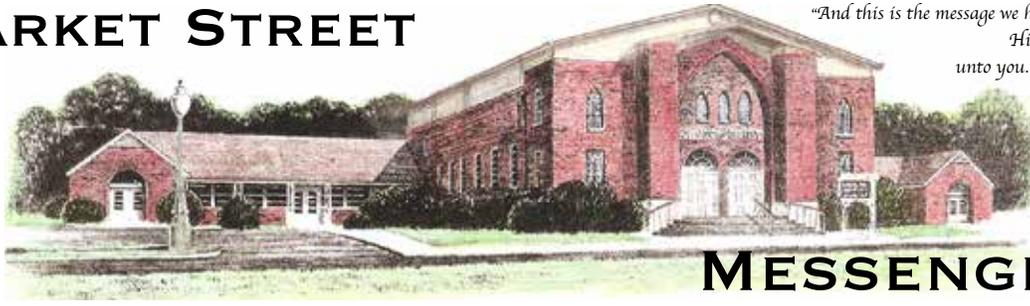


# MARKET STREET



*"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

*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. 33

## *What is the Focus?*

**David A. Cox**

*"And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" — (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).*

It is clear from what Paul said that the focus of his preaching was Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, in looking at church in the first century, the church's focus was on preaching Christ and Him crucified. The purpose of doing this was to bring people to Christ. They were bringing people out of the world of sin and darkness and into the kingdom of Christ. In the early chapters of Acts 2, 3, 4, and 5, etc., the early disciples were successful in this work. However, not every church remained focused on their work for the Lord. In Revelation 2:1-7, the church at Ephesus had done much good in its past. Paul had many great memories of his work done among them (Acts 20:17-ff), but they had lost their focus. In Revelation 2:4, we read, "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love." Also, the church at Laodicea had become so impressed with themselves that they said they "have need of nothing" (Revelation 3:17). These are two examples of churches that lost their focus concerning the mission of the church.

Seeing this problem that existed in the first century would cause us to ask, "Is it possible today that local congregations could lose their focus?" The answer is quite simple, "Yes, it is!" As a matter of fact, losing focus may be one of the greatest dangers facing local congregations. We see many churches that build large balances in the bank, focus on the successes of the past and find great satisfaction where they currently are. However, churches like this often fail to focus on teaching the lost and spiritually edifying the members of the body. Instead, churches will opt to focus on building gyms and places to gather to play games and eat. The focus changes from the needs of the spiritual side of man to secular and carnal appeals to people. Why does this happen? Because men allow

themselves to be influenced by the world around them.

The gospel is the power of God in the salvation of the souls of men. The gospel has not changed; it is the same as it was in the first century. Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to the Jew first and also the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Let us determine as individuals to keep our focus on the spiritual work God has given us to do. In doing so, we will be a local church that remains focused on saving souls and will not be sidetracked by fleshly, temporal things to convert people. It is only the gospel that will save! Why should we allow our focus to be lost to anything else?



## *Teaching Apollos*

**Matt Bassford**

Some of the stories that we read about in Scripture are impressive because of what we know about the laws of nature. Others are impressive because of what we know of humannature, and in the latter category falls the enlightenment of Apollos in Acts 18:24-28.

Put yourself in Apollos' sandals for a moment. Here, we have a guy with a lot going for him, both in terms of ability and understanding. He was an eloquent man, a powerful speaker, which even Paul wasn't. He was passionate about God and His word. He knew that Jesus was the Christ, and he boldly proclaimed Jesus everywhere he went.

However, there was a problem. Rather than proclaiming the saving baptism into Christ, Apollos knew only the baptism of John. All of his powerful preaching about Jesus led to the wrong conclusion.

The disciples Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos' flawed message, and they in turn had the courage to talk to him in private about his errors. Then, an amazing thing happens. Apollos listens to them! Even though changing his message will mean open acknowledgment of his prior misunderstanding, Apollos does change. Now, his eloquence is pointed in the right direction, and he helps the church greatly with his efforts.

Today, there are two great lessons here for us. First, it shows us the importance of leaving space for others to be Apolloses. Priscilla and Aquila did not, Paul-style, oppose Apollos to the face because he stood condemned. Instead, because they knew the truth would be painful for him to hear, they went to him privately in order to spare his pride as much as possible.

God does expect us to be forthright with the truth, but He also wants us to use wisdom in figuring out the most effective way of presenting that truth. After all, our goal in correcting error is hardly ever (or should hardly ever be, at least) to get somebody told. Our aim is not to check off the stand-up-for-Jesus box. It is to enlighten, to persuade, and to change minds and hearts.

Maybe Apollos would have listened if Priscilla and Aquila had blasted him publicly. Maybe somebody will listen to us if we present the truth to them with no consideration for their feelings. However, our chances of success go way up when we speak truth in love.

Second, the day may well come when we find ourselves in the same place Apollos was. We've been confidently proclaiming X, and some kind soul comes to us, Bible in hand, and says, "Well, actually, it's Y instead."

That's not much fun! Indeed, we will feel a strong temptation to continue clinging to X. Few indeed are the preachers today who will, like Apollos, accept that they've been preaching the wrong baptism and change their tune accordingly. Few indeed are the brethren who will easily embrace the truth after they've gone on record saying the opposite. Nonetheless, only if we are willing to humble ourselves and acknowledge our misunderstandings can God be glorified in us.

*~via Family Matters of Jackson Heights; Columbia, Tennessee.*



## *Remove Your Sandals*

**David Maxson**

A shepherd was out tending his sheep when he saw an incredible thing: a bush on fire that did not burn up! As he came closer to investigate he heard a voice from

the midst of the bush call him by name. The voice then said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground" (Exodus 3: 5). That shepherd was Moses, and the voice from the bush was God's. In this extraordinary scene we learn a much-needed lesson about worship.

Worship is a holy occasion. When we worship God we leave the mundane and trivial to come before the one, true and living God! Indeed, when we approach the Creator, whether it be in public or private worship, we must understand the seriousness and gravity of the occasion. We are entering into holy space. We are treading on holy ground!

When Moses led his people back to the mountain where God appeared to him in the bush, the children of Israel trembled before God. When they stood at the foot of the mountain and felt it tremble, seeing the smoke ascend from it, and hearing the blast of the trumpet and the voice of God, they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die" (Exodus 20:19).

Do we understand what it is we are doing when we worship? Do we understand that we are involved in something that is even higher and holier than what occurred at Sinai? As children of God under the new covenant, we have come to "Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all" (Hebrews 12: 22-23). Considering the magnitude of these incredible facts, the Hebrew writer prayed that we might have grace, "by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:28-29).

Listen, dear readers, to what I tell you now: the Lord is not our buddy, and God is not our chum... He is God! God is God and we are nothing! We are blood-bought mortals given the privilege of approaching our Creator in worship! We are undeserving sinners given the right through our Savior's blood to stand before the King of kings and Lord of lords! We must never forget who we are and who He is when we come before His throne! So when we worship, may we get down on our knees and remove our sandals, for the place where we stand is holy ground!!!

~via *The Cababa Heights Bulletin*; Birmingham, Alabama.

**Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.**

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Betty Pepper   | Ruby Dean Ezell  |
| Tena Wells     | Vickie Brown     |
| Pat Nixon      | Gayle Ball       |
| Shirley Miller | Vickie Brown     |
| JoAnn Gilbert  | Doris Lovell     |
| Justice Gentry | Diane Kilpatrick |
| Janice Cagle   |                  |

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mike Ogles         | Donna Wright     |
| Tommy Burns        | Priscilla Tucker |
| 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    |

### *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.       |

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bettye Harrison, rm. 59 | Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38 |
| Frances Bowers, rm. 67  | Ann Bush, rm. 75          |
| Alice Roberson, rm. 49  | Bobby Ogles, rm. 13       |

### *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  
 Stan Stanford, at home  
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison  
 Alan Thornton, Limestone Lodge  
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

### *Updates:*

**Tommy Burns** will be going to the surgeon on Monday...**Mike Ogles** has been approved to the CAR-T treatments in Nashville. They will begin on Monday

...**Priscilla Tucker** will receive one more radiation treatment on Monday. She had a pill implanted on Thursday ...**Gayle Ball** is to go back to the doctor on Tuesday of this week...**Donna Wright** had a round of her immunotherapy treatments this past week... **Ruby Dean Ezell** has been troubled with her back the past week and has not been able to be out as she would like ...**Joyce McGlocklin** had a biopsy done on Tuesday and is to return to the doctor in two weeks ... **Larry Holt** had a biopsy done on Tuesday and is to return to the doctor on Thursday ... **Heath Dollar** had some kidney stones extracted on Thursday...**Don Bates** had gall-bladder surgery on Thursday and all went well... **Bonnie Sutton** is scheduled to get injections in his back on Tuesday ...**Ewell Smith, Rita Smith's husband**, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He is scheduled to begin treatments on August 26<sup>th</sup> ...**Kerry Cox's mother, Fredia Lowman**, is scheduled for surgery on Thursday in Decatur ... Remember our expecting mothers **Heather Cox, Casey Curry**, and **Lynsey Adams**, in your prayers.

**CARD WRITING:** The card writing group will meet tomorrow morning at 10:30, to write and mail out cards. If you want to do this, please join them in the morning.

**TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS:** The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class is meeting each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is studying the "*Authority of the Scriptures.*" The class meets in the West Auditorium.

**SYMPATHY:** We are saddened by the news of the passing of **Jimmy Johnson**. Jimmy passed away during the night on Friday night. The arrangements for Jimmy are incomplete at this time. May the Lord bless all of Jimmy's family at this time.

**CONFESSIONS:** This past Sunday morning, **Keenon Currier** asked for prayers for forgiveness and strength... We appreciate the good hearts of those like Keenon and may the Lord bless Keenon in his life of service.

**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 August 8<sup>th</sup>:

|            |                      |     |
|------------|----------------------|-----|
| Sunday:    | Bible Classes.....   | 103 |
|            | Morning Worship..... | 130 |
|            | Evening Worship..... | 106 |
| Wednesday: | Bible Classes.....   | 80  |

## Men Privileged To Serve:

**Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>:**

### Morning Worship

|                      |                                 |             |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Announcements.....   | Keith Hinkle                    |             |
| Song Leader .....    | Hunter Cox                      |             |
| Prayer.....          | Stephen Lynn                    |             |
| Preaching.....       | David Cox                       |             |
| Lord's Supper        |                                 |             |
| Presiding.....       | Tommy Coblenz                   |             |
| Assisting .....      | Larry Tucker                    |             |
| Serving .....        | Matthew Usery..... Clayton Hamm |             |
|                      | Heath Dollar .....              | Sam Gregory |
| Closing Prayer ..... | David Barnett                   |             |

### Evening Worship

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Announcements.....   | Keith Hinkle   |
| Song Leader .....    | Tony Thomas    |
| Prayer.....          | Larry Holt     |
| Preaching.....       | David Cox      |
| Lord's Supper .....  | Tommy Coblenz  |
| Closing Prayer ..... | Roger Hammonds |

Other Assignments for the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>:

|                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ushers.....            | Russ Wulfekuhl/Larry Mitchell |
| Work Sound System..... | Landon Adams                  |

**Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>:**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Song Leader .....    | David Barnett   |
| Bible Reading .....  | Keenon Currier  |
|                      | (John 1:43-51)  |
| Prayer.....          | Nathaniel Adams |
| Invitation.....      | Dan Reed        |
| Closing Prayer ..... | Wayne Vaughn    |

**Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

### Morning Worship

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Announcements.....   | Tommy Coblenz                    |
| Song Leader .....    | Stephen Lynn                     |
| Prayer.....          | Bonnie Sutton                    |
| Preaching.....       | David Cox                        |
| Lord's Supper        |                                  |
| Presiding.....       | Harvey Nixon                     |
| Assisting .....      | Terry Andrews                    |
| Serving .....        | Roger Hammonds . Charles Vaughn  |
|                      | Matthew Vaughn... Russ Wulfekuhl |
| Closing Prayer ..... | Landon Adams                     |

### Evening Worship

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Announcements.....   | Tommy Coblenz |
| Song Leader .....    | Tommy Burns   |
| Prayer.....          | Keith Hinkle  |
| Preaching .....      | Song Service  |
| Lord's Supper .....  | Harvey Nixon  |
| Closing Prayer ..... | Bob Broadus   |

Other Assignments for the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>:

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Ushers.....            | Hunter Cox/Joel Hamm |
| Work Sound System..... | Larry Holt           |