

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 XV

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No. 19

Understanding The Bible Alike

David A. Cox

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” — (Ephesians 5:17).

The apostle Paul believed the scriptures could be understood from what he told the Ephesians. Often, people seem to think that the word of God cannot be understood. Because of this thought, they fail to read the scriptures and study them for themselves. The belief that the word of God cannot be understood will cause people to be indifferent as to what it teaches and will pique little, if any, interest to them. This is tragic because the scriptures are opening to us the will of God. The eternal destiny of man depends upon putting into our lives the principles God expects of us, which He has revealed to us in the scriptures. Let us consider the fact that God’s word can be understood.

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..... 6:30 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz..... (256) 232-3312
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

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

We Can Understand It.

The scriptures clearly state that the word of God is intended for everyone and can be understood. Paul writes, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in wisdom...” (Colossians 3:16). Paul told the Romans, “whatever things were written before were written for our learning” (Romans 15:4). Paul charged all the Thessalonians to read his letter to them (1 Thessalonians 5:27). Peter admonished, “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). We could go on with more examples, but these statements are enough to show that the scriptures were intended for all people. Evidently, God expects each one to be able to understand His will for them.

We Can Understand The Scriptures Alike.

Some will grant that we can understand the Bible, but they will raise the question, “Can the Bible be seen alike or does it depend upon each individual’s interpretation?” It is clearly seen in the New Testament that people living in the first century understood the teaching they received alike. Phrases such as “all that believed were together (Acts 2:44); “singleness of heart” (Acts 2:47); “multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul” (Acts 4:32). If they understood it alike, God

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*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

expects us to also. So why can some read the Bible and see one thing, and others read it and see another thing? It is not a failure of God to give us a revelation that can be understood. Rather, it is our misunderstanding of what God has revealed. It is not that we understand it differently. Why is this the case? The Bible is very evident concerning the unity that should exist among those who profess to be Christians. In John 17:20-21, in Christ's prayer for his disciples, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." Jesus prayed that His disciples and those taught by the word, by them, would be one. The unity Christ prayed for is commanded of those that follow Christ. Paul told the Corinthians to have the same mind and the same judgment (1 Corinthians 1:10). To the Philippians, Paul wrote, "...let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind" (Philippians 3:16). We can understand the Bible alike, just as those in the first century seeing we have the same teachings; God's Word, the Bible.

Living With the Divine Rule of Our Life.

The Christians in the first century were united as they were taught the word of God and understood God's will for their lives. If the teaching of the apostles in the first century produced the kind of faith needed to be saved and the things that pleased God, why can we not use the same divine standard and rule today? If we want to please God, that is what we must do. The only rule for our lives must be the word of God. What is taught in the Bible is very important. We must not look at God's word as a cafeteria-style rule, take what we want on one thing and leave behind what we do not like. The Bible is important because it teaches us "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). The Bible is God's inspired revelation to man, teaching what one must do to be faithful and pleasing to God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 2:15). The apostle Paul made it clear to the Galatians that they should be able to understand the gospel that was taught and be able to recognize error, when it was taught (Galatians 1:6-9). Recognizing truth and error implies that the word of God can and must be understood alike.

Since the Bible can be understood alike, one should heed the exhortation of Paul to "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). In doing this, one will be able to "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). We

should not add anything to or take anything away from the word of God (Revelation 22:18). May all recognize that when the divine rule is followed, there will be no division and we will understand the Bible alike!



Letting Go

Mark McCrary

"And a man shall leave his father and mother..."

Though the above quote from Genesis 2:24 is written in the context of marriage, it assumes the necessity of children leaving their parents and establishing their own lives. This is not to say parents no longer have any influence over their lives; simply that that influence is diminished. To paraphrase John the Immerser, they increase while their parents decrease.

The painful truth of parenting is we raise our children to let them go. If you think about it, this ultimate goal of God for those children He has entrusted to us is really counter to everything we have done! We love, protect, and guide them over the course of 18+ years; we wake them up, get them ready, check on them at night, watch who their friends are, make sure they are eating right, that they brush their teeth, eat their vegetables, clean their rooms, bandage their skinned knees, doctor their ills, comfort their sorrows, etc. All these actions and more entwine our lives together closer and closer.

Yet, there comes a time God expects us to let them go—to send them out into the world. How could God require such a thing? Does He not understand how frightening of a prospect and how emotionally painful this is?

God knows letting go is necessary. At some point, training wheels must come off and our children must decide for themselves what they will value in life. They must discover who they will be. They cannot do that while under the wings of their parents. Children need to be let go. To some degree, the faith of a child is imposed on them. But, saving faith is not imposed; rather, it is chosen and embraced.

God understands this first hand. After giving instruction through the Law of Moses and giving them Canaan, God let the children of Israel go. "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve..." (Joshua 24:15). Deuteronomy is another great text on the necessity of God's children needing to choose. The constant story of the Bible is that of a Father expressing His love, instructing His children, then "sending them off" to decide if they will honor Him and His guidance. Many did and do; many didn't and don't.

In the same way, as parents we do what we can for 18+ years, then let them (hopefully) put into practice what we have taught them. In reality, the letting go is most of the time not a one-time action, but more of a letting the rope out slowly until we come to the end of it. We hold our breaths and pray with each decision that they make. We hurt when they choose poorly; we delight when they choose properly. But, we must let them go, for they cannot truly find God unless they find Him for themselves. This is God's plan.

Lloyd Adams	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Matt Bassford
Sadricia Wilson	Wynell Romine
Anthony Sutton	Jerry Lawrence
Barbara Piper	Henry Fusch
Liz Fusch	Kimberly Pressnell
Tim McGuire	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Connie Brock, rm. 62	

Limestone Health Facility:

Marie Nave, rm. 84a	Alice Roberson, rm. 49
Ann Bush, rm. 75	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Goldton at Athens
 Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
 Irene Inman; at home
 Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Stan Stanford; Goldton at Athens
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Frank Melton; Athens-Limestone Hosp., rm. 208
Amy Gill; St. Thomas – West, Nashville, Tenn.
Vicki Stringer; Decatur-West

Updates:

Harvey Nixon will soon begin a regiment of treatment using Proton Therapy for his prostate cancer in Franklin, Tennessee... *Dale Adcock* is scheduled to go back to the doctor in three weeks and will schedule surgery on her elbow... *Mitzi Carruth's* back surgery is scheduled for April 3rd... *Steve Stringer* was admitted to the hospital last weekend and was released on Friday ...Remember our expecting mother, *Laura Adams*, in your prayers.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible Drill this afternoon at 4:45 before our evening service. I hope all of our children can come and participate in this time of instruction and learning.

PICTURES: Have you had your picture made? We continue to make and update photos of everyone for the Market Street directory. Please plan to get your picture made in the next few weeks.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class will meet on Tuesday morning at

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Steve Stringer	Duane Thomas
Margaret Carter	Mitzi Carruth
Dale Adcock	Pat Nixon
James Adams	Phillip Vaughn
Dan Lovell	Helen Blankenship
Shirley Miller	Betty Lovell
Doris Lovell	Buzz Lovell
Bob Nance	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Harvey Nixon	Sharon Nave
Priscilla Tucker	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir	Doris Reid

10:30 a.m. They are studying "The Parables of Jesus."

OUT OF TOWN: *The Hardisons:* Nancy, Jaclyn & Sandra are in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee this week.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Jeff Himmel*. The *South Cullman church* in Cullman is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *J. R. Bronger*. The *Singing River church* in Florence is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Mike Richardson*. The *Posey church* near White Oak in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Ken McDaniel*.

UKRAINE: Continue to remember the people suffering in Ukraine as they deal with the terrible atrocities being inflicted upon them. Remember to pray for the people in Ukraine, especially our brethren there.

AWAY FROM US: Some of our people are away from home. Keep them in your prayers.

Kenneth Adams is in Auburn for school.

Keenon Currier is stationed in Monterey, California.

Addison Holt is in Birmingham for school.

Christian Usery is in Birmingham for work.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of March 12th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	119
	Morning Worship.....	143
	Evening Worship.....	116
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	99



Gospel Meeting

April 16-19, 2023

(Sunday through Wednesday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

Jeff May, Speaking

**MARKET STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, March 19th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader.....	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Dan Reed
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblentz
Assisting.....	Jerry Baker
Serving.....	Harold Davis Sam Gregory
.....	Matthew Usery..... Charles Vaughn
Closing Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader.....	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper.....	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Other Assignments for the week of March 19 th :	
Usher.....	Tommy Coblentz/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl

Wednesday, March 22th:

Song Leader.....	Bob Broadus
Bible Reading.....	Danny Johnson
.....	(Acts 7:17-36)
Prayer.....	Larry Snell
Invitation.....	Hunter Cox
Closing Prayer.....	Tony Thomas

Sunday, March 26th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader.....	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Tucker
Assisting.....	Stephen Lynn
Serving.....	Charles Vaughn Marvin Putman
.....	Roger Hammonds..... Harold Davis
Closing Prayer.....	Clayton Hamm

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader.....	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Jerry Baker
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper.....	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer.....	Christian Usery
Other Assignments for the week of March 26 th :	
Usher.....	Heath Dollar/Danny Holt
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt