

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Karen Shanafelt, daughter of sister Shirley Cook, is recovering from surgery.
Beverly Anderson is still recovering at home.
Joni McConnell's daughter-in-law's mother is doing better.
Brother Bob Hawkins received an outpatient infusion for his chronic back pain
Mike Parnell's sister, Brenda has cancer and is undergoing radiation.
Shirley Cook is still recovering from her fall in Florida.
Charlie Henard's mother is recovering from pneumonia and also has Alzheimer's.
Karen Sproles is still suffering with problems in her knee.
Iris Hash is being treated for stomach problems and also has neck pain.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash

Pray For The Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia)

Ladies' Community Outreach Work:

The ladies of the congregation will be donating items on a monthly basis for the Morgan County Department of Child Services (DCS) to assist in the care of children who have been removed from their homes. For the month of March, the item to be donated is baby formula. Please bring this in throughout the month so they can be delivered.

March Monthly Pitch-in:

Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, March 6th, immediately following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a song service then dismiss for the day.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's business meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd at 5:00 PM. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Radio Program:

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

God's Plan For Our Salvation:

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

February 27, 2022

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

Radio Program:

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

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

“TOTAL HEREDITARY DEPRAVITY” A DOCTRINE FROM THE DARK AGES

Carl O. Cooper

It would be unfortunate for any person to feel that he was so “depraved and spiritually dead” that he had no hope of understanding God’s simple plan of salvation and therefore made no effort to try to understand.

Allow your mind to drift back a little more than 400 years — long before you were born or even before America was populated by Europeans looking for a new land and a new freedom to practice their religious beliefs without persecution. It was during these times in 1594 that modern science was a mixture of alchemists, sorcery, and superstition. Witches were considered to exist and many were burned at the stake. Houses were considered to be haunted by ghosts, and spirits were said to walk the corridors at night. People were afraid of those who were thought to be possessed with devils and evil spirits. Religious leaders performed exorcisms to rid people of demonic possessions. The Bible talked about a “Holy Ghost.”

It was “common knowledge” in 1594 that ghosts and spirits haunted, inhabited, and indwelt people and things. And what’s more, they caused things to move, shake and tremble. Would the Holy Ghost do any less? It was easy to believe that the Holy Ghost would cause great miraculous events to occur in the lives of those of whom he dwelled. It was in this environment that John Calvin advocated and promoted the doctrine of “Total Depravity.” This doctrine by Calvin, along with others, is still widely accepted by many religious people today. Many churches of many different denominations teach this doctrine as part of their creed.

“Total Depravity” or “Total Hereditary Depravity” as some teach it, says that all mankind inherits the sin of Adam and becomes guilty of Adam’s sin and are spiritually lost even before they are born. They teach such a person is totally deprived of salvation and is spiritually dead. He is so dead and so depraved, that he cannot even have faith, nor can he understand the Scriptures, or even obey God’s will. In fact, he cannot even come close to God until the Holy Ghost indwells him and allows him to have an understanding of spiritual things and to come to salvation.

Considering the environment in which Calvin lived, it is easy to see how this teaching could have been perpetuated 400 years ago. But today, it’s very hard to see how so many people can be led astray in their thinking with the amount of resources and knowledge that is available for everyone to study. Just a quick look at [Matthew 18:3](#) shows that God does not consider children to be depraved, lost, and guilty of sin.

Jesus said, “*Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*” In fact, this passage says just the opposite. Children are pure and without sin. We need to be like them in order to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Surely everyone has read the passage in [Ezekiel 18:20](#), “*The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*” Is this passage not crystal clear proof that no one inherits the sins of Adam?

What about the teaching that we cannot understand or obey the Scriptures until we are indwelt (enlightened) by the Holy Spirit? Many people teach and hold this view. But another check of the Scriptures shows this also to be wrong.

There are many doctrines taught concerning the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. There are many good books on this subject for more information. I would recommend the books by Howard Winters, Rod Rutherford, and Robert Taylor. These are very good sources for more study. But no matter what you believe about the Holy Spirit, whether you believe in a literal personal indwelling or whether you hold that the Holy Spirit dwells in us indirectly through the word, or if you believe that the “gift of the Holy Spirit” is all the blessings given to those who are “in Christ” almost all would agree that the Bible teaches in [Acts 2:38](#) that the “gift of the Holy Spirit” is given AFTER salvation. “*Then Peter said to them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”

It is true that the only way to salvation is through the Gospel. The Gospel has been revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in the Bible, the Inspired Word. In this sense, we have been guided into salvation by the Holy Spirit and taught what we must do to be saved. In fact, anything that man knows about God or God’s will comes to us by the revelation of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. “*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God*” ([1 Cor. 2:10-11](#)). The Holy Spirit reveals God’s will to us through the inspired word.

It would be unfortunate for any person to feel that he was so “depraved and spiritually dead” that he had no hope of understanding God’s simple plan of salvation and therefore made no effort to try to understand. That person would be forever spiritually dead waiting for God to reveal what the Holy Spirit revealed long ago through and in and by his