

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

Liz Sturgill continues to receive dialysis treatments but has been experiencing sharp back pain.

Jesse Riddle is was released from the rehab center and is back home.

Judy Coley had cataract surgery on one eye this past week. She will have the other eye operated on at a later date.

Floyd Coley has been experiencing problems with swelling in his legs and ankles and is awaiting test results.

Jaime, a friend of Jimmy Lindsay, is scheduled for eye surgery.

Shirley Cook had knee replacement surgery on September 11<sup>th</sup> 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, had foot surgery and is doing well.

Mike Parnell's sister, Brenda, has been diagnosed with Alzheimers and dementia.

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.

Dave Knoy has begun 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.

**Sympathy:**

Our prayers go out on behalf of Ray and Liz Sturgill at the passing of their friend, Aleta Sturgill.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00.

**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 24, 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

## COULD FAITHFUL PREACHERS OF THE PAST PREACH TODAY WHERE YOU WORSHIP?

Clarence Lavender

For many years, the winds of change have blown rather strongly in the church of our Lord. Doctrines are preached and activities engaged in today would have been unthought of a just a few years ago.

It is a recognized fact that no building or institution can be stronger than the foundation upon which it rests. The foundation of the church in some places has eroded away to the point of having only a slight resemblance to the church of the Bible. It has declined due to compromise, which has led to liberalism, agnosticism, modernism and other hurtful teachings which drown men in destruction and perdition. Anyone who is only slightly acquainted with various teachings and movements within the church in our day is aware of the perilous conditions of our time.

Sound doctrine has been changed so drastically by some brethren, that faithful men who preached the Gospel in days gone by would not be invited to speak in many churches of Christ today. Take, for instance, the subject of the CHURCH. Do you know of congregations where the following could not be preached?

“There are many churches in the world with different identity and different doctrine, and yet the New Testament reveals only one church, with one doctrine or teaching. The New Testament speaks of doctrines in the plural, but only to condemn them; the doctrine of the New Testament is singular. Christ has only one system of doctrine or teaching, and that is revealed in the New Testament. There is but one divine church to be found in the New Testament. Since there are so many different churches in the world and only one divine church in the New Testament, it makes it difficult to identify the true church in the midst of so many churches.” (The Identity Of The Church, F. B. Srygley)

Brother Srygley was/is right, but the church of today is on the road to producing a group of men too “mentally modest” and “intellectually humble” to proclaim New Testament teaching on the subject of the ONE CHURCH for the fear of offending their denominational neighbors.

There is no question, with those of us who believe the Bible, concerning the establishment of the church of Christ on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of our Lord (Acts 2). The establishment of the church is a subject that is also sensitive with religious people, thus it is avoided by some brethren for the fear of offending them. Faithful preachers of the past were distinctive in their teaching. Could brother N. B. Hardeman preach the message he once did concerning the establishment of the church where you worship? Notice his words:

“When the battle was being fought between the church of Christ and denominations, and when brethren were willing to contend earnestly for the faith in public discussion, no questions were of more importance than the time when, and the place where, the church of our Lord was inaugurated, set up, and established. A clear conception of its origin has much to do with a correct understanding of what the will of the Lord is. By the church we mean that spiritual realm over which Christ reigns as head and in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Let it be firmly stated that no such an institution existed on this earth until the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. Denominationalism is founded upon the opposite of this fundamental truth, and, hence, their minds are blinded and a veil is over their faces until this day.” (The Establishment Of The Church, N. B. Hardeman)

In the past, there was no question as to where salvation was, and who had it. Today, some question where it is, or who has it! Brother C. R. Nichol had no question about the matter. Notice his words:

“A stock expression with preachers who hold union meetings, as well as some others, is:

‘We wish to see people saved, and then let them join the church of their choice.’ Often you hear: ‘One church is as good as another; the church does not save you.’ Many people hold the view that membership in the church the Lord built is not necessary to one’s salvation.”

“If one church is as good as another, it must follow that the Mormon Church, built by Joseph Smith, is as good as the church built by our Lord. Mr. Smith was finite, limited in knowledge, and imperfect in character; the Lord was infinite, perfect in character, and possessed all power. Do the two compare favorably?”

“The Lord ordained that through his church the ‘manifold wisdom of God’ is to be made known (Eph. 3:10). The church of Christ is the ‘pillar and ground of the truth’ (1 Tim. 3:15), and unto the Lord is glory to be given ‘in the church’ throughout all ages (Eph. 3:31).”

“Christ is the head of the church he built (Col. 1:18), but the churches built by men exist by no higher authority than that residing in the men who built them. Unless a human institution is as good as a divine institution, it must follow that a church built by a mere man is not as good as the church the Lord built.” (Does The Church Save? C. R. Nichol)

Is what brother Nichol said too strong for the pallet of some in our day? Brethren, you know it is! He would not be welcome to preach in many places. There are elderships and preachers alike that would not permit it. He preached the truth, but some simply love the praise and popularity of men more than truth!

What is the mission of the church? Seemingly, today, it is who has the largest attendance, greatest contribution, biggest building and gymnasium, etc. Who would hear and heed H. Leo Boles?

“The mission of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an important subject. The mission of other churches is not included in this study. There could be no substitute for the church of our Lord; hence, no other church can take its place and fill its mission. The church of the New Testament is the greatest institution known to man, and membership in that church the highest privilege granted to man.”

“What, then, is the mission of the church? Paul, in writing to Timothy, said: ‘That thou mayest know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth’ (1 Tim. 3:15). The church is the ‘pillar and ground,’ or support and stay, ‘of the truth.’ All truth harmonizes, whether scientific, philosophical, moral, or spiritual. The church is in harmony with all truth, but it is not the mission of the church to become the ‘pillar and ground’ of the truth. The church is under no obligation to support scientific or philosophical truth; it is under obligation to support the truth that came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17). It is ‘the pillar and ground’ of all truth that pertains to the redemption of man. The church is the only God ordained support of the truths of the gospel. The church is to hold ‘forth the word of life’ (Phil. 2:16), and to ‘make known through the church the manifold wisdom of God’ (Eph. 3:10). The church is the institution through which God is to be glorified in propagating and supporting the truth of the gospel.” (The Mission Of The Church, H. Leo Boles)

It is said that Napoleon had three rules for messengers conveying information during battle, they were: BE CLEAR, BE CLEAR, BE CLEAR! In the battle for the souls of men, all who preach should be as distinctive in their preaching on the ONE CHURCH, its ESTABLISHMENT, it is COMPOSED OF THE SAVED and its MISSION, as faithful preachers of the past.

How clear are you when you teach or preach concerning the church of the Bible? Do you leave the impression with religious friends they are saved in their denominations? Brethren, we are not being unkind anytime we teach the truth with genuine love for lost souls (2 Tim. 4:1-5). Preachers of the past loved the church and preached the word without fear or favor. Many today do the same, may God increase their tribe.

As you consider the importance of the church, I ask you, could men like F. B. Srygley, N. B. Hardeman, C. R. Nichol, H. Leo Boles, etc. preach today where you worship?