

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Karen Shanafelt, daughter of sister Shirley Cook, is recovering from surgery. Beverly Anderson suffered a fall, broke her femur, had surgery to repair the break and is undergoing rehab in the Grand Valley Rehabilitation Center in Martinsville.

Joni McConnell's daughter-in-law's mother is doing better.

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.

Charlie Henard's sister recently had both hips replaced.

Karen Sproles is still suffering with problems in her knee.

Iris Hash is being treated for stomach problems and also is having nasal problems.

Aletia Sturgill, friend of Ray and Liz, is battling a severe case of COVID and is hospitalized in Norton, VA.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia)

Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru) – the men recently agreed to send the Goshorns a one-time contribution of \$1000 and to begin providing ongoing support of their mission work of \$200 per month.

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. If you would like to support this work, please bring this in throughout the month so they can be delivered at month's end.

March Monthly Pitch-in:

Our monthly pitch-in dinner is today, 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.

Daylight Savings Time Change:

Please remember to move your clocks one hour forward next Saturday night, March 12th. If you don't, you may be late for Sunday morning services!

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).

March 6, 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

A CROWN LAID UP FOR ME

Gary Colley

Please allow this article to remind you of the joyous words of Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 when he speaks of his death being near. He said there was something “laid up” for him called a “crown.” He called this reserved item a “crown of righteousness.”

INTERESTED IN THE LOST

Paul later wrote to the Roman brethren that he was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, and that therein was revealed “*the righteousness of God* (or God’s plan of salvation of faith, repentance, confession of Jesus as God’s Son, and baptism in water for the remission of sins for a person to become righteous. GC) *from faith unto faith: as it is written. But the righteous shall live by faith*” (Rom. 1:16-17).

In Romans 10:1-3, Paul shows that the Jews were lost; but that they were not lost or doomed beyond remedy. Rather, he teaches them as he did the Corinthians, that they might be saved by obedient belief in the good news of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-3)! At the present time, he said they were ignorant of God’s righteousness—His plan by which they could have salvation.

PAUL’S TWO LIVES

The first half of Paul’s life had been lived under the Law of Moses, but in defiance and rebellion against Jesus and His established church (Acts 8:1-2). He believed in God, but not in Jesus (John 14:1). But a great change came in the latter half of his life as he lived in obedience to his new King, Jesus. Therefore, his life now was a life of obedience, lived in keeping the New Testament commandments, which constitutes “righteousness” (Psa. 119:172). Along this line, Jesus also asked, “*Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I command you*” (Luke 6:46)?

Jesus’ promise in the great commission is that He will be with those who observe His will, “*always, even to the end of the world*” (Matt. 28:18-20). The apostle John, “the apostle of love”, wrote, “*Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning*” (1 John 3:7-8).

THE REWARD

Paul makes it evident, that righteousness as a crown, would be his eternal reward for fighting a good fight as he upheld the Gospel (1 Tim. 6:12), finishing the race of living in faithfulness, and keeping the faith to the end of life (2 Tim. 4:7-8). This, he did in spite of all the opposition and the devil’s afflictions sent his way in life. For Jesus’ purpose to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), “*the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*” (1 John 3:7-8). Peter exhorts, “*Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*” (1 Peter 5:8).

RIGHTEOUSNESS AS A CROWN

The Christian life is a life of obedient faith in which we walk or live. And, for holding fast or keeping the faith of the Gospel in his life, Paul had this blessed assurance of 1 John 2:25—eternal life. The crown is “laid up” or reserved with his name on it, until he goes to receive it. The beautiful part about this is that he says all today can have the same! This is much like what is promised to the faithful Christian in the last book of the Bible when Jesus speaks of those who “*die in the Lord*” (Rev. 14:13).

Note closely Paul’s closing words: “*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*” (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

CROWNS

Several crowns are mentioned in the Bible. The first crown in the Bible was a crown of beauty. It is mentioned as a crown of gold “upon the head of Joseph” in Egypt (Gen. 49:26). The most horrible crown ever worn or mentioned in God’s record, was the crown of thorns worn by Jesus, the only begotten Son of the living God (Matt. 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2,5). He died that all who will obey Him can avoid wearing a crown of eternal punishment in Hell (Heb. 5:8-9)!

WHICH CROWN WILL WE CHOOSE FOR OURSELVES?