

**Pray For The Sick And Afflicted:**

Delores Hendrickson  
Mike Parnell (diagnostic tests)  
Ken and Sherrie Roosa's son-in-law (surgery for colon cancer)  
Dean Cook  
Shirley Cook's brother Bill, his wife Doris and their son Dale  
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** – Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be today, immediately following the morning services. Following the pitch-in we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for an afternoon service then dismiss for the day.

**Men's Business Meeting** – The next men's business meeting will be held today, immediately following the pitch-in dinner.

**September Fish Fry** – Our annual fish fry will be held on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Martinsville Jimmy Nash City Park, shelter house No. 5, at 5:00 PM. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in back of the auditorium.

**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.

**Jesse Riddle New Address and Phone No.**

Jesse Riddle's new contact information is as follows:  
530 Woodruff Rd. Dresden, TN 38225  
Tel. (731) 364-0060 (note: This is Dane and Beth's home number. Jesse intends to get a new cell phone at a later date. When he gets it, we will share it with everyone.)

**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).

September 1, 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 RIGHT HAND

Garland M. Robinson

The “right hand” is the opposite of the “left hand.” Whereas the “left hand” ignores the laws of God and acts in open violation to them, the “right hand” stops short of God’s laws. The “right hand” approach to the Bible will not allow the liberties God permits.

**The right hand forbids what God allows.** It is to make laws God did not make and bind them upon themselves and others. The “right hand” looks at scriptures which authorize a particular action but will not allow that action. They forbid (prohibit, refuse, outlaw) anyone to observe what God allows (authorizes, grants). The right hand “binds” where God has not “bound.”

There is not any one single word that would particularly identify this position. In the sense that one may oppose what God allows, such could be called “anti” — against what God allows. Some of the Pharisees made laws based upon their traditions and they would bind them upon others (Mark 7:1-13, especially vs.7-8). The Lord condemned them for their hypocrisy and elevating tradition above law. (As there is a sense in which the word “liberal” is good, such as being “liberal givers” (2 Cor. 9:6-7); there is a sense in which the word “anti” is good. That is, we obviously are against everything God forbids. But these definitions are not what is under consideration here.

Sometimes the word “conservative” is used to apply to those who make laws God did not make. However, the definition of the word “conservative” does not show this to be the case. The word “conservative” according to Random House Dictionary is: “disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc. Traditional in style or manner. A person who is conservative in principles, actions, habits, etc.” Webster says the same. Dictionary.com gives this as a definition: “disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc. or to restore traditional ones, and to limit change.” This being the case, it appears that one who believes in following the New Testament and using it as a pattern is a “conservative.” That is, such a person is doing exactly what the New Testament authorizes — not deviating to the “right hand” or to the “left.” Those who are approved of God do not make laws that God did not make (right hand), nor do they loose (ignore, disregard) the laws that God did make (left hand).

The Lord spoke to the apostles concerning the matter of “binding” and “loosing.” When the church began, and in the early days of its existence, the apostles and others who were inspired (men upon whom the apostles laid their hands to impart spiritual gifts, Acts 8:17-18), were given the task of revealing the Word of God to the world. They did this through their speaking and writing. Jesus told the apostles, “*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven*” (Matt. 16:19).

The binding and loosing they did was not according to their own whims, opinions and decisions. The Scriptures were not written according to their own likes and dislikes. They would be binding and loosing what God (in heaven) had already bound and loosed. Even Jesus did not speak of his own accord. He spoke only what was given him from the Father in heaven (John 12:49). And likewise, the Holy Spirit only revealed what he had been given from above (John 16:13). It was no different with the apostles and prophets in the early church. Did you know there were prophets in the first century church (cf. Acts 3:18b, 21; 11:27; 13:1)? Whether apostles or prophets, they spake and wrote as they were guided by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 10:20; John 14:26; Acts 2:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). They were infallible in their writing.

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The 27 books of the New Testament are the Very Words of God! God gave the world exactly what he wanted. Therefore, we all are obligated to do only what God has authorized us to do. This is made clear in Colossians 3:17, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*” We are not free to ADD TO what God says. Nor are we free to SUBTRACT FROM what God says. Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, and Revelation 22:18-19 makes this clear. God permits some things and he prohibits some things. Man cannot change either!

The truth of the matter is that God’s Word is “...true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever” (Psa. 119:160). God’s word is “strait and narrow” (Matt. 7:14). That means it is “close, hemmed in, to crowd.” It is “the way” that leads to eternal life and few are those who find/follow it. The Truth is the strait and narrow path between the extremes of the “right hand” and the “left hand.” When you drive down the road and run off into the ditch, it doesn’t make any difference if it’s the ditch on the left side of the road or the ditch on the right side of the road, you’re still in the ditch! One is just as bad as the other. Both are to be avoided!

All the ways (doctrines and practices) to the left and all the ways (doctrines and practices) to the right, constitute the broad and wide way (Matt. 7:13-14). Look at a clock on the wall (I guess I need to say analog clock): 12 o’clock is the way that leads to God and heaven. Any thing and every thing to the “left” of 12 ignores the laws God made. Consequently, it is the wrong way. Any thing and every thing to the “right” of 12 makes laws God did not make. Consequently, it is the wrong way. 12 o’clock is the single, narrow, strait way that God outlines for all humanity. It includes all the ways and laws of God. It is the New Testament (when “rightly divided,” 2 Tim. 2:15). It does not include man-made ways — whether they “loose” laws God made or “bind” laws God did not make. Everything from 12:01 to 11:59 is the wrong way. The wrong way is wide and broad and easily contrasted with the strait and narrow way.

It is easy to choose to go the way that is broad and wide. That is the way the world is rushing along. The Lord’s way is exclusive and narrow. Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (John 14:6). That does not allow any other religion. It does not allow any other way. It does not allow any other personality or supposed religious leader. It does not allow any other “so-called” savior. We must choose the way of truth (Psalms 119:30) or suffer the consequences of being lost!

In Jeremiah 6:16 we read very comforting and promising words from the inspired Jeremiah. But we also read some tragic and horrifying words. “*Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.*” Tragically, multitudes of people said, “**We will not walk therein.**” In the next verse God said, “*I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.*”

Those who will not walk in the path laid out for us by God (the old paths), are those who boldly say, “*we will not walk therein...we will not hearken*” to what God says. There’s no hope for people like that. The Lord’s word is a reproach unto them. They have no delight in hearing and learning God’s will (Jer. 6:10).

Which way are you traveling? Are you on the “left” or on the “right?” Or, are you on the strait and narrow? Don’t apologize for loving the truth and holding to the “old paths” which is the good way, the right way. It’s the ONLY way that leads to life everlasting. “*Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith*” (2 Cor. 13:5).