

# MARKET STREET



*"And this 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.org

### 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*

Volume I

February 22, 2009

No. 8

## *Does God Speak To People Today?*

**Mark W. White**

In the Garden of Eden, God spoke directly to Adam, commanding him to refrain from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). Centuries later, "the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision" while he dwelt in the land Canaan (Genesis 15:1). The patriarch Jacob received a message from Jehovah via the "Angel of God," who spoke to him in a dream (Genesis 31:11). The Lord spoke directly to Moses at the burning bush on Mount Horeb (Exodus 3-4). The angel Gabriel brought messages from God to Zacharias, who was dwelling in Jerusalem (Luke 1:11-21), and to Mary, the mother of Jesus, who lived in Nazareth (Luke 1:26-33). Even Saul, who was on his way to Damascus to imprison any Jewish Christians he might find, received a "heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19; cf. Acts 9). A list of God's appearances and messages to men seems almost endless. No Bible believer can dispute the fact that God has revealed messages to men countless times, either directly or through avenues other than written revelation.

The question often asked today is, "Does God still communicate to people through dreams and visions like He did in biblical times?" Should we expect Him to call upon us directly at any moment to do some great work, like Saul was called to do? Will God send an angel to me to disclose more revelation than what is given in the Bible? Or, similar to how Eli instructed Samuel, should I "go lie down" and wait on Jehovah to reveal some message to me (1 Samuel 3:9-10). In view of the fact that for millennia God communicated to people either directly or through avenues other than written revelation, why do some today claim that God communicates to man only through the Bible? Just how is it that we "hear God" today?

According to Hebrews 1:1-2, "God who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2) In another contrast between the prophets of old (namely, Moses and Elijah) and Jesus, God instructed Peter, James, and John, saying, "This (Jesus) is my beloved

Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (Matthew 17:5). Jesus informed His listeners on one occasion of the reason we must “listen” to Him: “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). For one to be pleasing to God, he must learn and obey the words of Jesus.

But how do we “hear” Jesus? Consider the following line of reasoning from the Scriptures:

The night of Jesus’ betrayal, He prayed to the Father, 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). The “their” of verse 20 refers to those for whom Jesus was praying in the preceding verses (17:6-19) – the apostles. Jesus prayed for the unity of future believers, which He stated would be based upon the apostles’ word.”

On that same night, Jesus told the apostles, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he whom receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who received Me receives Him who sent Me” (John 13:20). After Jesus’ resurrection, and before His ascension into heaven, Jesus told these same disciples: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). To receive the apostles’ teachings, then, was to receive Jesus. But how do we receive the apostles’ doctrine today? Since all of the apostles are dead, by what method do the apostles speak to us in the twenty-first century? Paul answered this question in Ephesians 3:1-5. “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles – if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.”

Today, a person can understand “the mystery of Christ” through the written revelation of men like the apostle Paul, who received the Truth “through the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 1:11-12). Still, some ask: “Haven’t other men who have lived through the centuries, even into the twenty-first century, been inspired by God to reveal His message?” Actually, the

Bible indicates that all Truth necessary for salvation was revealed during the lifetime of the apostles. The night before Jesus’ crucifixion, He promised His apostles that after His departure from them, the Spirit would come and guide them “into all truth” (John 16:13), teaching them “all things,” and bringing to their remembrance “all things” that Jesus taught them (John 14:26). After His crucifixion and resurrection (but before He ascended into heaven), Jesus then commanded these same disciples to “make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). The faith...was once for all delivered to the saints” in the first century (Jude 3), so that since that time Christians have had “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3).

Hearing God’s will in the twenty-first century is as easy as picking up the providentially preserved Bible and reading what Jesus’ “apostles and prophets” recorded for our benefit. God’s revelation thoroughly equips us for every good work (cf. 2 Timothy 3:17), so that no modern-day messages, dreams, or visions are needed.

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama.

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## *Is The Old Testament Binding Today?*

**Cecil F. Cox**

There are two main divisions in the Bible, The Old Testament and the New Testament. Both of these are God’s Word and should be studied by all Christians. But let us now raise this question: “Are both the Old and New Testaments given to us for authority in religion today?” Many say, “Yes,” and go back to the Old Testament, and the law of Moses, to find authority for the things they teach and practice in religion. There are two extreme views on this point. (1) Both Old and New Testaments are authority in religion today. (2) The Old Testament is of no value today. Both of these views are false.

To claim that the Old Testament is of no value is erroneous. It is of value to us, but this does not make it God’s revelation. In 2 Peter 1:21, Peter said, “For the

prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The Old Testament is valuable to us because it was written for our example. In 1 Corinthians 10, we notice Paul brings to the attention of the Christians at Corinth several things that happened in the Old Testament. Then in verse 11 he said, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come." Romans 15:4 teaches us that the Old Testament was written for our learning. There is no Scripture that teaches that the Old Testament should be our law today.

We learn from a study of the Word of God that the Old Testament was not to continue always as a binding law. In Galatians 3:23-25, we learn that the purpose of the law was to bring us to Christ. The law in this passage is called a schoolmaster, and Paul said since faith has come, we are no longer under the schoolmaster. Read this passage and see how plain it is.

The purpose of the law was to bring us to Christ. After Christ came and established His law, this put an end to the Old Testament as a law for people in religion. Notice the three statements Paul makes about the Old Testament law: (1) Blotted out. (2) Took it out of the way. (3) Nailed it to the cross. (Colossians 2:14)

-via *The Instructor*; Albertville, Alabama.



## **Tomorrow**

**Jimmy Tuten**

"Tomorrow" is the great enemy of advancement. Boasting of tomorrow is the lazy man's way of evading today's duties.

"Tomorrow" leaves more tasks undone, more books unread, more house uncleaned, more programs unlaunched, more resolutions unkept than any other factor in life.

"Tomorrow" is the great enemy of the church. Our greatest liability is not our ignorance, or our unconcern, or our unwillingness, but "Tomorrow". More absentees have been neglected, more lessons have gone unprepared,

more prospects have gone unlisted, more lost people have gone unsaved because of "Tomorrow." It is the great enemy of the soul. Where one man has died and gone to hell because he was an infidel, an agnostic, or an atheist, ten thousand have gone because they have counted on "Tomorrow."

Tomorrow is Satan's best scheme in keeping lost men lost. Yes, Satan knows he will never destroy your faith in the Bible or your belief in the love of God. He does not care when you realize that you are lost and need to be a Christian. He knows all of these things are of no avail to you if he can keep you waiting until "Tomorrow."

-via *The Expressway Edifier*; Wildersville, Tennessee.

## **News & Notes**

### **THE SICK:**

#### ***In The Hospital:***

*Jerry Tucker*; Athens-Limestone Hospital – ICU

*Lester Elmore*; Decatur General – ICU

*Kennedy Pepper*; Huntsville Hospital

*Adele Lovell*; Athens-Limestone Hospital

#### ***At Home:***

Wendell Sherbert

Annie Mae Bragg

Jerry Gilbert

Mary Norton

Carl Hargrave

June Dawson

Yvonne Sherbert

Peggy Taylor

Benton Hardy

Jeff Waddell

Dwight Lovell

Mike Sherbert

Lucy Clanton

Uyles Reid

Angela Green

Joe Giardina

#### ***Limestone Health Facility:***

Essie Belle Bates, rm. 108 Mary Smith, rm 85

Rosella Pugh, rm. 33 J.D. Clanton, 11E

Sarah (Jennie) Green, rm

#### ***Athens Convalescent Center:***

Betty Bates, rm. 17

Mae Alesi, rm. 35

#### ***Limestone Manor:***

Ruth Owens, rm. 80

#### ***Limestone Lodge:***

Lifford Abernathy, rm. 28-E

**Shut-In:**

Sarah Halbrook, Glade Retirement, Memphis, Tenn.  
Jimmy Killen, at home  
Reba Adams, at home  
Mauvis Phillips, at home  
Majorie Lambert, at home  
Fred Varnell, at home  
Ellis Dunnavant, at home

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Remember all those that are away serving in the military for our country. Those among us that are serving away from home:

Cody Brown; Iraq

**CLARA LEWIS (1924 - 2009):** It is with sadness that we noted the passing of sister *Clara Lewis*. She passed away this past Monday evening and her funeral was on Thursday morning and burial in the Pettusville cemetery. She had been a member here at Market Street for a number of years, but has not been to attend the last couple of years and has been shut-in at home. We express our deepest sympathy to all of sister Lewis family in her passing.

**CONFESSION:** On Thursday afternoon, *Jerry Tucker* expressed his desire to make his life right with God and ask for prayers for forgiveness of unfaithfulness. We are thrilled to see Jerry and his desire to be in a right standing before the Lord. May the Lord richly bless him.

**ADDRESSES:** The addresses that appear in the *Church Family News* on Wednesday nights are posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING:** We will be meeting this afternoon at 4:15 to discuss our plans for our VBS this summer. I hope that every one that is interested in this effort will be able to attend. We will meet in the little auditorium on the west wing.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Westview church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *David McKee* preaching... The *Somerville Road church* in Decatur is beginning a meeting Friday and it will continue through next Sunday with *Phillip Mullins*.

**THE RECORD: Attendance – Week of February 15th**

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 130  
Morning Worship ..... 143  
Evening Worship..... 120

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 97

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, February 22nd:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
Song Leader ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Wayne Vaughn  
Assisting ..... Kenneth Smith  
Serving ..... Raymond Brown..... Cory Nelson  
..... Hunter Cox..... Dan Lovell  
Closing Prayer ..... Landon Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Joel Hamm  
Song Leader ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Prayer ..... Stuart Wilson  
Preaching ..... Warren Glass  
Lord's Supper ..... Wayne Vaughn  
Closing Prayer ..... Bonnie Sutton

Other Assingments for Sunday February 22nd:  
Usher ..... Ronnie Locke  
Work Sound System ..... Marty Adams

**Wednesday, February 25th:**

Song Leader ..... Tim Craig  
Bible Reading.....(Proverbs 7:10-27)  
..... Rusty Brand  
Prayer ..... Marion Mitchell  
Invitation ..... Warren Glass  
Closing Prayer ..... Tyler Cox

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**Sunday, March 1st:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Rusty Brand  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Steve Bradley  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Kenneth Smith  
Assisting ..... Wayne Vaughn  
Serving ..... Raymond Brown..... Cory Nelson  
..... Hunter Cox..... Dan Lovell  
Closing Prayer ..... Tim Craig

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Rusty Brand  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Frank Noblitt  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Kenneth Smith  
Closing Prayer ..... Joel Hamm

Other Assingments for Sunday March 1st:  
Usher ..... Marty Adams  
Work Sound System ..... Danny Johnson