

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Liz Sturgill was discharged from the hospital, back home and doing better.  
Jeff Sturgill continues to recover from a sore on his foot.  
Ray and Liz's brother-in-law in Kentucky is recovering from surgery to remove a tumor in the back of his neck  
Jesse Riddle is experiencing weakness but is sometimes able to attend Sunday AM service. He recently has been placed under hospice care.  
Virginia McKinney is in need of our prayers. She has been diagnosed with cancer and is scheduled for surgery April 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Bob Hawkins continues to receive treatment for the veins in his legs.  
Shawn Mathews will meet with a surgeon to see if he needs gall bladder surgery.  
Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling cancer.  
Please pray for Mike and Doris Parnell's neighbor's son, Jake, who has a serious illness.  
Please pray for Charlene Boggs' granddaughter who enlisted in the Navy.  
Karen Sproles is suffering from COVID and kidney issues. At some point she hopes to have a nerve block injection in her knee.  
Glenda Coons, former member, is struggling with as of yet undiagnosed health issues and is in need of prayer.  
Nan Coons, wife of Darian and daughter-in-law of Eldon and Glenda Coons was is 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..

**2024 Gospel Meetings:**

A spring gospel meeting will be held April 12-14 with brother Ronnie Whittemore of the Stop 11 Rd. Church of Christ in Indianapolis and a fall gospel meeting will be held September 6-8 with brother Tom House of the Plainview Church of Christ in Fulton, MS.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, April 3rd at 5:00.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, April 14th, following the AM services. Following the dinner, we will meet at 1:00 PM to conclude our gospel meeting with brother Ronnie Whittemore.

**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).

March 17, 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](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## “IT STILL MEANS WHAT IT SAYS”

Marvin L. Weir

The story is often told of the Bible class teacher who reads a verse of Scripture and someone asks, “What does it mean?” The teacher quickly replies, “It means what it says.” Although this answer is not suitable for every question that is raised, it does cut to the heart of the matter regarding the accuracy and finality of the Scriptures. God cannot lie (Heb. 6:18), and neither will His Words “pass away” (Matt. 24:35). Jesus warned people regarding His unchanging Word during His earthly ministry in stating, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my word, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

Most religious groups today teach that baptism is not necessary for one to become a child of God. The question asked on Pentecost was easily understood and so was the answer. “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto 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” (Acts 2:37-38). What does Acts 2:38 mean? It means what it says. Baptism is required for one to have remission of sins and become a member of the Lord’s church.

Jesus said to the apostles, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). This verse clearly states the Gospel requires one to be baptized to be saved. It means what it says!

Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Is it not easily understood that baptism is necessary in order to wash away one’s sins? If Saul of Tarsus was saved per denominational teaching, he was saved in his sins! Such is not true! The Lord knew that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23), and thus He warned his audience in declaring, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). A careful Bible student will also observe that Paul’s “praying” and “fasting” did not remove his sins (Acts 9:9-11), but baptism did wash away his sins. The Scriptures state, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). This Scripture means exactly what it says!

Another popular false doctrine today is that a child of God cannot sin so as to be lost. Many folks believe in the “once saved, always saved” dogma in spite of what the word of God clearly states. Paul said to the Galatians who had obeyed the gospel, “...whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4). How can one “fall away” from grace if he were never saved?

Peter warns, “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is

happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire” (2 Peter 2:20-22). What do these verses of Scripture mean? They mean exactly what they say. It is possible for a child of God to choose again a life of sin and fall from the grace of God. There is absolutely no way for anyone to explain away what the apostle Peter teaches. Common sense and logic screams that one cannot fall from somewhere he has never been!

Another popular false doctrine today is that one is saved by “faith only.” The Bible teaches, however, “Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:24, emph. MLW). To make sure there is no misunderstanding the Holy Spirit continues in saying, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:26). These verses mean exactly what they say—one cannot be saved by faith only!

Can one who desires to go to Heaven attend the church of his choice and please God? The Bible says, “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). This verse means what it says. Christ promised to build His church (singular). The apostle Paul teaches there is only “one body” (Eph. 4:4) and that God “...put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph. 1:22-23). These verses mean exactly what they say. There is only one body over which Christ is head and it is the church that He built! Christ declares that He is the savior of His body and no other (Eph. 5:23)!

What does it mean to “seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness” (Matt. 6:33)? What does it mean when it says, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” (Heb. 10:25)? What does it mean to “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt. 22:37)?

The Bible (God’s Word) has always meant what it says! Man can choose to ignore the Scriptures, but such does not change the fact that he will one day be judged by exactly what God has said (John 12:48).

Do the Holy Scriptures mean exactly what they say? Absolutely! And no one or anything in this world will ever change this truth!