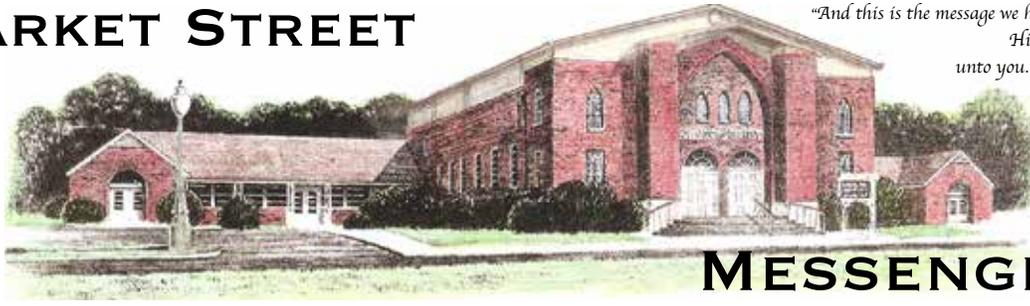


MARKET STREET



"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

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
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

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No. 28

Do Not Be Conformed, But Transformed

David A. Cox

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2)

In Romans 12, Paul is exhorting Christians to respond to God's mercy in the forgiveness of our sins and live lives that are an acceptable offering to God. In verse 2, Paul writes that we are to "not be conformed to the world." Paul is stressing that Christians are not to be molded or fashioned to the moral system in which they live. It is hard to live in the flesh and not conform to the things around us, but Jesus came and showed us how to not conform. Let us consider ways that will help us to be nonconformists and transformed into the image of Christ.

Be Aware. Be aware of what are your strengths and weaknesses. Do not allow yourself to be put into a situation that will hurl temptations at you. Be mindful of the things that are going on around you. Do not become so inoculated to society so that we do not even know that we are conforming our standards to the world and its standards. We need to remember that John wrote, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world." (1 John 2:15-16). When we passively go through life without considering the evil that is all around us, it is a sign that we are becoming conformed instead of transformed. Be watchful, alert, and take time to meditate on the things of God.

Keep Your Heart Focused on the Things of God. The key to keeping our hearts focused is to spend time reading and meditating on the word of God. The blessed man in Psalm 1 is keeping his heart focused on the word of God. He does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. Instead, his delight is found in meditating upon the law of the Lord. The blessed man here is a good picture of a man seeking to transform his life to God's will. He is not spending his time meditating on man's schemes and how

to get the upper hand in this life. He is not conforming to the world. He is keeping his heart focused on the right things, the things of God. The heart is the very core of who and what you are, so let us give our attention to keeping our hearts with the proper focus. Remember, the psalmist said, “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word” (Psalm 119:9). Let us take heed to the word with all of our hearts.

Keep Our Lives Pure. Paul wrote, “whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, what things are lovely whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8). The importance of our thinking cannot be overstressed when we are considering not being conformed but transformed. A close relationship with Christ will require that my thinking will be pure. It will be the kind of thinking that will allow my heart to be transformed. It will cause my heart to be uncontaminated and pure. Let us let our thinking be the kind of thinking that will transform us to be more like Christ.

Let us live our lives to God in sacrifice to Him for that great love and mercy He has shown us. May we ever be striving to transform our lives to what He desires for them to be. May we guard our lives against being conformed to the world we live in.



Tests of Fellowship

Marshall McDaniel

Often the phrase test of fellowship is used to indicate differences between groups which prevent them from working and worshiping together. While Scriptural judgments of others are necessary (John 7:24), the real test of fellowship should begin personally and internally (2 Corinthians 13:5). Fellowship between individuals is dependent on each one’s relationship with the Lord. The first letter from the apostle John provides several practical “tests.” If we are concerned about our relationships with the Lord, we should ask ourselves the following

questions:

The Truth Test: Am I believing and practicing the truth? God is Light, and to have fellowship with Him, we must walk in the light. Those who say they are righteous yet walk in darkness are liars and do not practice the truth. But, Christians who walk in the Light are being cleansed by the blood of Christ (1 John 1:5–7). If we transgress God’s law and walk in darkness, we have the devil as our father (1 John 3:4–10). But, if we keep the Lord’s commandments and walk in the same manner He walked, “the love of God is truly perfected in us” (1 John 2:3–6).

The Sin Test: Am I acknowledging and confessing my sins? The unsaved first come to God in baptism to contact the blood of Christ (Acts 22:16; Revelation 1:5), but we who are Christians are washed clean by the saving blood when we walk in the Light and acknowledge and confess our sins (1 John 1:9). To claim sinlessness is to implicate God as a liar and show the absence of his word in our hearts (1 John 1:8, 10). We must, like the sin-struck Simon the Sorcerer, repent and pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22). When we acknowledge our transgressions, pray to God asking for Him to cleanse us, and continue to examine ourselves, the Lord “is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9; Psalm 19:12).

The Love Test: Am I loving my brothers and sisters in Christ? John says those who claim to walk in the Light yet do not love their brothers and sisters in Christ are still in darkness (1 John 2:9, 11). This is a recurring theme in John. He writes, “Little children, let us not love with word and with tongue, but in deed and truth” (2:18). “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.... Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.... If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also” (4:8, 11, 20–21). Fellowship with God is dependent on our love for his children.

No doubt, we all want to be in—and stay in—fellowship with God and be ready for the Judgment? We must, therefore, make sure we are passing these tests of fellowship—“The Truth Test,” “The Sin Test,” and “The Love Test.” Our eternal destiny depends on it!

~via *Custer Connections*; Plano, Texas.

What Is The Real Reason?

Phillip Mullins

“There is no God.” The person who is usually heard making that statement almost always follows it up with one or more reasons why they think that way. They may claim that true science denies the existence of God. They may cite some seemingly strong evidence in favor of the theory of evolution. They might even make an attack on the accuracy and reliability of the Bible.

Whatever the reasons may be, the one who disbelieves in God usually claims that his thinking is based on “science” or “logic.” But what is the real reason for the unbelief of the unbeliever? Is it “scientific fact and logical reasoning” or something else?

Psalm 14:1 - “The fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.” As we see in this verse, there is a certain lifestyle that accompanies disbelief in God. That lifestyle is totally at odds with the will of the Creator. If you really believe in a God, it makes it hard to ignore His will. However, if you have convinced yourself that there is no God then it makes it easy to live as you please.

So, why do so many people disbelieve in God? Because they don’t want to be accountable to anyone but themselves, especially a Creator. They want to live their own way, they want to live in sin. Is your sinful lifestyle blinding you to the truth? Don’t be foolish, open your eyes and your heart to God.

~via *Path*; Anderson, California.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Dale Adcock
Bonnie Sutton	Don Bates
Pat Nixon	Shirley Miller
JoAnn Gilbert	Jimmy Johnson
Doris Lovell	Justice Gentry
Diane Kilpatrick	Janice Cagle

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Mike Ogles	Donna Wright
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Lloyd Adams	Phillip Harwell
Cornelia Pepper	Carrie Warner
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Barry DeFoor	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	Matt Bassford
Jason Pressnell	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 23B
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Shelia Barrett, rm.
Flossie Smith, rm. 103	

Limestone Health Facility:

Bettye Harrison, rm. 59	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
Joy Warner, rm. 14	Frances Bowers, rm. 67
Ann Bush, rm. 75	Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock, at home
Nell Barksdale, at home
Marci Bassett, Limestone Manor
Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
Barbara Carter, Traditions
Unaking Currier, Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
Irene Inman, at home
Bobby Ogles, Merrill Gardens, Madison
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Betty Pepper is to return to the doctor for a follow-up for her knee surgery. . . **Pat Nixon** was not able to get her tests done on Thursday, due to being sick. The tests have been rescheduled to July 28th . . . **Bonnie Sutton** has been having trouble with his hip this past week and has not been able to be out . . . **Mike Ogles** had his first RICE chemo treatment last weekend and will have another treatment in two weeks. . . **Joy Warner** is back at Limestone Health with hospice care following his hospital stay this past week. . . **Tony Thomas** has a another flare-up with his back. . . Remember our expecting mothers **Heather Cox**, **Casey Curry**, and **Lynsey Adams**, in your prayers.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, July 19th at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. If you would like to be a part of this, please join them next Monday morning.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class will resume meeting on Tuesday, July 20th. The class will be studying the "Authority of the Scriptures." The class will be meeting in the West Auditorium. *Scottie Reed* is coordinating this class.

TRUTH LECTURES: The *Truth Lectures* will begin this Monday evening at *Athens Bible School*. There will be a period of singing followed by an evening lecture on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The morning lectures each morning Tuesday through Thursday and will begin at 8:00 a.m. The class will be studying "*Studies on Eschatology*." There are a lot questions about end times and this will be a good study of these questions.

MARK MAYBERRY TO SPEAK: This Wednesday night *Mark Mayberry* will be here and speaking during our class period to the auditorium class. Mark is the editor of the *Truth Magazine* and is here for the lectures this week. *Mark* and his wife, *Sherelyn*, live in *Alvin, Texas* where Mark serves as the evangelist for the *Adoue Street church*. Mark has been with us before and preached for us and it will be good to have him and *Sherelyn* back with us again.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are continuing to be made after services. If you need to get your picture made, go to room 22 in the east wing.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Stiles: Chuck & Benita* are in Vicksburg, Mississippi... *Opal Conn* is in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of July 4th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	132
	Morning Worship	160
	Evening Worship	119
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	97



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Morning at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Come Join Us As We Study Together

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Holt
Assisting	Larry Tucker
Serving	Marvin Putman
	Heath Dollar
	Charles Vaughn ...
	Matthew Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Larry Holt
Prayer.....	Bob Broadus
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for the week of July 11th:

Ushers.....	Danny Holt/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, July 14th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading	Matthew Usery
	(Jude 14-25)
Prayer.....	Harold Ash
Invitation	Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Sunday, July 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching.....	Nathaniel Adams
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Tommy Coblenz
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Roger Hammonds
	Sam Gregory
	Danny Johnson.....
	Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Larry Tucker
Preaching	Kevin Harbin
Lord's Supper	Tommy Coblenz
Closing Prayer	Clayton Hamm

Other Assignments for the week of July 18th:

Ushers.....	Heath Dollar/Christian Usery
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt