

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill continues to receive dialysis treatments three times weekly.
Aleta Sturgill, friend of Ray and Liz Sturgill is suffering from kidney problems.
Darryl Sturgill, brother of Ray Sturgill.
Delores Hendrickson is back home, feeling better and able to attend services.
Iris Hash is still suffering from stomach problems. She is taking probiotics for her stomach and strong pain medication for her back pain.
Elena Hawkins is suffering from leg pain caused by issues in her back and is currently on medication.
Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems in addition to problems with her back and legs
Karen Sproles is doing better but continues to receive steroid injections in her knee.
Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.
Jessica Haynes, daughter-in-law of Dave and Tina, is having a recurrence of headaches and pain. She is now on medication and doing better.

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). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in back of the auditorium.

Ladies' Bible Class Resumed:

The ladies' Bible class continues to meet on Thursdays at 11:00 AM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be held today, immediately after the morning service. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for a singing then dismiss for the day.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, July 5th at 5:00 PM.

Benevolent Opportunity:

Throughout the month of July we are asked to donate twin size bedsheets, pillow cases and comforters in solid colors or with soft patterns. These will be provided to a local group for use in assisting needy children.

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).

July 2, 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

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

THINGS ABOUT THE LORD'S CHURCH THAT SURPRISE PEOPLE

Jon Gary Williams

One important task of Christians is to convey to people what the Bible teaches regarding the Lord's church. Many times this is not an easy thing to do for people often have certain preconceived ideas about the church, ideas that are unknown to the Scriptures. However, I have noticed that when shown what the Bible actually teaches about the church, some folks will immediately see the difference between what they may have been taught and what the Bible really teaches.

There are times when some of the most fundamental truths about the church are brought out, people will show surprise. They may say, for example, "Why, I never knew that was in the Bible!" or "I've always been told something else!"

Following are several illustrations pertaining to basic truths about the church which often surprise people. And while these truths serve to illustrate the differences between the Lord's church and denominations, they also reveal the simplicity of true New Testament Christianity.

THERE IS NO "TITHING"

Who could count the times people have exclaimed, "You mean the church of Christ does not teach tithing!?" But why are folks so surprised about this? It's simply because they have always been taught that tithing (giving 10%) is a fundamental church activity and have never heard anything else.

Though tithing was a part of the Old Testament law of Moses, God never intended for it to be a part of Christianity. Rather, the New Testament teaches that Christians are to give as they prosper, as they purpose, and with a cheerful heart (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7). In essence, Christian giving is a free-will offering.

PREACHERS ARE NOT "PASTORS" OR "REVERENDS"

Quite often, just about every Gospel preacher finds himself being referred to as "pastor" or "reverend." When a preacher points out that he is a preacher or minister and not a pastor, people show surprise. But why? Because through the years this term has been commonly used and many are not aware of what the Bible really teaches. The expression "pastor" is synonymous with the word "elder" and refers to men who oversee local congregations. In Ephesians 4:11 preachers (evangelists) are spoken of separately from pastors.

As to the use of the word "reverend," it is never to be used with reference to man. This is a unique term showing veneration and sacred awe and, hence, only God is so designated (Psa. 111:9). No man is to ever be "revered."

PEOPLE DO NOT "JOIN" THE CHURCH

The term "joining the church" is an expression commonly heard in religious conversation. It is so much a part of today's religious vocabulary that few have ever given it much thought. Once, when I was speaking with a man about the spiritual nature of the Lord's church, this subject arose. I told him that people might "join" a denomination, but could not join the church found in the Bible. With astonishment he said, "You mean I can't join the church of Christ?" At that point I clarified what I meant — that people are "added" to Christ's church. But why was he so surprised? It's because "joining" a church was something he had heard all his life.

Becoming a part of the church is not like joining a social order or civic group. The Bible teaches that when people obey the Lord, being baptized for the remission of sins, He adds them to His church (Acts 2:38, 42, 47).

COMMUNION OBSERVED EVERY WEEK

More than once those who are unfamiliar with the Lord's church, after a few visits with a local congregation, have been heard to say, "One thing I notice about the church of Christ is that they have communion every Sunday." Why would this surprise them? Again, because of

popular denominational practices. They have never known of anything but monthly, quarterly or in some instances, yearly communion.

Early church writers speak of the Lord's supper involving regular, weekly participation. This confirms what the Scriptures teach regarding its frequency — that the disciples partook of the communion when they assembled (1 Cor. 11), and that they assembled on the first day of every week (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

NO HUMAN CREEDS OR ARTICLES OF FAITH

Statements similar to these are sometimes heard: "You mean you people follow only the Bible?" or "You mean to say that the church of Christ does not have a creed for its members?" Why should this be so surprising? Because most people have been under the influence of such things as creed books, articles of faith, manuals, disciplines and the like.

However, the Bible plainly teaches that the Scriptures supply all the spiritual needs of man (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Jesus said it is His word that will judge us in the last day, not man's word (John 12:48). Hence, there is no place in the Christian system for man-made creeds designed to regulate spiritual matters. Such works either "add to" or "take from" God's word and are, therefore, condemned (Rev. 22:18-19).

NO EARTHLY HEADQUARTERS

On several occasions I have been asked, "Where is the headquarters of the church of Christ?" Of course, by this people are speaking of an earthly headquarters. People have shown surprise when I tell them there is none. "You mean you have no central offices anywhere?" Since all denominations have some sort of centralized body, people feel the same should be true of churches of Christ.

A Pentecostal preacher once asked me the location of the headquarters of the church of Christ. I told him, "In heaven" (Phil. 3:20). Seeing he was puzzled at this reply, I asked him, "Who is the head of the church?" He said, "Well, Christ is." Then I asked, "Where is Christ?" He, of course, said, "He's in heaven." I then explained that if Christ is the head of the church and if Christ is in heaven, then the headquarters of the church must be in heaven. To him this was an entirely new concept. The Bible clearly reveals that Christ is the head (Col. 1:18,24) and that Christ is in heaven (1 Peter 3:22).

PEOPLE CAN BE BAPTIZED AT ANY TIME

Some people, following a Bible study with a member of the church, have said, "Do you mean that I can be baptized at any time?" Now why should this be so surprising? It is due to the fact that most people are under the impression that baptism must be done during a special "baptismal service," a time set aside for "candidates" of baptism.

When we read the New Testament it is clear that in every example of conversion when people wanted to be baptized there was no waiting. Since baptism is the time at which a person's sins are forgiven, it is essential that it be done immediately. This is illustrated in the accounts of conversion recorded in the book of Acts (2:41; 8:36-38; 10:47-48; 16:14, 15, 32, 33).

ANY CHRISTIAN CAN BAPTIZE OTHERS

Once a young man stopped me in the middle of a home Bible study and said something like this, "I didn't know that anyone in the church can baptize people. I thought only a preacher could do that." And why was this surprising to him? Simply because this is the impression almost everyone has regarding baptism — it is something to be done only by the so-called "clergy."

The Bible places no such restriction on who can baptize. If a Christian can teach a lost person what to do to be saved, he can also baptize him. The great commission applies equally to all (Matt. 28:19-20).

Are you surprised concerning what the Bible teaches regarding the church? "Study to shew thyself approved" (2 Tim. 2:15).