

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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Consistently Inconsistent

Don Truex

“There should be a universal ban on the sale, manufacture, and possession of handguns.”

Upon hearing a burglar at his residence, the homeowner called the police, retrieved a handgun from his bedroom, and proceeded to shoot the intruder.”

Interestingly, the nationally syndicated columnist and gun-control advocate of paragraph one and the shooter of the police report in paragraph two are one and the same person!

Our society often seems to be consistently inconsistent. From the advertising at the stadium urging fans, “Don’t Drink & Drive,” display just beneath the Budweiser logo, to the angry driver voicing obscene words and making obscene gestures while having a “Teach Your Children to Pray” bumper sticker on his car — consistency is often hard to come by.

Even great men and women of the Bible were not immune:

- Jonah would preach a message of redemption to a nation and then pout because they repented and were not destroyed.
- David would fight the Philistine giant to vindicate the name of Jehovah and then commit adultery and murder.
- Peter would preach salvation and hope to the Gentiles in Cornelius’ home and then refuse to eat with Gentiles when in the company of Jewish brethren.

That’s a bit of a struggle for all of us, isn’t it? We resolve at our baptism to “walk in newness of life” but give in occasionally to the life and practice that we promised to leave behind. We sing, “Have thine own way, Lord” but sometimes take great offense if our “own way” is not accommodated.

That, of course, is not what we want. We never want to be the ones of whom Paul spoke when he observed, “they profess that they know God; but in work they deny Him...” (Titus 1:16).

The good news is, we’re not alone in this challenge and that type of

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

Evangelist

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

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David A. Cox, Editor

inconsistency doesn't have to become the sum of who we are.

We can learn from the consistent steps of our perfect example (1 Peter 2:21). We can be completely honest and transparent as we commune with an understanding Father in prayer and petition for help (Hebrews 4:14, 15). And we can employ our will and determination as competent, capable, committed Christians to live as we know we should.

The great news is, having done that, we can "have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming (1 John 2:28).

~via *College View Family Report*, Florence, Alabama.



The Epitome of Hypocrisy

Russ Bowman

A couple of days ago, I read with some interest - and not a little disgust - an exchange between a couple of people about the nature of the Bible. One person was pointed in his declaration that the Bible is not an infallible revelation of God, that we cannot be certain of its accuracy, and that it has been elevated to a place of idolatry as a substitute for God Himself. The other person was attempting to offer some opposition to those propositions. The discussion was brief and neither party was very comprehensive in their responses. I have no idea if the parties involved pursued the discourse any farther, and it is really not my intention to address the nature of those comments. What I do find absolutely incredulous is the fact that the same individual who offered such scathing criticism of the Bible and those who hold it as the infallible and inspired Word of God, then proceeded to make several comments about his own devotion to God, his life of service to Jesus and "His bride" and his declarations of faith in God's will and God's influence upon his life.

How, pray tell, do we know the first thing about God's will, God's work, God's influence, God's Son, or most anything else about God (apart from His existence), separate from God's Word? It is the epitome of

hypocrisy - the epitome of hypocrisy - to even recognize Jesus as the Christ and then to dismiss anything that the Bible says as irrelevant, uninspired, or inapplicable to mankind. It is imperative to learn and acknowledge that we cannot have it both ways. We cannot accept Jesus and dismiss the Bible as God's Word - inspired, infallible, eternal. And we cannot accept the Bible as God's Word and dismiss Jesus - Lord, Savior, Son of God. I am amazed at the frequency with which this inconsistency is applied in the religious world of our day. We see it constantly in the lives of individuals. People claim to recognize Jesus as their Savior, call themselves Christians, talk about God's will and His influence. And yet they practice dishonesty, engage in sexual immorality, divorce and remarry at their own whim, worship at their convenience and in whatever way they deem pleasing, embrace covetousness, serve themselves. In essence, they reject what God's Word says about discipleship after using God's Word to learn about the sacrifice of Jesus. And I suppose that such is to be expected when we have witnessed the same approach to Biblical authority among religious organizations over the years. "Churches" that claim to be built upon the work and words of Jesus are regularly engaged in the promotion of activities that are nowhere authorized in the Bible. The New Testament pattern of worship has been exchanged for spiritually-themed entertainment; the moral demands of the Bible have been compromised due to the popularity of divorce/remarriage, homosexuality, promiscuity, and immodesty; God's design regarding gender roles have been sacrificed for political correctness; and almost anything of a doctrinal nature that might actually indict someone of sin is often ignored for the sake of "unity". Very few major denominations want to stand on the Bible anymore.

Oh, but everyone believes in Jesus. And everyone recognizes the love of God. And everyone is certain that God knows our heart and accepts us as we are.

Those academicians who study such movements, assign reasons to them and then attempt to label such would probably include these observations within the designation of "post-modernism". Call it what you like, such a perspective is essentially a symptom of selfishness, pride, and hypocrisy.

The Bible claims that Jesus of Nazareth was God in the flesh (John 1:1-18; Colossians 1:15f), and that the miracles He performed prove those claims of divinity (John 20:30f; Acts 2:22). The proposition of the Bible is that Jesus lived a sinless life and died on the cross as a

perfect sacrifice for sin, so that those who put their faith in Him might stand justified (“pronounced innocent”) before God and enjoy eternal life after physical death (John 20:30f; Romans 3:21-26; 5:1-11). Almost every “Christian” religious organization accepts and espouses these Biblical claims. But the same Bible that reveals these truths, also reveals that this same Jesus – God in the flesh – assigned and authorized men to record the will of God which would be revealed to them by Jesus through God the Spirit after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. The thrust of John 14-16 revolves around this plan. “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever...But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:16,26). “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me” (John 15:26). “It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you... However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:7-15). And those apostles claim that the words they were writing were the words of Jesus given to them by God the Spirit (Acts 4:18-20; 1 Corinthians 2:4-16; Galatians 1:11-12; Ephesians 3:1-5f; Hebrews 2:1-4). They are the men who have told us about Jesus, just as He had commanded them. They are also the men who told us, in the very same documents, about the will of God and the words of God. The two are irrevocably tied together. Consistency demands that if we accept Jesus as Lord based upon the claims of the Bible, then we must accept the Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God based upon the words of Jesus.

Ours is an age of doubt, inconsistency, selfishness, and indulgence. Increasingly, people who claim allegiance to God are treating the Bible like a salad bar – we’ll pick and choose those things we want (salvation, mercy, love, hope, joy) and we’ll just ignore the stuff that is hard, demanding, and displeasing (diligence, holiness, morality, selflessness, temperance, sacrifice). How can we be so hypocritical as to acknowledge Jesus while decrying the very revelation that proclaims Him? God help us.

~via *The Exhorter*; Tampa, Florida.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	Dan Lovell
Nancy Abernathy	Bob Broadus
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell	Bobbie Adcock
Ann Bush	Nathan Craig

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Robert Beasley	Jeanette Weir
Cornelia Pepper	Pat Wulfekuhl
Al Pollard	Charles Burns
David Collier	Kenneth Fisher
Una King Currier	Matt Poff
Susan Cox	Gene Carpenter
Cindy Walker	Phillip Harwell
Wayne Wooldridge	Brittany Bates Carter

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Leonard Clines, 99	Valeria Dalton, 7
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, 77
Evelyn Hogan, 36	Dorothy Draper, 73

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
 Bettye Harrison, Traditions
 Irene Inman, at home
 Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Bob Broadus is at home following his surgery last week in Athens...**Ross Melvin** had out-patient surgery on Wednesday in Huntsville and is doing well...**Joe Hinkle**, had out-patient surgery on his right hand on Thursday in Huntsville and is doing well following surgery...**Scottie Reed** had out-patient surgery on her other eye in Cullman on Thursday...**Marysa Gentry** had out-patient surgery in Madison on Thursday and is at home doing well...**Dan Reed's daughter, Heather Whitehead**, is scheduled for a cardiac CT angiogram at

the Gainesville VA Hospital in Gainesville, Florida on Monday. . . **Bettye Harrison** has moved back to Traditions, room 124. . . **Jewel Dean Kennamer's granddaughter, Brittany Bates Carter** is in Houston, Texas living in an apartment taking treatments at M.D. Anderson with three more weeks of treatments. She has completed 26 treatments at this point.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Barnetts: David & Myrtle Ruth* have been camping up in Tennessee this week. . . *The Coblentz': Tommy and Marcella* were out of town this past week. . . *The Werkas: Bob and Gina* were at Gulf Shores last week. . . **Jewell Dean Kennemer** is in Ohio this week with her family. . . *The Burns: Tommy and Susan* were out of town at the Gulf this week. . . **Steve Bradley** is in Texas this week.

NEW BABY: We rejoice with **Nathaniel and Laura Adams** and *all the family* over the birth of their son, **Declan James Adams**. Declan was born at Athens-Limestone Hospital on Wednesday afternoon at 4:26. He was 6 lbs 13 ozs. and was 20.5 inches long. Declan is now home with his parents. We look forward to having Declan with us.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: Meets each Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the west auditorium, except for the 2nd Tuesday of the month when they meet at the Limestone Manor.

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

GRADUATES: Everyone is invited to the *Athens Bible School Cafeteria* this evening, to celebrate the upcoming graduation of **Clayton Hamm** and **Matthew Usery!** Join us after the evening services and bring your favorite finger food or side dish. Individuals will provide hamburgers and hotdogs for all to enjoy.

PICTURES: We are in the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of May 5th:*

Sunday: Bible Classes 136
 Morning Worship 178
 Evening Worship 127
 Wednesday: Bible Classes 100

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Marty Adams
 Assisting Mike Ogles
 Serving Christian Usery Kenneth Adams
 Will Chumbley..... Matthew Usery
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Mike Ogles
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Other Assignments for the week of May 12th:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Heath Dollar
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

Wednesday, May 15th:

Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Bible Reading Larry Tucker
 Mark 15:33-47
 Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
 Invitation David Cox
 Closing Prayer Christian Usery

Sunday, May 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Russell Melvin
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Larry Tucker
 Serving Keenon Currier David Terry
 Danny Johnson..... Sam Gregory
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Tony Thomas
 Prayer..... Keith Hinkle
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for the week of May 19th:

Ushers..... Dwaine Allfrey/Steve Usery
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews