

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Beverly Anderson suffered a heart attack and is now recovering at home.

Mike Parnell's son, Bill, had a cancerous tumor removed from his spine. He started aggressive chemotherapy at a hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas on Sept. 7.

Ray Sturgill is going through cardiac rehabilitation.

Floyd and Judy's niece's husband, John Newlin, was diagnosed with a blood cancer.

Darryl Grimes (Ken & Sherrie Roosa's son-in-law) received news that his cancer is inoperable. However, he visited the Cleveland Clinic to get a second opinion and to have a diagnostic procedure performed. He is awaiting results from the procedure. Please keep Darryl, his wife and family and Ken and Sherrie in prayer.

Charlie Henard's mother has Alzheimer's but is doing well.

Clay Sturgill (Ray's brother) continues rehab in Whitesburg, KY. He is doing better

Please pray for Dave and Tina's granddaughter, Haven Duncan, who is going through some difficult times. Pray for her mother, Hilary and sister Hannah as well.

Karen Sproles is doing better but is still receiving therapy.

Iris Hash is being treated for stomach problems. She recently had some polyps removed and is feeling some better.

Deepest Sympathy:

Our prayers go out to Ken and Sherrie Roosa at the passing of Sherrie's brother, Jerry Schutte, in California.

Our prayers are also in behalf of Sister Evelyn Murphy at the passing of beloved Brother in Christ, Ernest Brown. Services for Brother Brown were conducted Friday in Tompkinsville, KY.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Jean Collins, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash

Men's Business Mtg. - Wednesday, November 3rd at 5:00 PM.

Morgan St. Fall Gospel Meeting:

Pray for our upcoming gospel meeting with brother Mark Day, from Flatwoods, KY, to be held November 12-14. Services will be at 7:00 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings. Services on Sunday will be 9:30 Bible study and 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM worship. A pitch-in lunch will be served following the Sunday morning service.

Ladies' Pizza Lunch and Christmas Tree Painting:

On October 24th following the morning services, the ladies will be having pizza for lunch in the basement. Following lunch, they will proceed to Shelly's Ceramics in Martinsville to enjoy painting of porcelain Christmas trees.

Pray For The Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

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).

October 17, 2021

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

Change

The "American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language" defines the verb form of the word *change* as "to cause to be different; to exchange for or replace with another; to lay aside, abandon, or leave for another." The noun form of the word from the same source means "the act, process, or result of altering or modifying; the replacing of one thing for another; substitution; a transformation or transition from one state, condition, or phase to another; something different."

In our own personal lives none of us like change. Most of us are "set in our ways", and will resist every attempt to get us to do anything different or try new things. Many will go through their whole life and never vary from their set routine of doing things. We like order, and will strictly enforce this order in our own lives. However, many who will resist change in their personal lives are the very ones who are trying to CHANGE the Lord's church. They are trying to make the church different, and are replacing the doctrinally sound fundamental issues of the church with ideas and opinions of men. They have abandoned the Word of our Lord, or else have replaced it with a watered down liberal version of the true Word. Due to the efforts of these proponents of Change, a transition is taking place in many congregations of the Lord's body. This transition is taking many congregations further and further away from that first century church we can read about in God's inspired Word. Let's look at some of the issues that many are trying to Change in the church.

God's approved plan of salvation is being Changed. My Bible, the inspired Word of God, tells me that *all* men MUST hear the true Word of God (Rom. 10:17) and once they have heard the truth, they MUST believe that Word (John 8:24; Heb. 11:6). Then when they have believed the Word, they MUST repent of their sins (Luke 13:3), and then they MUST confess Christ as Lord (Rom. 10:9-17; Matt. 10:32,33). Then finally the person MUST be baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). This is God's plan according to the Book, but many of my brethren are making Changes in this plan. They are substituting denominational baptism for true baptism into the one Body, and are telling people they are safe with this. Many are leaving the actual confession before men out of the plan all together, and stating that when you walk down the aisle, that is your confession of faith. But saddest of all is the fact that many are advocating that baptism washes away all sins, and that you can go back into the adulterous relationship without changing anything because your sins have been washed away. These changes in God's plan have caused many to believe they are saved when in reality they are not.

God's approved plan for worship is being Changed. God tells us that all men must worship Him "in Spirit and in Truth." This is worship with the right attitude of heart based on the true Word of God. Included in the pattern God has given us for approved worship, we find we must preach/teach the truth (Acts 2:42; 20:7); we must sing praises to God (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16); we must offer up prayers (Acts 2:42); we must give of our means (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:7); and we must partake of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 2:42; 20:7). However, to be more appealing to the masses, the proponents of

Change have advocated that we do different than that which is approved. They are advocating that we substitute clapping, humming, or verbal noises for singing. They are also advocating that singing does not really limit us only to vocal music, but to be "more pleasing" to God we need to add instruments to our singing to get it to sound better. No longer is congregational singing pleasing, but now due to Change we have choruses, choirs, and solos in the church of our Lord. Worship that was once done to the glory of the Father, in reverence and godly fear, is now done with shouting, clapping, laughing, and is merely entertainment instead of worship.

God's approved plan of leadership is being Changed. God has dictated that the church is to have Christ as its head (Eph. 5:23), with men who are qualified to oversee the church in the office of elders, and other men to serve as deacons for the purpose of ministering to the needs of the church. The qualifications of these men are found in 1 Timothy 3 and also in Titus 1, and men who lead the church in this capacity must meet all of the qualifications to be acceptable to God. But again we see changes being made in the leadership role. Men with no children, or the husband of more than one wife (without scriptural basis), or men who can't or won't teach, or men who hardly ever attend the services, or whose influence is tarnished is being installed in the position of an elder, and then congregations wonder why they are having problems. Also, we are seeing more and more congregations delegating leadership roles to women, and anyone who has any Bible knowledge at all knows that this is NOT approved by God.

And finally, God's approved plan of fellowship is being Changed. God has told us who we are to fellowship; those of like precious faith (2 Peter 1:1; 2 Cor. 6:14). He has told us who to avoid; the world and those of the world (Rom. 12:2; 1 John 2:15). He has also told us how to walk; in the light, staying away from the unfruitful works of darkness (1 John 1:5-7; Eph. 5:11). Apparently though, the proponents of Change have either not read God's word thoroughly enough on the issue of fellowship, or else they are ignoring what He has had to say on this issue. We see "brethren" who are now advocating that we can fellowship those of the denominational world because there are good "Christians" in all religions. We also see men who profess to be gospel preachers "swapping" pulpits with those of the denominational world, and even inviting these people to speak at different lectureships. Many are advocating that we extend "the right hand of fellowship" to all those who profess to be Christians because we will all end up at the same place, we are just taking different roads to get there. How sad!

Brethren and friends, in some areas of our life, change is good, but in the area of our spiritual well being, change can be deadly. God has told us what to do to be saved. He has told us how to worship. He has set the leadership roles for the church. And, He has told us who we can fellowship. Now, if we try to replace His instructions with those of our own, or if we substitute something that will make the church different or alter it in any way, then on the day of judgment we will die the second death, and be lost for eternity. Please consider Proverbs 24:21, "My son, fear thou the Lord and the king; and meddle not with them that are given to change." Now if you are guilty of trying to Change the church or are worshipping in a church that has been changed, won't you repent before it is eternally too late!

--- *Danny L. Box*