

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Karen Sproles' great grandson was murdered in Indianapolis Monday night. He died of a stab wound and leaves behind a 3 year old child. Please pray for all of them.

Jesse Riddle's eyelid surgery has been postponed until later in the month.

Mike and Doris Parnell, Bob Hawkins, Shirley Cook and Ken Roosa recently tested positive for COVID. All are recovering at their homes. Doris' shoulder surgery will be rescheduled.

Ray and Liz's son Jeff had back surgery and is now in rehab in a facility in Ellettsville.

Mike Parnell's son in Arkansas is scheduled for back surgery to remove a tumor.

Bob Hawkins will undergo an outpatient procedure for a problem with veins in his legs.

Gerald Dunn, brother of Susie Riddle, is in a health care institution in Bedford and is experiencing memory issues.

Gloria Hale has been moved to the Garden Villa rehab center in Bloomington.

Charlie Henard's mother in Tennessee is in failing health and under hospice care.

Virginia McKinney is back home from Tennessee but is still experiencing some balance problems.

Karen Sproles is still confined at home and is receiving home health services.

Iris Hash is still battling kidney and gastric issues and is staying with her daughter.

John Richardson has been admitted to the hospital in Greenfield, in need of a colostomy.

Terry Richardson is in rehab at The Waters in Martinsville.

Haven Duncan, Dave and Tina's granddaughter in the Army, has a broken foot.

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)

New Sister in Christ:

Congratulations to Caylyn Mathews who was baptized into Christ on Monday evening. We rejoice and welcome her into the body of Christ. Congratulations to Sean, Christa, Jaxon and Michaela as well.

Deepest Sympathy:

Prayers for Ken, Sherrie Roosa and family at the passing of their son-in-law Darryl Grimes. A Go Fund Me page has been setup on Facebook to help Ken and Sherrie's daughter Angel with medical expenses. Direct contributions can also be given to Ken and Sherrie.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, September 7th at 5:00 PM. All men are encouraged to attend.

Cancellation of Services For September 4th and Monthly Pitch-in:

Our Church services and pitch-in scheduled for today have been cancelled due to those testing positive for COVID.

Fish Fry:

Our annual fish fry will be Saturday, September 24th at the Martinsville City Park. More information will follow.

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).

September 4, 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

LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH IN ROME

Roger D. Campbell

According to a Bible concordance I consulted, “Rome” is mentioned for the first time in the Scriptures in Acts 2 (the day of Pentecost). In total, we read about Rome in three books of the New Testament: Acts, Romans, and II Timothy.

There may have been a lot of interesting activities going on in the society of ancient Rome, but none were as important as the work and lives of the Christians who lived there. The apostle Paul penned a letter to them in about A.D. 57, saying, “*To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints*” (Rom. 1:7). We will use the words of that epistle to make some observations about the church in Rome.

On a personal note, the faith of the brethren in Rome was well-known. “*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world*” (Rom. 1:8). Without trying to impress people, it is a great thing when Christians have a faith that is recognized by others. Paul reminded the Roman saints that “*the just shall live by faith*” (1:17), we are “*justified by faith*” (5:1), God-pleasing faith is manifested as “*obedience to the faith*” (1:5), and the Lord expects all of us to “*walk in the steps*” of Abraham’s faith (4:12).

The members of the church in Rome had gone from being slaves to being free people, then back to slavery again. Prior to their conversion to the Christ, they were slaves of sin. They were set free from sin’s guilt when they obeyed the Gospel. Once they were in Jesus, they were slaves again: slaves of righteousness. The Holy Spirit said it this way: “*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness*” (6:17-18). Let us not forget to whom we belong!

As the saints in Rome faced sufferings, tribulation, distress, persecution, and other unpleasant experiences in life (Rom. 8:18,35), they needed to recall and be grateful for just how blessed they were. In the Christ, they no longer were condemned (8:1). The sufferings of earthly life are “*not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*” (8:18). They had a saving hope (8:24). With God on their side, no one could stand successfully against them (8:31). And, regardless of the challenges they might face in life, “*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us*” (8:37). Rather than complain and feel sorry for ourselves, let us thank God for blessing us so much!

In some countries, there are distinct advantages for those who live in the capital city. Though there may have been some blessings attached with being a resident of first-century Rome, those followers of Jesus who lived in that immoral filth pot must not allow themselves to become conformed to the world. They were instructed: “*...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*” (12:1-2). As we live in a world filled with darkness, we must not be lovers or imitators of it.

The Christians in Rome were duty-bound to “*be subject to the governing authorities*” of the Roman Empire (Rom. 13:1), yet their highest obligation was to the Lord of heaven and earth. Their God was not Caesar, but the Creator, Who alone is “*the God of patience and comfort*” (15:5), “*the God of hope*” (15:13), and “*the God of peace*” (15:33).

The sisters and brothers in Rome, rather than focusing on their own rights and desires, needed to care about what was best for the church. As citizens in God’s kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy (14:17), they were charged: “*Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another*” (14:19). Every local church of the Christ is blessed when its members make spiritual edification a top priority.

To preserve its stability and spiritual well-being, the church in Rome needed to note and avoid divisive disciples and doctrinal departures from the faith (Rom. 16:17-18). The Bible’s language is: “*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*”

At least some of the saints in Rome were part of a congregation in the house of Aquila and Priscilla (Rom. 16:3-5). “House churches” (the church in one’s house) were the norm in the first century. Assembling in the home of a Christian family promotes personal interaction with other saints, giving brethren the chance to build one another up and have a sense of being a close-knit family. Not to mention the potential for great singing!

The last chapter of Romans includes numerous greetings from Paul and others to the brethren in Rome. Over thirty Christians are named. Which of them were unimportant? None! Which had the hope of heaven and a role to play in the church? Every single one! We look forward to meeting them one day.