

**Pray For The Sick And Afflicted:**

Delores Hendrickson  
Judy Coley (upcoming surgical procedure)  
Teddy Burgess (friend of Evelyn Murphy)  
Ken and Sherrie Roosa's son-in-law Darryl  
Dean Cook  
Iris Hash  
Randy Murray (Cindy Murray's husband)  
Jimmy Lindsey's friend at the group home  
Zachary Baxter (Susie Burdsall's grandson, deployed in the U.S. Navy)  
Edwin Parnell (Mike Parnell's brother, cancer)

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Goldie Gilbert, Al and Gertrude Reynolds

**Pray For The Mission Work That We Support:**

John Grubb (mission work in Asia)  
Charles DiPalma (mission work in Australia and New Zealand)  
Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

**Pray For Our Upcoming Events:**

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner** – Due to the late September fish fry there will be no pitch-in dinner for the month of October.

**Men's Business Meeting** – The next men's business meeting will be held today, Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

**Students' Visit From NW Florida School of Biblical Studies** – Brother Guyton Montgomery and some students from the Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies will worship with us on Sunday evening, November 3. One of the students will deliver the evening message in the absence of brother Bob who will be preaching at the Stop 11 congregation. Following the evening service, a pitch-in meal will be provided in honor of our visitors. More information to follow.

**Fall Gospel Meeting** – Our fall gospel meeting will be held November 8 – 10 with brother Sidney White. Additional details to follow. Please pray for our meeting.

**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. After the above five steps, **Faithful Christian Living** (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

October 6, 2019

***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 and 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study – 7:00 PM

**Thursday**

Ladies Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March – 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

## THE ALL WISE ALL POWERFUL GOD

Lloyd Gale

The “Oracles of God” (the Bible) begin with the statement that “*in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*” (Gen. 1:1). God did not simply refurbish or remodel some existing planet. He spoke the world into existence along with the entire universe. He defied what man calls a law of science—that matter can neither be created nor destroyed. Yet matter exists—God exists. There is no evidence that matter is eternal and that lifeless matter created God. There is an abundance of evidence that human intellect is able to reform and reshape matter to fashion marvelous inventions. Human intellect has built cities, skyscraper buildings, methods of transportation, rocket-ships that have transported humans to the moon and safely back to earth. If the created have been endowed with such ability, consider the creative ability of the designer of mankind—God Himself. Man has made robots to perform intricate tasks—even performing operations on humans. God created the first man, then the first woman from a rib of the man (Gen. 1:27; 2:21-22).

The question has been raised that if God is all wise and all powerful, why does he allow sin and evil to exist? This world has so much crime, cruelty and suffering, so why does an all wise all powerful God allow such to continue? The short answer is easy to be stated. Without choice, mankind would be nothing but a programmed robot. Mankind was created in the image of God. Good parents love and care for their children and desire and expect their children to love them in return. John 3:16 reveals that God so loved the world that he gave His Only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish but have life everlasting. God desires children that love and obey him in return. To eliminate the free moral agency of mankind would eliminate the very nature of the relationship of God and mankind, which is love. God is love (1 John 4:8). It is His nature to love truth and righteousness and to hate sin and wickedness. Heaven is a reward for those who exercise their ability to choose to love and serve their Creator.

The history of the relationship and oversight of mankind by God is that He is “long suffering” and not willing that any should perish. In 2 Peter 3:9 we read, “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” We, however, have a number of examples in the word of God where His patience came to an end and justice and judgment were swift.

How could “good” be reckoned if not contrasted with “evil?” God created mankind with His desire for children: children who choose to love and obey Him; children who, when confronted with the choice of good and evil, would choose good.

God is allowing the world to continue, for a time, to populate heaven with those who choose to hear and obey Him. Only God knows when he will end the world (Matt. 24:36).

The answer to the question of why does God allow evil and sin to continue is in order to allow sinful persons the opportunity to repent and choose to serve the true and living God. Romans 3:23 says, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*” One such example is Saul of Tarsus who believed that he was serving God when he was imprisoning and persecuting Christians. This enemy of God and of the people of God, when confronted by Jesus, repented. He became the great apostle Paul, a true servant of God.

Life is at best brief and death and the judgment are certain. When we are born, we do not know the length of days we have been allotted. It is revealed that God watches over and provides for His own and our responsibility is to seek the kingdom of God first (Matt. 6:24-34).

There is substance and evidence for those who believe in God. I have a document that has been translated into many languages. It has withstood the test of time and of critical investigation. It was not written by one person or even a group of people of the same customs and languages. It was written by some 40 men who are described as “holy” men. They lived at different times. They lived on three different continents. They spoke three different languages. Most never knew one another.

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Yet when their Holy Spirit breathed writings were collated, there is not to be found a single contradiction. Humanly, such is impossible, yet it happened. Not only is that an undeniable fact, but the contents of their writings foretold of future events that came to pass in minute detail. Their writings revealed scientific facts that were not known at the time, yet have been proven to be true. They revealed the rising and fall of great nations in their exact order and told of the birth of kings and their names before their birth.

Here is what is difficult to comprehend. In America, and the rest of the world today, there is a lack of knowledge of the contents of the Word of God—the Bible. Yet it may be seen that the more the word of God is abandoned the worse world conditions become. Great American cities have sections that once prospered but today have become rat infested garbage dumps. Many in America are alcohol and drug addicted and living on the streets without sanitary facilities. Many prefer to live off welfare rather than working for a living.

While this is happening in “Christian” America, there are other parts of the world who are hungering and thirsting after the word of God and are changing their civilizations for the better. Where the pure word of God goes and is received, people are prospering. Where the word of God is abandoned, deterioration is taking place.

Hebrews 4:12, “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*” The word of God is quick. What does that mean? It means that it’s not an old document that is of little concern to present day mankind. It is not a dead letter of the past. It is alive! It is powerful. It can change the hearts and minds of mankind. It can save the condemned. It can build successful societies and expose sin and evil. The Bible you and I have is the living word of God. Think about that! But for the Bible’s power to be released it must not just be read. It must be studied and rightly divided (handled correctly). Then, it must be applied.

Second Timothy 2:15 says, “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” It contains the substance and evidence that there is a supreme God (Heb. 11:1). Our faith is not a blind faith—a leap in the dark. The life we now live is not all there is. There is a better world and a better existence for those who choose to obey and serve their Creator. There is a great day coming. A day where there will be no more pain, no more illness, no more suffering, no more sorrow. It will be a never-ending day of rejoicing—a day of reunion with departed loved ones who are saved. We rightly and truthfully sing: “How Beautiful Heaven Must Be.”

Here is the sad truth revealed by the Son of God who offered Himself for our sins: Many are called, but few are chosen (Matt. 20:16). Why will so few be chosen? Because they exercised their free moral agency by choosing not to serve their Creator and Redeemer.

We know that both good and evil exists and that the conflict will not cease as long as the world exists. We also know that good is more powerful than evil and that good, in the end, will prevail. “*Then cometh the end when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and authority and power*” (1 Cor 15:24). That includes the power of Satan.

Only those who are in the kingdom (the church of Christ for which he died) will be delivered up to the Father at the end of time. Just as time ran out for the antediluvian people when the door of the ark was closed and the flood came just as Noah had warned, the many were called but the few were chosen. The truth is narrow and is exclusive. Satan has convinced the majority otherwise. The words of Jesus are that many are called but few are chosen.

“*Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth*” (Gal. 4:16)? This question asked by Paul of the Galatians, we ask today. Love demands that we tell others the truth. It does not excuse the works of evil. If I stray from the path of holiness, please do not excuse my departure, but teach me and warn me of my departure. Our responsibility is not to seek popularity, but to proclaim the truth. That is love.