

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill continues to receive dialysis treatments.
Jesse Riddle has been having trouble breathing and is battling with weakness.
Judy Coley is suffering from shingles.
Shirley Cook will have knee replacement surgery next month.
Delores Hendrickson is expected to return home on August 25th.
Mike Parnell's sister, Brenda, has been diagnosed with Alzheimers and dementia.
Aleta Sturgill, friend of Ray and Liz Sturgill is suffering from kidney problems.
Shirley Cook's brother is recovering at Shirley's home. Shirley's sister-in-law, Judy Pflaum, suffered some heart issues and is in the hospital in Evansville.
Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems in addition to problems with her back and legs. She also has a broken wrist.
Karen Sproles is doing better but continues to receive steroid injections in her knee.
Karen's husband, Chet, is still recovering from a broken leg.
Please keep Karen's daughter, Jean English, had surgery August 16th.
John Richardson is still suffering from a sore on his leg.
Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.
Dave Knoy will begin 7 weeks of radiation and hormone treatments as a follow-up to prostate surgery from several years ago.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney, John & 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.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be held Sunday, September 3rd 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, September 6th.

Fish Fry:

Our annual fish fry will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at the Martinsville City Park. More information will follow.

Gospel Meeting:

Our fall gospel meeting with brother Bill Boyd of the Rockliff Church of Christ in McMinnville, TN will be held November 10-12.

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).

August 20, 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

THE NATURE OF EVIL AND ITS REMEDY

The account of the two demon possessed men in the Scriptures is indeed humbling and sad (Matt. 8:28-33). Evil shines brightly in its overtaking of these two individuals. Demon possession existed on earth during the time that the Lord and his apostles had the power to work miracles. Now that God's revelation is complete (1 Cor. 13:10-12), neither miracles nor demon possession are possible today.

Guy N. Woods in Volume 1 of Questions And Answers, p.232, addresses demons and demon possession in saying:

Demons were wicked spirits, under the direction of Satan, opposed to God, and capable of causing much misery to man (Matt. 8:28-34; 12:24). Their powers over human beings enabled them to afflict people with dumbness (Matt. 9:32-33), blindness (Matt. 12:22), and insanity (Luke 8:26-36). They acknowledged the deity of the Lord, conceded their wicked state, recognized impending judgment, and trembled in contemplation of it (Matt. 8:29; Luke 4:41; Jam. 2:19). The apostles were given the power to cast out demons and an instance in which they exercised it is seen in Luke 10:17-18 ...Efforts to "explain" demonology of the New Testament as (1) popular superstition; (2) accommodation of the Lord to current views; (3) illness or insanity; (4) fallen angels; or (5) progeny of angels and wicked women, all fail either (a) because of their own obvious falsity or (b) because they conflict with known facts and our Lord's limitless goodness and knowledge.

Let us now study evil as it is personified in these demon possessed men of Matthew 8:28-33.

Evil Can Use Men To Accomplish Its Purposes! The men of Matthew 8:28 were "possessed" by demons. Although this type of "possession" against one's will does not exist today (as it required the Lord or His apostles to cast out these demons), a person can allow evil to take control of his thoughts and actions. When this occurs, evil can become the master of one's life.

Jesus taught that a person was defiled by that which proceeded from him. In explaining to His disciples He stated, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23). Evil must not be allowed to dwell in our minds! As the apostle Paul implored, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

Evil Is Associated With Death! The fruit of continued evil is spiritual death. One should note that these demon possessed men came "forth out of

the tombs" (Matt. 8:28). It is true that the evil heart loves darkness rather than light! The things that righteous people love and cherish are hated and despised by those who are evil. Jesus remarked during His ministry on earth, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd" (John 3:19-20). Evil Is The Enemy Of Liberty! These demon possessed men were "exceeding fierce, so that no man could pass by that way" (Matt. 8:28). Sin and evil-doing will always hinder the true liberty that one has in Christ Jesus. Never forget the words of Paul to Elymas the sorcerer: "O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord" (Acts 13:10)?

Evil Resists And Shuns The Presence Of Christ! It is said of the demons, "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time" (Matt. 8:29)? The demons knew Christ for who He was but were aware that they had nothing in common with Him. All who are in bondage to sin and are happy with its pleasures hate the holiness of God. The demons, like many people today, wanted nothing to do with the Master but were fearful of being tormented by Him. Evil never provides the peace and serenity that is found in Christ Jesus.

The New Testament describes demons not as unbelievers but as those who "believe and shudder" (James 2:19). They believe, but they are lost! They recognize the authority of Christ and realize that their doom is certain (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10). Let us learn that evil will be punished, and that "belief only" will not save one!

Evil Leads To Destruction! "So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters" (Matt. 8:31-32). Evil always leads to ruin! Upon entering the swine, the demons did to them what they were trying to do to the men — drove them to immediate destruction. This shows that demon possession was not a normal physical sickness. As J. Noel Merideth stated in The Book of Matthew, p.287 (Getwell church of Christ): "It is important to note that this is not mere insanity, for insanity does not move out of people into pigs — these demons were real."

Evil Must Be Cast Out! Evil cannot be tolerated or reformed and made right! Evil never turns into that which is holy and good! Baptism will not change evil into righteousness! One must repent and turn from evil to escape the destiny of the demons and all evil-doers! -- Marvin L. Weir