

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

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

Albert Bowers.....(256) 233-4847
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty Adams(256) 233-5147
Rusty Brand(256) 233-7343
Tim Craig(256) 233-4597
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Bobby McGuire(256) 232-7887
Frank Noblitt(256) 777-0725
Stuart Wilson(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass.....(256) 233-6086

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

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No. 1

The Power of Simplicity

Bill Hall

Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and “to the point” teaching. He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach some spiritual truth. His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained was simple in nature. “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul spoke to them” (Acts 20:7). Even the poorest could worship, for all that was required of a material nature was a little bread and fruit of the vine. Those of little talent could worship, for God was listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1). There were no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There were no interchurch organizations or societies. Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for. The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter.

Why this simplicity? “That no flesh should glory in His presence” (1 Corinthians 1:29). The complex systems that men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the worldly minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

We like the following quote from Ed Harrell: "How foolish we are to think that God will be impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!" What He is seeking for is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that's simple.

-via *The Gospel Observer*, Avondale, Pennsylvania.



Are They (We) Christians?

Robert F. Turner

Someone once asked David Lipscomb if certain digressives of the day (using mechanical instruments of music in the worship and doing the work of the church through human societies) were Christians. Here is his reply, taken from *Queries & Answers: Shepherd*; p.77-ff.

"A follower of Christ is a Christian. One must take Christ as his only Lawgiver, Ruler, Leader, and Governor, his prophet (teacher), Priest (intercessor), and King (ruler). We must seek to think like Christ, to feel and purpose as Christ did, act as Christ acted, and in all things seek to follow Him.

The heart, the inner man, thinks, feels, purposes. Solomon says: 'Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.' This means all the purposes and courses of life originate in and flow out from the heart. To follow Jesus, we must be like Him in heart.

The highest desire of Jesus was to do the will of His Father. (John 6:38; 5:30; Luke 22:42). The fundamental ruling desire of every child of God is

to do the will of God, to subjugate his own will to the will of God in all things. The heart, then that desires to change the law and order of God in anything is not right in the sight of God, no matter how kind and charitable he be.

A man's heart may be perfect, and yet he fall into sin. David was a man after God's own heart, yet fell into grievous sin. "The heart of Asa was perfect all his days,' yet he fell into sin that brought the punishment of God upon him. It means that, while the desire and purposes of the heart are to serve God, the fleshly appetites and passions may tempt a man into sin. There are two classes of sin - one, the sin of the spirit, or heart, that sets aside purposely the law of God; the other, the sin of the flesh, that is drawn into sin contrary to the desires of the heart. The latter sin, if it is persisted in, overcomes and perverts the spirit, or heart and drags the man into willful sin. The sin of the heart is the presumptuous sin. It consciously and purposely sets aside the law of God and substitutes something that the person thinks will do better or is more effective in honoring God and saving men. The motive of doing good may prompt it. But it is presumption that dares to think man can improve on the appointments of God.

Men who consciously change, or modify, add to or take from, the law of God in the slightest particulars are not Christians; it is misleading to call them so. Churches that change, add to, or take from the commandments of God are not churches of Christ; it is sinful to so call them. He who is not for God in such issues is against Him. Be true to God."

Lipscomb hit the core of the matter when he centered upon the heart. Objectors may say a sincere man, desirous of serving God, could misunderstand his word; but such a one would continue to study, welcome assistance, and draw closer and closer to truth.

-via *The Auburn Beacon*, Auburn, Alabama.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

Persuasion's Power

Michael W. McLemore

Christians are perplexed by the world's failure to embrace Christ and his promise of eternal salvation. Equally bewildering is the "religious world's" espousal of doctrines plainly contrary to sacred scripture. Mystified Christians incessantly seek the power of persuasion to turn men to the Lord and His truth.

Without a doubt most seek to persuade men in vain by employing carnal device. The "institutional movement" of two generations ago convinced brethren the cause of the Lord is perpetuated in "educating men in the art of oratory" and thereby advocated support of colleges by local churches. Too, the same convinced congregations their future growth was dependant upon the construction of "entertainment facilities" (fellowship halls, family life centers, etc.) if men would be persuaded to hear their message of "truth." Though the New Testament is specific about the means to draw men to Christ (Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:14), men thought the Gospel not possessive of sufficient power to persuade men, thus aspired to bolster it with carnal gadgets of human invention. The fruits of the movement are being observed as vanity.

Faithful brethren are not immune from these notions. Many congregations of the Lord's people are convinced persuasion's power is realized in human ability. This is manifest in a number of ways. One is observed in preaching. Let me say, I am an advocate of bold Gospel preaching and believe the most capable among us ought to be sought out and used for the same! But, brethren, the persuasion of souls is not discovered the moment a certain brother drives into the city. The impression that the persuasion of men rests in the eloquence of the man preaching is ridiculous. Yet, this is commonly believed. Friend, persuasion's power in any endeavor is discovered in the action of those committed to such an enterprise, not only in the oratory of a single man unknown to most hearers. Paul said, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men..." (2 Corinthians 3:2,3).

Shakespeare said, "Action is eloquence; the eyes of the ignorant are more learned than their ears." One living example before our peers speaks volumes more eloquently than a thousand well-spoken words.

A congregation of the Lord's people who loves one another and dwells together in unity resounds as the clarion trump, "Ye are my disciples" (John 13:31-35; 2 Corinthians 3:18, RV).

Eloquence observed in action – Christ living in us – is our greatest means of persuasion. God's children trust in His word as of sufficient strength to change the lives of men. The example of that change in us testifies to the glory of God before mankind (Matthew 5:16). Brethren, our commitment to the cause of Christ manifest to those with whom we come in contact outruns logic. It is greater than most able oratory. Its vehement simplicity overwhelms the witness with the power of God to move men. Speaking of true eloquence, Daniel Webster wrote, "words and phrases may be marshaled in every way, but they cannot compass it." He earlier defined eloquence's power as noble, sublime. Godlike action. If our devotion to the Lord's work and the salvation of souls were so defined, few could resist the persuasive power of such an example.

Christians remain perplexed with the failure of humanity to obey Christ, but they need not be mystified as to the power to persuade them, God's word living and active in our speech and life. All other human invention is of little profit and its fruit defiled..

~via *Bible Viewpoints*, Katy, Texas..

News & Notes

THE SICK:

In The Hospital:

Mark Hargrove; Huntsville Hospital, ICU

At Home:

Lola Colwell	Helen Blankenship
Mot Beasley	Yvonne Sherbert
Wayne Vaughn	Carolyn Dean
Harold Hays	David Gardner
Gladys Johnson	Polly Davis
Janet Berryhill	Bobbie Adcock
Mary Davis	Elmer Mitchell
Bayless Romine	Henrietta Word
Molly Weeks	Nancy Pierce
Jeff Waddell	Wayne Garner
Thomas Lovell	Marie Welden

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Limestone Health Facility:

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 118 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Katherine Stoffregen, rm. 98 Mary Smith, rm. 85
Irene Daniel, rm. 67 Rosella Pugh, rm. 83

Limestone Manor:

Albert & Mary Norton, rm. 96

Limestone Lodge:

Ruth Owens, rm. 12W

Shut-In:

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.
Reba Adams, at home
Majorie Lambert, at daughter's home

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

- Brandi Lawrence; Afghanistan
- Joel Smith; Iraq
- Whitney Smith; Japan

WORK GROUPS: Tonight Work Group 1 will meet. If this is your group, remember to meet tonight following our evening service.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: This afternoon will be the time for our Children's Bible drill. I hope that all of our children we be able to be present.

NEW QUARTER IN BIBLE CLASSES: This morning we are beginning a new quarter in our Bible classes. I appreciate the dedication and work of all of our teachers. The children's classes will be continuing the curriculum that they are on. The Ladies Class will resume and be meeting this quarter on Sundays and Wednesdays. *Margaret Vaughn* will be the teacher. On Wednesday nights, *Joel Hamm* will be teaching an adult class on **Hebrews**. In the auditorium, *Warren Glass* will be teaching on Sunday mornings on 1 - 2 **Peter** and on Wednesday nights, I will continue our study of the **Book of Acts**. If you are not attending these classes, now would be a great time to join us.

NURSERIES AVAILABLE: There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other in the east wing.

THE RECORD: Attendance— Week of December 27th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 126
Morning Worship 168
Evening Worship..... 137
Wednesday: Bible Classes..... 95

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, January 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Frank Noblitt
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Steven Bradley
Preaching, David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Kenneth Smith
Assisting Rusty Brand
Serving Chris Sides Nathaniel Adams
..... Joel Hamm Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Frank Noblitt
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Rusty Brand
Closing Prayer Wayne Vaughn

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 3rd:
Usher Ronnie Locke
Work Sound System Danny Johnson

Wednesday, January 6th:

Song Leader Marion Mitchell
Bible Reading..... (Proverbs 27:15-28)
..... Russ Wulfekuhl
Prayer Marty Adams
Invitation Jerry McGlocklin
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Sunday, January 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Rusty Brand
Preaching, David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Larry Mitchell
Assisting Wayne Vaughn
Serving Marion Mitchell..... Marion Pepper
..... Tyler Cox Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Gilbert Hardy

Evening Worship

Announcements Stuart Wilson
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, January 10th:
Usher Rusty Brand
Work Sound System Marty Adams