

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill continues to receive dialysis treatments.
Jesse Riddle is in Miller's Merry Manor rehab center and has begun dialysis.
Judy Coley is suffering from nerve pain from shingles.
Jaime, a friend of Jimmy Lindsay, is scheduled for eye surgery.
Shirley Cook had knee replacement surgery on September 11th and is doing well.
Shirley Cook's sister-in-law fell, broke a vertebra so her surgery has been delayed.
Delores Hendrickson is now able to get our and is doing well.
Ray and Liz's son-in-law, Eric Dumas, is having surgery.
Mike Parnell's sister, Brenda, has been diagnosed with Alzheimers and dementia.
Aleta Sturgill, friend of Ray and Liz Sturgill has diabetes and kidney problems.
Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some issues but is now able to get out.
Karen Sproles is doing better but continues to receive steroid injections in her knee.
Karen's former daughter-in-law is in a coma.
John Richardson still has a sore on his leg and will have gall bladder surgery soon.
Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.
Glenda Coons is being treated for AFib.
Randall Jones is recovering from COVID.
Dave Knoy will soon begin 7 weeks of radiation treatments.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, 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 Sunday, October 1st following the AM services. After the pitch-in we will have a worship in song at 1:00 PM then dismiss for the day.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, October 4th at 5:00.

Fish Fry:

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

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).

September 17, 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

IDLOLS THAT AFFECT MAN'S SERVICE TO GOD

James W. Boyd

Many think of idols only in terms of images (they are included). However, that is not the whole story. Pagan religions, Romanism and others have physical and mental images. Many have self as an idol. To make what a person wants, likes, and pleases him first in life is sinful.

An idol is anything that we set before, alongside, or instead of, the true and living God of heaven. Idolatry is giving allegiance to anything before God. Idolatry is repeatedly and severely condemned in the Bible. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" ([Exodus 20:3](#)) is a theme throughout Scripture. Possibly many think of idols only in terms of images, and that is included. But that is not the whole story. Pagan religions, Romanism and others have physical and mental images.

Making images differs from making images as religious symbols. One may have an image of baby feet to express opposition to abortion. That is not like some "relic" of a "saint." Kissing the toe of Peter's stature, St. Christopher on the dashboard, using the brazen serpent as an idol is not like having lions at the entrance of the driveway or a horse at the barn. The image of Buddha is not like a family snapshot. A totem pole is not the equivalent to grandpa's picture.

Scripture condemns making any image an object of worship. Likewise, worship of the sun, moon or stars is idolatry. To bow down, kiss, or show adoration and homage to such things is idolatry as ancient as history. But still, some people let their lives be governed by such things.

That which can be made an idol is not necessarily evil in itself. Paul teaches idols are nothing ([1 Cor. 8:4](#)). For this reason eating meat offered to idols is not necessarily sinful. The brazen serpent that became an idol was not sinful in its first use. Many have self as an idol. That does not make being a person is evil. But it is sad when anybody adopts the attitude, "Not Thy will but mine be done." To make what a person wants, likes, and pleases him first in life is wrong. If I become my own standard maker, my own authority, I become my own god. When I am self-willed I put self first before God and others ([2 Peter 2:10](#)). Paul speaks of those who are lovers of self more than lovers of God ([2 Tim. 3:4](#)). This is the "do-your-own-thing" crowd ([Judges 17:6](#)). Scripture leaves no doubt that self is man's number one idol.

Modernism, humanism, relative subjectivism and liberalism are nothing other than replacing God. "Man is the most" is the cry of these idolaters. They contend there is no right or wrong, truth or error, just be honest, unity in diversity, no law, no absolutes. But who decides what is honest under such a system?

They deny Christianity, the pre-existence of Christ before Bethlehem, His Deity, the virgin birth, the immortality of the soul, even the existence of the soul, the inspiration of the Bible, judgment, heaven, hell, sin and salvation. Instead, they worship human wisdom, "scholarship," degrees, so-called science and the elite. Their vocabulary is deceitful because they use words like God, Deity, inspiration, truth, love, salvation, etc. but not as the Bible presents them. Baptism, moral purity, sacredness of human life, the law regarding marriage is set aside. Then you get the

sinner's prayer, situation ethics, the worship of trees and animals as being equal or superior to man.

ORIGIN OF SUCH DOCTRINES

These ideas are coming from theologians, professors, schools, clergymen, the "experts." They simply reject what they do not want, with the wave of their superior hand they dismiss God's will as irrelevant, unconvincing and illogical. Without evidence they dismiss truth, logic, consistency, but assert they know best. There is no way to set God aside more certainly than to set aside His Word. Things that interfere with what God says, are idols. God declares worship, good stewardship, family responsibilities, morality, are important. Idolatry confuses priorities.

MAMMON

One rather obvious god is mammon — money, material things. Paul warns against the love of money ([1 Tim. 6:10](#)). This love causes people to lie, steal, cheat, murder, sell the body and soul, create war. This is so evident in our world. Money is not evil in itself. It depends on one's attitude toward it — manner of acquisition and distribution. Many have adopted the false premise that having money means success. The "dog-eat-dog" operation goes forward. The Golden Rule is buried. Get all you can and can all you get. Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" ([Matt. 6:24](#)). We are taught to mortify covetousness ([Col. 3:5](#)). Some think, "What's yours is mine if I can take it." But our profession is being a Christian. Even our jobs are to pay the bills as we serve Christ.

FAME AND INDULGENCE

To be in the limelight is the ambition of so many. Jesus said the greatest would be servant of all. Some loved the praise of men more than the praise of God ([John 12:42-43](#)). Ego, pride, the desire to be recognized and applauded is the goal of many. Diotrophes had that disposition ([3 John 9](#)). "My name in lights," is so important to celebrities. Some are so proud they can strut sitting down. They will compromise truth to get fame. They lack self-esteem, self-worth and have a serious sense of inferiority.

Alongside that goes the desire to satisfy the flesh with every indulgence, seeking pleasure ([Heb. 11:25](#)), obsessed with physical appearance, lustful, living riotously in revelry, having a "good" time in drunkenness. This is the prime mission in life according to some.

We must also realize that innocent things can become idols when they come between us and God. Sports, hobbies, jobs, vacations, fall into this category. While not evil in themselves, they become evil because they are first.

DO WE MAKE MEN OUR IDOLS?

Peter would not let Cornelius even appear to worship him ([Acts 10:26](#)). Herod met tragedy when he allowed himself to be presented as a god ([Acts 12:21-23](#)). Paul and Barnabas were mistaken as gods ([Acts 14:8-18](#)). Popes, ancestors, family, religious leaders, Elvis are gods to many. But the bottom line is that God has not (does not or will not) surrender His throne nor share first place with any. We must always be as Paul taught the Thessalonians to turn from idols to serve the living and true God.