

# 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 XI

September 8, 2019

No. 36

### 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 Coblenz.....(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  
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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*

# Gospel Meeting

## September 15 – 18

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

#### Monday -- Wednesday

7:00 p.m.

**Speaker: Johnny Felker**

## MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

# *Personal Management?*

**Dee Bowman**

There is a tendency in man to disregard God's government in preference for personal autonomy (auto, self; nomos, rule). He wants to rule himself—without interruptions. Illustrations of the fact are numerous. You see them everywhere, on bumper stickers, in magazines and newspapers, everywhere. Perhaps the most all-inclusive statement of it is seen in this generation's proclivity to "do your own thing," or "it's my life, I can handle it!"

Jeremiah sounded the warning. So did Solomon. Jeremiah said, "...it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah. 10:23); Solomon said, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Man seems driven to plot his own course, choose his own way to happiness. But in promoting such a scheme he only brings about frustration, for such an adventure is doomed to failure. Its futility is described by the wise man as a "vexation of spirit." Literally, it is like trying to catch a handful of the wind (Ecclesiastes 2:17). Personal management is foolish and doomed for failure.

No matter how it "seemeth right," there can be no benefit to such a nonsensical fantasy which supposes that one can live life without restraints, impositions, or requirements. Just because a thing feels comfortable, even enjoyable, does not argue that it is moral. Revenge undoubtedly feels good to some folks, but it is not moral. Illicit sexual conduct produces sensations that recommend it to those who are disposed merely to satisfy their animal lusts, but it is still wrong, still sinful. And success at all costs to some may feel good, no matter what action is required to make it come about, but it remains sinful. Personal management is ultimately a poor choice.

The tendency toward self-rule causes men to rebel against the authority of God. Humanism, with its various tentacles, seeks to explain the existence of man without including God, so out comes evolution. Secularism says all truth is relative, that no such thing as absolute truth even exists, so out comes situation ethics. The pious religionist explains the nature of God only in terms of goodness and without regard to severity, and out comes ecumenism. Foolish!

Truth is not only definitive (John 8:32), it is "once for all delivered" (Jude 3). It not only requires obedience

(Hebrews 5:8-9), it assigns retributive actions against all who disobey (Jude 14-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9), even against the false religionist (Matthew 7:21-22).

The desire for self-rule causes men to neglect to involve God in their day-today affairs. To many, He is some kind of being from whom we are disassociated and with whom we have contact only when worshipping. Godliness, properly regarded, is the inclusion of God in every area of our lives, and on a daily basis. Not merely mentioning His name, but doing even the smallest things according to his word (Colossians 3:17). Godliness means taking into consideration how the decisions we make—even the very smallest ones—will affect our relationship with Him (1 Peter 4:11). It means being constantly involved with Him, always grateful for all He has done for us, even the smallest blessings (Ephesians 5:20).

The person who cries out "I can do it by myself" often is prejudiced in favor of the rich, the elite, the educated. He is more interested in being served than in serving. We have no right to form estimates of people based on what they have, where they live, what they do for a living, who their parents are, or where they attended school. The Lord answered the question "who is my neighbor?" by teaching the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10). My neighbor is anyone who needs my help.

We must learn that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15), that we are not to put our zeal for some personal project above knowledge of the word (Romans 10:1-2), that we must learn to "tarry for one another" (1 Corinthians 11:33), that we are to "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Philippians 2:4). The gospel is for all; we must make sure all have access to it.

Man cannot make it alone. He needs direction, purpose, pardon. And perhaps the worst thing he can do in life is to leave God and His word out of his life and do whatever he wants to do with it. He must turn to God, not himself, for what he needs. "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). Personal management is foolish!

~via *Southside Online*, Pasadena, Texas.

## **Remember Our Study Periods**

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

## “Few Are Those that Find It”

Curtis Pope

*“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it”* (Matthew 7:13-14)

In this familiar passage from the third chapter of Matthew’s account of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount we learn three important lessons.

**There are only two ways – the broad way and the narrow way.** Everyone in the world, no matter how diverse their paths of occupation, culture, or spiritual development, is traveling on only one of two roads. This may come as a surprise for people who recognize the diversity of modern life and the infinite possibilities of the choices in every human’s existence. However, as far as people’s spiritual condition is concerned, this passage clearly teaches that instead of an infinite number of pathways, in the only way that really matters, there are only two.

**There are only two destinations – destruction and life.** In spite of the fact that through the ages the religions of the world have concocted many possibilities for people’s eternal destination, this passage clearly teaches that the number is limited to two. Even the irreligious in their speculations about the afterlife or the suicide who seeks oblivion will be disappointed at the teaching of this passage. All are headed on only one of two roads to only two destinations.

**Most will be lost.** Probably the most surprising lesson this passage teaches is the small minority that are traveling on the right road to the right destination to achieve eternal spiritual life. Regular surveys show that twice as many people in America believe in heaven as believe in hell. In fact, of those that believe in hell, most would designate it as the eternal home for only monsters like Adolf Hitler, Ted Bundy, and so forth. This near universalism (the belief that all will eventually make it to heaven) has been based on a concentration on the love of God through Christ while ignoring the justice of God that righteousness demands. While I do not want to deemphasize the love of God in Christ, the scriptures clearly teach that God is both “just and

justifier” (Romans 3:26). Most would be surprised to know that no other biblical character mentions hell more often than Jesus (Mark 9:42-48).

With these three facts in evidence and the eternal destruction in hell of most who have ever lived, it should make us all give serious thought to our spiritual condition.

*“Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:11-13).

~via *West End Church*; Bowling Green, Kentucky.

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Beverly Sutton	Arvid McGuire
Helen Blankenship	Gayle Ball
Kenia Adams	Loretta Warner
JoAnn Gilbert	Doris Lovell
Bobbie Adcock	Ann Bush
Lloyd Adams	Yvonne Strickland

### Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

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

### In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

*Norman Hamm*; Millenium - Huntsville

### Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Alvis McLemore, rm. 107	Flossie Smith, rm. 120
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Brenda Wilson, rm. 73
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77

### Limestone Health Facility:

Robert Beasley, rm. 110	Mot Beasley, rm. 110
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**Shut-In or Away From Home:**

Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge  
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:**

**Arvid McGuire** spent Thursday night in Huntsville Hospital for observation...**Beverly Sutton** is having her medications adjusted...**Nancy Abernathy** had oral surgery done on Tuesday morning.

**MEN'S BIBLE CLASS:** The *Men's Bible Class*, will meet Monday evening at 7:00 in the East Auditorium. We will be studying "Filling the Hole." Take time to watch the podcast before the class.

**NURSING HOME SINGING:** Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care.

**DOORTO DOOR:** A few of us were able to go out door to door on Saturday morning. There were several good responses from those we were able to invite.

**AWAY AT SCHOOL:** Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college:

*Keenon Currier*, Auburn University  
*Clayton Hamm*, University of North Alabama  
*Griffin Holt*, University of Alabama  
*Elizabeth Usery*, Mississippi State University  
*Matthew Usery*, University of North Alabama

**OUT OF TOWN: The Edens:** *Bill and Brenda* were in Indianapolis, Indiana this past weekend... **The Rogers:** *Mark, Kim & Peyton* are in Knoxville this morning... **Mike Ogles** continues to be working in Auburn... **Jim Whitt** has been working in Fort Riley, Kansas this week... **Christian Usery** is back home after his extended work in Connecticut.

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

**THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Sept. 1st:**

Sunday: Bible Classes ..... 139  
Morning Worship ..... 184  
Evening Worship ..... 142  
Wednesday: Bible Classes ..... 91

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, September 8th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Marcus Morris  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Marty Adams  
Assisting ..... Larry Mitchell  
Serving ..... Charles Vaughn ..... Sam Gregory  
..... Christian Usery ..... Clayton Hamm  
Closing Prayer ..... Roger Hammonds

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Marcus Morris  
Song Leader ..... Bob Broadus  
Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams  
Preaching..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Larry Mitchell  
Closing Prayer ..... Albert Haraway

Other Assignments for the week of September 8th:

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

**Wednesday, September 11th:**

Song Leader ..... Tony Thomas  
Bible Reading ..... Danny Johnson  
..... Titus 3:9-15  
Prayer..... Dan Reed  
Invitation ..... David Cox  
Closing Prayer ..... Danny Holt

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**Sunday, September 15th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon  
Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Prayer..... Kenneth Smith  
Preaching..... Johnny Felker  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding..... Larry Holt  
Assisting ..... Marcus Morris  
Serving ..... Landon Adams ..... Tommy Burns  
..... Kenneth Adams ..... Keenon Currier  
Closing Prayer ..... Harold Ash

*Evening Worship*

Announcements..... Harvey Nixon  
Song Leader ..... Larry Holt  
Prayer..... Larry Mitchell  
Preaching ..... Johnny Felker  
Lord's Supper ..... Larry Holt  
Closing Prayer ..... Danny Holt

Other Assignments for the week of September 15th:

Ushers..... Heath Dollar/Danny Johnson  
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams