more often might just make for a direction change in how I live life and what I value. Someday, what everyone else values so much will be worth nothing.

But someday, what everyone else may value as worthless, will be worth everything. A trip to the museum reminded me “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

~via *Kleinwood Bulletin*; Kleinwood, Texas.

Good Works

Antoine N. Holloway

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" – (Matthew 7:21-23)

Did you know there is a bad kind of good works? Not everything well-meaning people do is virtuous, not even those things they mean to do to help others.

In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus talks about people who claim to do good works by His authority. They told others about Jesus. They cast out devils. They did what they thought were "mighty works" (Matthew 7:22). However, when they appear before the judgment seat of God, Jesus will not reward them for their deeds. Instead He will call their work "lawlessness," which is to say "iniquity". From the rest of the passage, it is not hard to figure out such individuals will be stunned.

The problem is that Jesus does not "know" these "workers" because they are not in fellowship with Him. They probably did all these "mighty works" to make themselves look good or feel important, and not for the glory of God. These did not follow His narrow way, because He was not their Master.

Today, are you doing good works that will last for eternity, or will even what you mean for good, turn to sand because you lack a relationship with God? We must realize that no matter how we act, if we are not working for God, at the end, it will all be worthless.

We need to take time and ask the Lord to help our work be good works as we seek to do His will. We no longer want to follow our own will, but His will.

~via *The Exhortor*; Tucson, Arizona.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Donna Wright	Jewell Dean Kennemer
Helen Blankenship	Lisa Wulfekuhl
James Johnson	Loretta Warner
Mildred Lambert	Bobbie Adcock

Doris Lovell	Jennifer Sellers
Linda Jones	Ann Bush
Damien Powers	Winfred Corsbie

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Patsy Thomas	Ella Melvin
Marvin Putman	Lucille Craig
Cornelia Pepper	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	Ava Brooke Campbell
Cindy Glass	Una King Currier
Susan Cox	Wayne Gooch
Gene Carpenter	Cindy Walker
Elizabeth Howard	Wayne Wooldridge
Linda Ordonez	Phillip Harwell

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Kathleen Wales; Huntsville Hospital – rm. 1645
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

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	Doris Reed, rm. 105
Leonard Clines, rm. 94	

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 Assisted Living
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison

Updates:

Kenia Adams is to go to the doctor on Thursday to see what they can do for her back...*Drew Ogles* is also scheduled to go to the doctor on Thursday to see how he is progressing...*Donna Wright* has completed her cancer treatments. She will continue to be out until her immunity builds up...*Kenneth Smith* continues to recover from his knee surgery. He is at home and going to therapy...*Jewell Dean Kennemer* continues to make slow progress in recovery from the fracture in her back and continues to have pain...*JoAnn Gilbert* continues to be confined to bed and is continuing the antibiotic infusions. She continues to wait while finishing the antibiotic treatment and getting approval to have the knee surgery...*James Johnson* has hospice coming in to check on him now. Keep James in your prayers...

