

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

Brother Bob Hawkins has been recovering at home after having a pacemaker inserted. He has been experiencing some dizziness and weakness but is doing better. Judy Coley is being treated for urinary tract problems and had a urinary stint inserted.

Bryan Dyer, Susie Riddle's son and Cindy Murray's brother, has begun additional treatments for his cancer.

Lisa Bunch is being treated with low dose cortisone for polymyalgia muscle pain.

Charlie Henard is receiving periodic infusions to treat his Multiple Sclerosis.

Virginia McKinney is at her home but dealing with kidney failure.

Alice Wade has two sisters which have been diagnosed with cancer. One recently had surgery and will begin radiation treatments.

Charles Blair, gospel preacher at the Stop 11 congregation, is recovering from spinal surgery and is receiving physical therapy at home.

Deloris Hendrickson is dealing with problems sleeping, back pain and GI issues.

Joni McConnell had a heart valve replacement and is undergoing physical therapy.

**Pray For Our Shut-Ins:**

Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney and Kathy Malowitz

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

John Grubb and his wife, Eta (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See reports of their works on the bulletin board.

**Benevolent Opportunity:**

For the month of April, we are collecting peanut butter for donation to the Martinsville school food pantry.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next monthly men's business meeting will be Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song then dismiss for the day.

**Ladies' Spring Luncheon:**

The ladies' spring luncheon will be Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 AM at the church building. All ladies are invited and encouraged to bring friends.

**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).

April 19, 2026

***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](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE

Bill Boyd

It is fitting that the last book of the Bible humbles us. The message of God's triumph in the book of Revelation is clear, but the further we look into the text, the more difficult the book becomes. The repeated emphasis of these things happening "shortly," (Rev. 22:6), "quickly" (Rev. 22:7), and "the time is at hand" (Rev. 22:10), puts the vision of Revelation 21 and 22 in the context of the early church overcoming its then impending trials. However, the exaggerated apocalyptic language used to describe this triumph carries us beyond the then impending victory to the ultimate heavenly glory. This is a vision of heaven. It cannot be taken as literal, for gold is not transparent (Rev. 21:21), but clearly, our eternal home is beautiful.

It is beautiful because it is new: "A new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1); "new Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2); "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). The Greeks had a word for "new" in respect to "time," but the word here is "new" in respect of "kind." This is a new kind of heaven and earth, a new kind of Jerusalem. There is also a word for "renew" in the New Testament, but that is not the word used here.

It is beautiful because it is a city: "The holy city, new Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2); "the great city, holy Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:10); a city of "twelve gates" (Rev. 21:12), and "twelve foundations" (Rev. 21:14); a city that "lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breath... twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breath and the height of it are equal" (Rev. 21:16). Abraham was looking for such a city. "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God... a better country, that is, an heavenly... for God hath prepared for them a city" (Heb. 11:8-16). Israel of old gloried in the beauty of old Jerusalem as the "city of God" (Psalm 48; Psalm 84; Psalm 87), but the glory of "new Jerusalem" exceeds the glory of the old. In context, this beautiful new city is in contrast to "Babylon, the mother of harlots, and abominations of the earth" (Rev. 17:5).

The city is "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 21:2); "Come hither, and I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife" (Rev. 21:9). There are few things so beautiful that they are

worthy to be compared to a bride adorned for her husband. We read in Revelation 19:7-8, "His wife hath made herself ready, And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." We are reminded of Ephesians 5:25-27 where Paul wrote, "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

This beauty, this new city, is as the beauty of precious stones. It is made of "pure gold" (Rev. 21:18). Even "the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass" (Rev. 21:21). And it is "garnished with all manner of precious stones" (jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprasus, jacinth, and amethyst) (Rev. 21:19-20), "and the twelve gates were twelve pearls" (Rev. 21:21). Such stones have been emblems of glory and beauty from the beginning. In Eden we read of gold, bdellium, and onyx stone (Gen. 2:11-12). As "a river went out of Eden" (Gen. 2:10), so also out of this city is "a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rev. 22:1). Jesus said, "I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Rev. 21:6). As in Eden there was "the tree of life" (Gen. 2:9), so also by this heavenly river is "the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2).

This city is beautiful, above all, because God is there, and because there we will be with God. "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Rev. 21:3); "the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:22-23); "and they shall see his face" (Rev. 22:4). To see the face of God? How beautiful heaven must be!