

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Gloria Hale has been moved from the rehab center to stay with her son Tim.
Charlie Henard's mother suffers from Alzheimer's in Tennessee.
Karen Sproles is still suffering with problems in her knee. However, she now has a doctor and foot doctor making visits to her home every 6 weeks.
Iris Hash is being treated for stomach, nasal and back problems.
Ken and Sherrie Roosa's son-in-law, Darrell Grimes is back home however it appears that his cancer has spread to his liver. Please keep him, his family and Ken and Sherrie in your prayers.
John Richardson was moved back to the Bloomington hospital due to a leg infection.
Terry Richardson is in the Waters Nursing Home recovering from an accident.

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)

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) and to the local women's shelter. For the month of May, the item to be donated is baby and children's clothes (sizes 0 to age 5). If you would like to support this work, please bring this in throughout the month so they can be delivered at month's end.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, July 6th at 5:00 PM. All men are encouraged to attend.

Summer Gospel Meeting:

Our summer gospel meeting will be held June 10-12. Our speaker will be former Morgan St. gospel preacher Randall Jones who currently preaches at the Richardsville, KY Church of Christ. Services will be held at 7 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings. Following the Sunday morning service there will be a pitch-in dinner followed by a 1 PM service to conclude the meeting. The theme for the meeting is "The Christian Race", based on Hebrews 12:1-3. Please pray for our meeting.

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).

June 12, 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

GOD'S BLESSINGS AND HOW TO KEEP THEM

Marvin L. Weir

Joshua was God's faithful servant. As he prepares to enter into the rest that awaits him, he calls together Israel's elders, heads, judges, and officers to remind them that faithfulness to Jehovah will always ensure His blessings. Let's learn from the speech of this godly warrior!

How Israel's Possession was Secured! It is clear that God is the Deliverer of His people, and not Joshua. The power of an evil Pharaoh had to be broken before Israel could escape their cruel taskmasters and travel toward the Promised Land. Moses and Joshua were influential and faithful leaders, but it is God who delivers His people. Joshua reminds Israel, "*ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the LORD your God is he that hath fought for you*" (Joshua 23:3).

Just as Israel had to be delivered from being bondservants to Egypt **before** traveling toward Canaan, people today must be delivered from the power and bondage of sin **before** having their minds set on Heaven. The power to do such comes from God and is found in obedience to the Gospel (Rom. 1:16).

Israel's enemies tried to keep them from enjoying what God had promised. There would be many temptations and stumbling blocks for Israel to endure on the way to the Promised Land. So it is with followers of Christ today! The devil, the world, and the flesh are bitterly opposed to one's soul claiming inheritance in that "*house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens*" (2 Cor. 5:1). The same God that drove Israel's enemies from their sight (Josh. 23:5), guarantees that, if faithful, we too will be "*more than conquerors through him that loved us*" (Rom. 8:37).

How Israel's Possession was Retained! First, there could be no going back. Joshua reminds his people, "*Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you*" (Josh. 23:12-13). Israel was not allowed to return to Egypt or to the wilderness of sin. The principles that governed their former thinking and way of life had to be cast aside. Evil thoughts allowed to remain in their hearts would "*be as pricks in their eyes*" (Num. 33:55).

The New Testament warns Christians, "*Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God*" (Heb. 3:12). The old man (creature) that yields to the deeds of the world must be cast aside and the new creature in Christ must now reign (2 Cor. 5:17). Going back to worldly living will rob one of his blessings in Christ!

Second, Israel could have no fellowship with the enemy (Josh. 23:7,12)! Why would a follower of God desire to have fellowship with the Devil and his helpers? Let me reference a Scripture that most people want to **limit** to idolatry

while **excluding** everything else. And, I fully understand the context, but I also understand the principle. Paul says, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you*" (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

An **unequal yoke** in any area is forbidden by God. When Israel associated with the Canaanites, it **never** improved the Canaanites, and it **always** brought misery to God's people. To fellowship evil is always wrong, and it is foolish to allow our associations to funnel us into something that is always unscriptural—an "unequal yoke."

The Consequences of Going Back! The children of Reuben and Gad were reminded that if they did not unite with their brethren in driving the Canaanites from the land of promise, their sin would find them out (Num. 32:23). Jehovah intended for His people to possess the land of Canaan, but He did not intend for them to associate with and marry the inhabitants of Canaan and become as worldly as they were.

Worldly people can become "*a scourge in [our] sides, and thorns in [our] eyes*" (Josh. 23:13). When such occurs, God does not have to bestow upon us the blessings He has promised to bestow if we remain separate and apart from the world.

We clearly see from Israel that disobedience to Jehovah will bring a loss of comfort and blessings. People who fail to follow God will become miserable failures instead of joyful conquerors! When one turns away from the light of God's truth, he will always wind up in the darkness of the devil's lies.

God warned His people that disobedience and unbelief would cause them to "*perish*" from the land He had given them (Josh. 23:13). In turning away from God, the Israelites became day by day more unfit, as a nation, to keep possession of the Promised Land.

Backsliding is a process (Psalm 1:1) by which a Christian's appreciation for spiritual blessings gradually deteriorates until he finds himself living again according to the world. One who has been "*raised together with Christ, [must] seek the things that are above, where Christ is...*" (Col. 3:1). To keep God's blessings, one **must** "*set [his] mind on things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth*" (Col. 3:2).