

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

Liz Sturgill was admitted to the St. Francis hospital Indianapolis on Monday with breathing problems. She is being treated for pneumonia.

Aleta Sturgill, friend of Ray and Liz Sturgill is suffering from kidney problems.

Darryl Sturgill, brother of Ray Sturgill.

Shirley Cook's brother was admitted to the St. Francis hospital Indianapolis while visiting her.

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.

Greg Woodward, close friend of Rusty Knoy, Dave's brother, passed away recently.

**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 Sunday, August 6th 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, August 2nd 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 9, 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 TIMES OF RESTITUTION

In [Acts 3:21](#) Peter speaks of “the times of restitution of all things.” That is the King James Version. I like the word “restitution” and I retained it in the title, but most Bible versions use the word “restoration,” and so I will do so as well, because I want this to be “easy to understand” by my target audience, and many of them are not great fans of the King James Version.

The word translated “restoration” is unique to Peter, and it is used only here in the New Testament. Premillennialists tell us that this restoration is the time of a coming earthly millennium. Advocates of the renewed earth doctrine tell us that it is the time when the earth will be materially returned to something like Eden before Adam sinned. In the context of this passage Peter spoke of “seasons,” “times,” and “days” (all plural). I affirm that these “seasons,” “times,” and “days” are now (the Christian Age) — that we are living in the “times of restoration” now, and that it is not a material restoration of the earth, but a spiritual restoration of the souls of erring men. The context calls for this conclusion.

Peter’s sermon in Acts 3 is sometimes called “the second gospel sermon” — the first being the one in Acts 2. The two sermons are much alike. In the first, Peter affirmed that God raised Jesus from the dead ([Acts 2:22-24](#)). As proof, he appealed to the prophecies of the Scriptures ([Acts 2:25-31](#)), their testimony as witnesses ([Acts 2:32](#)), and the things accompanying the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which were seen and heard ([Acts 2:23](#)). In Acts 3 he affirmed the same proposition ([Acts 3:15](#)), using the same proofs; they were witnesses ([Acts 3:15](#)), the miracle of the lame man healed was before them ([Acts 3:16](#)), and he appealed to the things spoken by the prophets ([Acts 3:18](#)). The Scriptures of the prophets were being fulfilled in their time (the first century) was the power behind the appeal to the prophets. That is the context.

[Acts 3:19](#) is often compared to [Acts 2:38](#). The passages are parallel. Both tell us to “repent.” Where one says, “be baptized,” the other says, “be converted,” because it is baptism that completes the conversion process. Where one says, “for the remission of sins” the other says, “that your sins may be blotted out.” Where one says, “ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” the other says, “that there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.” It would detract from my purpose to deviate into a lengthy discussion of “the gift of the Holy Spirit,” but when so doing, this parallel ought to be accounted for. The King James Version calls this “the times of refreshing,” but I like the way the American Standard Version uses the word “seasons” instead of “times.” When I read the American Standard Version, I think of the refreshing change of seasons. After a hot humid summer, a cool dry autumn is refreshing. A warm spring day is refreshing after a long cold winter. So also are the spiritual joys that follow salvation.

Peter says that the Lord would send Jesus, “whom the heavens must receive until the times of restoration” ([Acts 3:21](#)). The English Standard Version calls this “the time (singular) for restoring all things,” the New American Standard Bible calls it “the period (singular) of restoration of all things,” But Peter did not say, “until the time” (singular); he said “until the times” (plural). The “times of restoration” correspond to the “seasons of refreshing.” The “times” and “seasons” coincide with the reception of Jesus in

heaven. Jesus is received in heaven now, and the “seasons of refreshing” are ours now, therefore “the times of restoration” are now.

In [Acts 3:21](#) Peter says “the times of restoration” are the times “which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” Moses was the first of those prophets. He identified these times as the times in which men would harken to the prophet who the Lord would raise up like Moses ([Acts 3:22](#); [Deut. 18:18](#)). He was speaking of Jesus ([Heb. 1:1-2](#)), and we harken to the voice of Jesus now; as was said in the presence of Moses on the mount of transfiguration, “Hear ye him” ([Matt. 17:5](#)).

Peter further said, “all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days” ([Acts 3:24](#)). Now follow this: In [Acts 3:21](#) Peter said “the times of restoration” were the times “spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets, since the world began,” and in [Acts 3:22-24](#) he said that Moses, Samuel, and all the prophets that followed spoke of “these days,” therefore “the times of restoration of all things” are “these days.”

Peter said that the heaven must receive Christ until “the times of restoration.” He did not say the heavens would receive him until the times of restoration began. The heavens are receiving Christ in “these days,” and the “times of restoration” are “these days,” therefore Peter was preaching that the heavens would receive Jesus until the times of restoration are completed. Jesus ascended into heaven to sit on his throne at the right hand of God ([Acts 2:33](#)). He is now in heaven “exalted” ([Acts 2:33](#)), “glorified” ([Acts 3:13](#)), and “received” ([Acts 3:21](#)), and the heavens must receive him while he is restoring all things to himself. All who will “repent and be converted” ([Acts 3:19](#)) are spiritually restored. Therefore, he is restoring all things to himself now.

Paul’s language is similar to Peter’s, and they taught the same thing. Where Peter said “restoration,” Paul said “reconciliation.” “When we were enemies we were reconciled to God” ([Rom. 5:10](#)), “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” ([2 Cor. 5:18-20](#)), and, “Having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” ([Col. 1:20](#)). The present spiritual reconciliation is the present spiritual restoration. The restoration of “all things” in [Acts 3:21](#), is the reconciliation of “all things” in [Colossians 1:20](#).

Advocates of the renewed earth tell us that the “times (plural) of the restoration” is the time (singular) when Christ will renew the material earth. I say, prove it. Find it in the context and prove it. Telling us what you think it means does not prove it. Show us that “all his holy prophets,” including Moses, Samuel, “and those that follow after,” have foretold of “those days” instead of “these days.” They cannot do it. Advocates of the renewed earth theory will have to find their doctrine elsewhere.

– Bill Boyd