

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill is still struggling but continues to receive dialysis treatments.
Jeff Sturgill has a sore on his foot but is now doing better.
Jesse Riddle is experiencing weakness but is able to attend Sunday AM service.
Shawn Mathews is meeting with a surgeon to determine if he needs gall bladder surgery.
Charlene Boggs' son, Jared was hospitalized, suffering from colon issues. He had successful surgery to remove a section of his colon and is now recovering at home.
John Richardson is recovering from gall bladder surgery.
Bobby Epeards, son of Iris Hash, suffered a heart attack and had to have two stents inserted. He is in the hospital at Terre Haute.
Karen Sproles is doing better and hopes to have a nerve block injection in her knee soon.
Karen Sproles son, Chester, was in the hospital recently suffering from back problems, but is now back home.
Glenda Coons, former member, is struggling and in need of prayer. Please remember her and her husband Eldon in your prayers.
Nan Coons, wife of Darian and daughter-in-law of Eldon and Glenda Coons was at home and now able to eat and slowly improving.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium. We will be blessed to have brother Goshorn and his family with us on Sunday, February 18th. He will provide us with an update of their work in Peru.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, February 8th at 5:00.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, February 18th following the AM services. Following the dinner, we will meet at 1:00 PM for a service in song.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

January 21, 2024

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM
Worship – 10:30 AM
Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"
Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

SOMETIMES TO BUILD UP YOU MUST TEAR DOWN

Marvin L. Weir

Godly elders are watchmen of the flock and will never allow those who do not respect and fully proclaim God's word to occupy the pulpit.

The mentality that allowed each person to do "that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25) during the time of the Judges is the same warped mentality that afflicts not only this world but also many of God's people today. In fact, this anti-pattern, anti-God, type of thinking continued to afflict the Israelites long after the period of the Judges. The saying is absolutely true that "sin is long-lived and deep-rooted!"

King Josiah was convinced that in order to receive God's blessing, Judah would have to live and worship according to God's pattern. There are numerous lessons we can learn from Josiah's edicts that are recorded in 2 Kings 23.

First, All the people were required to hear the word of God! "And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD" (2 Kings 23:2). It is the word of God that enables people to make decisions that are right. Without hearing the word of God, one will not know what he needs to do in order to please the Almighty (cf. Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12).

Second, Josiah ordered the priests to "bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven." He burned them in the fields of Kidron and carried the ashes of them unto Beth-el (2 Kings 23:4). The objects made by the hands of men that did not glorify God and were contrary to His word had to be purged from the temple. An instrument of music is such an object today and instead of condemning such, we have many congregations now clamoring for such instruments to compliment their worship assemblies. "Dedications" and "testimonials" are now common occurrences in many worship assemblies, and those who prefer to please themselves love to have it so. If elders would read, believe, and vow to abide by the Holy Scriptures, a tremendous purging would occur in most congregations today.

Man simply does not have the authority to declare what is acceptable or unacceptable to God! A "thus saith the Lord" is essential if one is to worship according to God's will. The mindset and actions of Josiah are sorely needed in the Lord's church today!

Third, King Josiah "put down the idolatrous priests" (2 Kings 23:5). The king knew the priests were a great influence on the people. He did not begin at the bottom and work his way up. Josiah started at the top with those who had responsibility to see that God's word was respected. The idolatrous priests "had to go" if the people were ever to please God.

The same is true with "turncoat" preachers today. Godly elders will never allow those who do not respect and fully proclaim God's word to occupy the pulpit. Why? Because what comes forth from the pulpit is going to have a tremendous affect upon

who is sitting in the pew. Many brethren sit wringing their hands and complaining that they do not understand what is happening to the Lord's church. What has happened again and again is that liberal preachers and youth ministers have been paid to lead both the old and the young astray! Those who are supposed to be serving the congregation as elders have failed miserably by not warning the congregation and immediately removing those peddling the devil's doctrine. Those who serve as elders are the "watchmen" of the flock and are obligated to sound forth a warning when sin rears its ugly head. God's Word declares that an elder is to hold "fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Titus 1:9). Coffman correctly states regarding the above verse: "This has been taken by many to be a commentary on 1 Timothy 3:2, in which Paul states that the elder must be 'apt to teach'" and that view would appear to be correct. The primary duty of elders, namely, that of watching over and protecting the flock of God, requires that they be students of the holy Scriptures, having a broad knowledge of what is and what is not sound doctrine. That he may be able to convict the gainsayers ... This shows why an elder must be apt to teach and must possess an accurate and extensive knowledge of the holy truth revealed in the Scriptures ... Such men must be prevented from achieving their evil purpose; and an eldership not having sufficient ability in the Scriptures is unequal to the task."

Fourth, Josiah ordered that "no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech" (2 Kings 23:10). In many instances the elders act today as if the youth and young families are running the church. Wrongdoing and a rebellious spirit are not to be tolerated in the kingdom. There is a time to say "No" and "mark" (Rom. 16:17) or "withdraw fellowship" (2 Thess. 3:6) from those who refuse to repent; and instead, insist upon corrupting true worship (John 4:24).

Fifth, Josiah broke down the altar and high places created by men (2 Kings 23:15). People cannot, with God's approval, continue to cherish and cling to that which is wrong. Folks today don't want to turn from error because they are concerned about hurting someone's feelings and "backlash" from family members and friends. Should not one rather fear the wrath of God? To save our souls, we must be more concerned with hurting God than hurting man!

The truth of the matter is that sometimes before brethren can "build up" they must "tear down." A proper foundation is never erected upon the sinking sand (Matt. 7:24-27). King Josiah knew that rotten rubble had to be cleared away before the people could build properly. Brethren today need desperately to grasp this biblical principle.

May elders, preachers, and Bible class teachers do as did Josiah and use the sword of the Spirit to expose and overcome false teaching! Let us never forget that sometimes to build up we must tear down!