

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

Liz Sturgill continues to have dialysis treatments at Spencer three times a week. She had a new stint port inserted last week.

John Richardson has been suffering from gallstones.

Debbie Cook, daughter-in-law of sister Shirley, fell and fractured her spine.

Ray Sturgill's brother Darrell in Virginia is recovering from a sore on his leg.

Karen Sproles had another cancerous growth removed on Friday. She is also still receiving steroid injections for her knee.

Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems. She had a monitor implanted to help determine if there are issues with her heart.

Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney, John and Terry Richardson

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru)

**Ladies' Bible Class Resumes:**

The ladies' Bible class will resume on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

**Paris Church of Christ Ladies' Day:**

The ladies of the congregation are making plans to attend a ladies' inspiration day at the Paris, IL Church of Christ on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. More information to follow.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be held Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> following the morning services. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for an afternoon song service.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**2023 Gospel Meetings:**

A Spring meeting will be held May 19-21 with brother Ben Vick of the Shelbyville Rd. Church of Christ in Indianapolis. A Fall meeting will be held November 10-12 with brother Bill Boyd of the Rockliff Church of Christ in McMinnville, TN.

**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**

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 26, 2023

***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

## The Idolatry of Selective Obedience

Selective obedience is actually disobedience. Good parents do not allow their children to pick and choose when they will obey. Likewise, God has given commands to men expecting all of them to be followed. He is the one lawgiver who stands behind all of the commands. If we fear God, we cannot treat His words as a buffet, picking only those precepts which we like to keep, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). When it comes to civil offenses, people speak of “breaking the law” in general not “breaking a law” because one does not have to commit every crime to be a criminal. The law has a unity to it which is indivisible.

The above reference in James is in the midst of a discussion about showing partiality. Evidently a problem existed of honoring the rich and snubbing the poor (James 2:1-4). To act this way was to disregard God’s law. “If you really fulfill *the royal law* according to the Scripture, ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*,’ you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors” (James 2:8-9). God’s law demands love for all. One may well refrain from breaking one stipulation of God’s law, but to show partiality runs against the whole tenor of the law in loving your neighbor as yourself, referred to here in James as the “royal law” (cf. Lev. 19:18).

By way of illustration, James 2:11 gives an example from the Old Testament law given on Sinai, “For He who said, ‘*Do not commit adultery*,’ also said, ‘*Do not murder*.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do

murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.” Prohibitions against adultery and murder are found in the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:13, 14; Deut. 5:17, 18). Both do harm to one’s neighbor (Rom. 13:8-10). The point James is making would be true with any two of the commandments of God. The murderer may be faithful to his wife, but that does not absolve him of taking innocent life.

Selective obedience really is a form of idolatry. The attraction of the idol is to be able to create our own good and evil. Sin occurs when we set ourselves up in the place of God (Gen. 3:5). Thus, the beginning of the Ten Commandments is foundational to what follows. If one is willing to have another god besides the one, true God, then disobedience to God’s commands in other places will follow (Ex. 20:3). If one wishes to fashion a god in the image of the creature rather than following the authoritative Creator, then God’s rightful place has already been supplanted (Ex. 20:4-6; Rom. 1:25). Selective obedience takes God off the throne and puts self on the throne.

Let us not treasure our own opinions or the trends of the world around us above the commands of God by following only those commands that agree with us. Instead, let us reverence God by esteeming all His commandments highly. “Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all *thy precepts concerning all things to be right*; and I hate every false way” (Psa. 119:127, 128).

- Mark Day