

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

November 3, 2019

No. 44

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
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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

Who Made God?

Jerry Fite

Two young boys were sitting in a park, engaged in reflective conversation. One boy asked, "Where did trees come from?" The other boy responded, "God made the trees." The first boy asked, "Where did birds come from?" His friend answered, "God made the birds." Then he asked a third question: "Who made You? His friend said, "God made me." Then the ultimate question came: "Well, who made God?" The unhesitating answer was, "God made Himself."

If everything in this world has an antecedent cause, would not the boy's question and his young friend's response make sense?

The British philosopher and activist Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) believed in the existence of God at an early age. The "First-cause Argument" seemed a reasonable explanation for the origin of all things. But at the age of 18, he read the autobiography of the philosopher John Stuart Mill. John's father taught him that the question of "Who made me" cannot be answered because it immediately suggests the next question: "Who made God?" The thought expressed in one sentence was profound in Bertrand's mind. If everything has a cause, then "God must have a cause." Tracing everything back to reach the "First-cause," and placing God in that space, was no longer sufficient to explain the origin of all things.

Modern atheists have refuted the "Law of Causality" as being an invalid argument for the existence of God. If everything must have a cause, then what about God? The logical regression beginning with "who made God?" will be endless, making the theory invalid in their minds.

The proper framing of the "Law of Causality" is not that "everything" must have a cause for its existence, but that "every effect must have a cause." The "Law of Causality," is valid by definition. It is like stating that every triangle has three sides. This is true by definition. You do not have a triangle without three sides. By definition, you do not have an effect without an accompanying cause.

God, according to the Bible, is not an "effect." He is the eternal, self-existing, ever-present "I Am" (Exodus 3:14). He is the "Ultimate Cause!"

Our Bible begins with, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

God did not make Himself. God has always existed. Stress this to your children! They may be engaged in philosophical thought and dialogue with their peers sooner than you think!

~via *Glad Tidings*; Pasadena, Texas.



Avoiding the Big Rocks of Sin

Mark Roberts

Thirty years ago the Exxon Valdez did the inexplicable. The huge tanker grounded on a reef, spilling 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska’s Prince William Sound. The effect on the animals, water, and plants was catastrophic and recovery continues to this day. How could a supertanker with all that navigational technology possibly ram head-on into a well-marked reef?

Last week, a friend asked me if I had heard the heartbreaking news that two Christians I knew had left their spouses and run off into adultery together. How is that possible? How could strong, faithful disciples ram head-on into scandalous, obvious sin? It certainly isn’t a knowledge problem. No one is saying “Oh, I didn’t know what the Bible said about adultery!” They know better and we know they know better. Why then do Christians keep hitting the big rocks of sin anyway? A few possibilities...

First, we fail to take all our sins seriously. Proverbs 28:13 tells us “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” Do you see the Biblical way to deal with sin? Confession and forsaking. Not some sin, not just large scandalous sins, but all sin. All sin is the same to God. The truth is, talking about the “big rocks of sin” is risky because I don’t mean to imply some sins are worse than others. I’m just trying to say there are some behaviors so clearly legislated against in Scripture, so definitively marked out, looming so **large** in the Bible

with so many repeated warnings and admonitions that no Christian should ever get involved in them.

But do I see all sin as an affront to God and His holiness? Isn’t it true that one of the ways to run aground on the rocks of big “monster” sins is to pretend that when we got involved in “smaller” sins, it wasn’t really a big deal? Nothing much to be concerned about? Nothing I needed to confess and forsake? Isn’t the mindset that says, “I can ignore the Bible on this ‘small’ one” the same mindset that may eventually decide, “I can ignore the Bible on this ‘big’ sin” too?

Secondly, we let “little” sins lead us farther and deeper. Want to see how someone commits adultery? Proverbs 7 describes a young man making a series of small mistakes that lead to a tragic, final disaster. He’s in the wrong part of town (v. 12). Prostitutes frequent a certain part of town, so what’s he doing over there? He becomes physically familiar with the immoral woman (v. 13). Can’t you just hear him say, “Show me in the Bible where it says I can’t kiss someone”? Then he listens to her lies (v. 14). The devil may know that we won’t smash ourselves against “big” sin today, but he is pleased if he can navigate us just a little closer to those rocks, one small step at a time. That’s how the young couple who spent time alone one evening got carried away and a little kissing became sexual immorality. That’s how someone who had an occasional drink ...that got less occasional all the time ...became an alcoholic. We started the day far away from the rocks and then suddenly, we find ourselves nearly upon them, battling mightily to keep from being broken on them. But some Christians battling in the surging tide of sin aren’t victorious. To change metaphors, when we don’t see sin as a roaring lion and we get close enough to pet it, we very well may get eaten (1 Peter 5:8).

Thirdly, we aren’t as strong as we thought. When something terrible happens, we all say, “How can such a strong Christian get involved in that?” We’re mystified because all the outward behaviors of a good disciple were in place. Then we’re stunned when they leave the Lord because we thought they were so strong. The reality is, of course, that person wasn’t that strong. They just looked that way. It was all outward appearance. Perhaps that is why Jesus was so concerned with the Pharisees and their empty religion (Matthew 23). I consider framing someone and having the state murder them to be a “big rock,” don’t you? And yet, the Pharisees had no

reservations about doing that very thing to Jesus (John 11:49-50).

I get it. No one thinks, "If I miss my daily Bible reading today I'll probably become a heroin addict." However, the reality is, as we neglect core disciplines like prayer and Bible reading and genuine worship (not just being there!), the inner man gets weaker and weaker. As we renew ourselves day by day, as we consistently listen to God and allow His word to permeate us, we develop His eyes to see things in His way. We adopt the eternal perspective that exposes temptation and sin as so empty and vain, and as something we want nothing to do with. Always remember: looking strong isn't the same as being strong. It takes daily effort to become and stay strong.

~via *Tri-Cities Edifier*, Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Helen Blankenship	Bobbie Adcock
Larry Mitchell	Arvid McGuire
Minnie Carter	David Terry
JoAnn Gilbert	Loretta Warner
Alvis McLemore	Doris Lovell
Yvonne Strickland	Ann Bush
Lloyd Adams	Andrew Harbin

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	Denny Smith
Carrie Warner	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Johnnie Liegeber, rm. 121
Brenda Wilson, rm. 73	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 110 Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Elease Barksdale, Limestone Lodge
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 is at home. He spent a night in the hospital due to a severe nose bleed ... *Helen Blankenship* continues with her heart monitor She is to return to the doctor on Friday ... *Albert Haraway* had a MRI done on Friday ... *Larry Mitchell* is at home and doing well. He still does not need visitors... *Griselda Rodriguez*, the wife of *Humberto Rodriguez* who we support in Ocosingo, Chiapas Mexico, is at home and doing well. ... *Kim Rogers niece, Carrie Warner*, began her treatments for cervical cancer this past week. The treatments are scheduled for the next two weeks.

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

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* next meeting will be Monday, November 18th. We will be studying "*Change or Accept*"

PICTURES: We are needing to finish the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. If you have not had your picture made yet or have not updated it please do so this week or next Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing.

TUESDAYMORNING LADIES' CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning began meeting again this past Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium. They will be studying "*Angels*".

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Helton Drive church* in Florence is scheduled to begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Ken Chapman*,

ROBERT ALLEN BEASLEY (1931– 2019): It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of *Robert Beasley*. Robert passed away this past Thursday afternoon at the Limestone Health Facility. Robert had been a member of the Market Street church for many years. During the last several years his health had declined to the point that he was unable to be at services. He loved the church at Market Street and always enjoyed hearing about the things going on here. The arrangements for Robert are his visitation will today, Sunday, from 1:00 to 2:30. The funeral will be at 2:30 at the Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. Robert will be laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. May the Lord bless Mot and all the family at his time of sorrow.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college:
Kenneth Adams, University of Alabama - Huntsville
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 Ashes: Harold and Barb* will be leaving this week for their trip to Gulf Shores.... *Christian Usery* is in Long Beach, California with his work.

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.

THE RECORD: Average *Attendance for October:*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	135
	Morning Worship	175
	Evening Worship	118
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	94



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	Ashley Goosen
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Kenneth Adams..... Harold Davis
.....	Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer	Heath Dollar
	Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Hunter Cox
Preaching.....	Ashley Goosen
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Other Assignments for the week of November 3rd:

Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Marty Adams

Wednesday, November 6th:

Song Leader	Bob Broadus
Bible Reading	Danny Johnson
.....	Hebrews 3:7-19
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Invitation	Albert Haraway
Closing Prayer	Wayne Vaughn

Sunday, November 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting	Mike Ogles
Serving	Sam Gregory
.....	Matthew Usery
.....	Will Chumbley.....
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams
	Jerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Terry Andrews

Other Assignments for the week of November 10th:

Ushers.....	Steve Bradley/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Nathaniel Adams