

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

April 16, 2023

No. 16

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 Coblenz..... (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
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Visit Us On The Web
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

What About Division?

David A. Cox

“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 wrote to the church at Corinth about the problems they were having, telling them that there should be no divisions among them. The issues at Corinth stemmed from the fact that the brethren were claiming allegiance to men. Some would say, “I am of Paul,” while others claim to be of Apollos or Cephas.” Yet, some would say, “I am of Christ.” Paul asked, “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Corinthians 1:12-13). It is the division of these people that professed to be followers of Christ that Paul admonished them. Let’s consider the question, what about division.

Division Among God’s People is Wrong.

The dividing of those professing to be Christians into different groups and giving themselves different names is condemned in scripture and not pleasing to God. The night before Jesus was crucified, He prayed for the unity of His disciples. Jesus prayed, saying, “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, as You, Father, are in me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:20-21). Jesus’ desire was for all believers in Him to be one, not many splinter groups teaching many different doctrines. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to endeavor “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:3-6). God’s people are to be one and of the same mind and judgment.

The Plan for Unity is in the Body.

In Ephesians 4, Paul first mentioned that there is “one body.” We must remember that the body Paul is talking about is the church. Paul

made this clear early in this epistle when he wrote concerning the authority of Christ and said, “He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23). The unity that God expects and demands is a unity founded upon the authority of Christ. God has not approved of various religious bodies or denominations which compose the universal church. The body or the Lord’s church is composed of all Christians from all times (Hebrews 12:23). The church is not given an earthly hierarchy with a headquarters on earth. Christ is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). Individuals make up the body as they are “baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13, 27). In Acts 2, the Scriptures teach that when one obeys the gospel of Christ, they are added by the Lord to the church or the body (Acts 2:37-47). After becoming a Christian, we are to find a group of people following the divine pattern God has given for worship and work to join ourselves in that local congregation (Acts 9:17-18, 26). These local congregations are not a denomination. They are independent, autonomous groups following the divine pattern in the Scriptures. They are not tied together by any human organizations, such as headquarters, councils, synods, or societies to other congregations. The head is Christ, and it is from His word we receive instructions for our faith and practice (Colossians 1:18; Romans 10:17). As Christians come together to form a local church, they are not becoming a “Church of Christ” denomination, but a church whose devotion is to Christ and His cause.

Let us recognize that by having membership in a denomination, the implication is that we advocate division and separation into religious denominations. We find no evidence in the New Testament of the practice or acceptance of denominationalism. Instead, the New Testament clearly condemns division. Therefore, denominationalism is not a part of God’s plan and is wrong and should be rejected by those that claim to be followers of Christ.



June 26-29, 2023

MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

What Noah Built

Jeff May

Our society has a fascination for Noah and the ark he built. Little Noah figurines and little arks with animals going in two by two are often seen in stores. Noah’s building of the ark was surely a great feat even by today’s engineering standards. Imagine a vessel in that day and time 150 yards long, 25 yards wide and 15 yards high. What an ark!! But Noah built something even more impressive than that. *Noah built a faithful family in a tremendously wicked world.*

Perhaps we sometimes look at the wickedness of our world and wonder if we can really bring up a godly family. How will we ever get our children past the vulgarities, lewdness, sexual immorality, drunkenness, drugs and the allurements of material things. Can it be done? Yes! Noah did it and did it in a world where there were hardly enough adjectives to describe how bad it was. Look at God’s description. “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). Imagine Noah, the preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), teaching his family God’s ways and steering them over the tides of wickedness. It could be done then. It can be done now. Noah knew it began with him (Genesis 6:9). A father cannot lead his family into something he is not.

Noah’s family thought little details mattered when it came to God. They didn’t try as some do today to distinguish between what really matters in God’s word and what doesn’t. All God’s commands have His breath on them (2 Timothy 3:16-17). They knew they all mattered. They sought to do everything just as God had told them. From the measurements of the ark to the gathering of the right number of animals, they did it just as God said (Genesis 6:22). God’s patterns mattered to them. They should matter to us.

Here too was a family that waited for the new world. Can’t you imagine it had to be easy to get restless on the ark. How many stops do we make on a vacation trip to just get out, stretch our legs and do something different for a while. They were on this ark for one year and ten days with a huge company of animals. Whew!! Maybe they wondered, “When will this ever be over?” But they

waited on God's promise of a new world to come. God's people still have to do that. We must imitate families like Noah's who "through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:12)

Noah's family was worshipful. After the flood was over, their first act was to worship God. Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices unto God (Genesis 8:20-21). How sweet it smelled to God. The old world of corruption was gone and things are beginning anew with a single solitary family worshipping Him. Never let us underestimate what is being built into the hearts of our children as we lead them to each period of worship. Let us wake them with a "Time to wake up children. We get to worship God today." It's our privilege, not a burdensome ritual.

Noah's family paved the way for comfort and rest. Noah's father, Lamech, had hoped his son could make a difference. He hoped Noah could bring comfort to all our toil (Genesis 5:29). Maybe he had other ideas in mind but Noah surely played a part in bringing us comfort. Thousands of years later, a child was born. Jesus was His name. Who can't help but smile as we read of his bloodline genealogy through Mary. It ends saying, "the son of Shem, the son of Noah" (Luke 3:36). What comfort Jesus brings. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

Building the ark may have been the easier task for Noah. Building a faithful family just might be the hardest job on the planet. Maybe that's why so many "throw in the towel." They just give up on it. Don't ever give up. Trust in God. Be faithful to Him. We too can be godly in perilous times.

..via *Wildercroft Bulletin*; Riverdale, Maryland.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Jennifer Threet
Steve Stringer	Margaret Carter
Mitzi Carruth	Dale Adcock

Pat Nixon	James Adams
Phillip Vaughn	Dan Lovell
Helen Blankenship	Shirley Miller
Betty Lovell	Doris Lovell
John Harbin	

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
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	John Lovell

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Auteen Campbell, rm. 96

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

Updates:

Harvey Nixon began his treatments in Franklin, Tennessee, this past Tuesday. They plan to do a total of 39 treatments...**Mitzi Carruth's** had her back surgery on Monday morning in Huntsville. She is at home and doing well in her recovery...**Jeanette Weir** is scheduled for cancer surgery on Friday at UAB Hospital in Birmingham...**Bonnie Sutton's daughter, Kimberly Pressnell**, was admitted to the hospital for a few days this past week due to a fever. She was released and is continuing her treatments...**Bonita Dollar's daughter, Glenda**

Key, is at Bonita's house recuperating from her surgery last week...*Lynsey Adams' grandfather, John Harbin*, is at home with hospice. Keep him in your prayers... *Dan Lovell, Doris Lovell, & Jeanette Weir's brother, John Lovell*, had surgery to remove his cancer from his jaw on Monday. He is at home... Remember our expecting mother, *Laura Adams*, in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS: We want to congratulate *Larry Snell & Louise Melvin* on their marriage this past Friday evening at the *Rollings-Lovell Auditorium* at *Athens Bible School*. We rejoice with them and wish them the very best in their lives together. May the Lord bless them with many good years.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible Drill this afternoon at 4:45 before our evening service. I hope all 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 10:30 a.m. They are studying "*The Parables of Jesus*."

OUTOFTOWN: *Brenda Haraway & Doris Fisher* are in Gainesville, Florida visiting with family... *The Snells: Larry & Louise* in Pine Mountain, Georgia this week.

REMEMBER OUR GOSPEL MEETING: This week is the time for our spring gospel meeting. The meeting begins this morning and will continue through Wednesday night. *Jeff May* will be with us this week preaching. Remember to tell others about the meeting and invite them to come and join us.

POT-LUCKTODAY: Remember the Pot-luck lunch after our morning services at the First National Bank in Athens at the corner of Highway 72 and Lindsay Lane.

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 April 9th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	124
	Morning Worship	176
	Evening Worship	112
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	96

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, April 16th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Albert Haraway
 Prayer..... Tony Thomas
 Preaching..... Jeff May
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Tommy Coblentz
 Assisting Harold Ash
 Serving Heath Dollar Danny Johnson
 Ronnie Locke Harold Davis
 Closing Prayer Hayden Pierce

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marcus Morris
 Song Leader Joel Hamm
 Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
 Preaching..... Jeff May
 Lord's Supper Tommy Coblentz
 Closing Prayer Christian Usery
 Other Assignments for the week of April 16th:
 Usher Marvin Putman/Nathaniel Adams
 Work Sound System..... Larry Holt

Wednesday, April 19th:

Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Bible Reading..... No Reading
 Gospel Meeting
 Prayer..... Tommy Coblentz
 Invitation..... Jeff May
 Closing Prayer Roger Hammonds

Sunday, April 23rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty R. Adams
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Landon Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Keith Hinkle
 Serving Hayden Pierce Matthew Usery
 Christian Usery ... Nathaniel Adams
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty R. Adam
 Song Leader Clayton Hamm
 Prayer..... Kenneth Smith
 Preaching..... Song Service
 Lord's Supper Keith Hinkle
 Closing Prayer Dan Reed
 Other Assignments for the week of April 23rd:
 Usher Tommy Coblentz/Larry Mitchell
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews