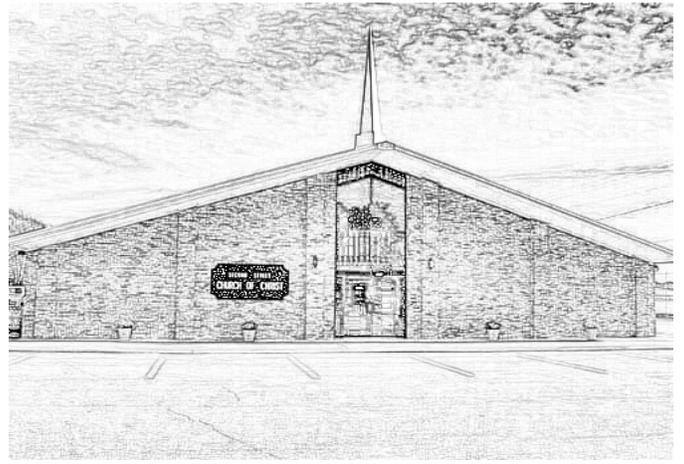


Second Street Church of Christ



May 24th, 2015

It Matters Where we Finish

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

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Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126
Belmont, Ms. 38827

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class.....9:00am
Sunday Morn. Worship.10:00am
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm
Wednesday Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavouring to keep
the unity of the Spirit in
the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3*

Carrie Berrian of Louisville, Georgia died just short of her 120th birthday. We'll remember her longevity, energy and persistence. But her greatest achievement was her faith in God and she'll receive her eternal home in heaven, as a result (Revelation 21:1-8).

It doesn't matter what we have accomplished early in our lives, because in the end our eternal home will be determined by where we wind up spiritually (Matthew 25:31-46).

To illustrate this point we look to Scripture and the story of two kings whose lives traveled in opposite directions.

Hezekiah, son of the evil King Ahaz, was devoted to God (2 Kings 18:1-16; 2 Chronicles 30:6-9) and was one of the greatest kings of Judah.

Yet, when Hezekiah's health failed, God granted him fifteen extra years of life (Isaiah 38:1-5). However, Hezekiah used that blessing to turn against God (Isaiah 39:3-8).

During Hezekiah's extra fifteen years of life, Manasseh was born and he became one of the most evil kings in Judah's history (2 Kings 21:1-9). He established idolatry throughout the land and led the people of God into apostasy (2 Chronicles 33:1-6).

During that captivity, the Lord spoke and Manasseh listened (2 Chronicles 33:10-13). Manasseh subsequently repented and restored the Lord to the people.

Hezekiah began with honor and ended with shame whereas Manasseh's evil beginning ended with righteousness. To many, Hezekiah's reign was more impressive. But in terms of eternity, Manasseh stands alone.

Paul called himself the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). Yet, he remained faithful the remainder of his life. Paul said that we must let the past go and charge forward into the future for God (Philippians 3:12-16).

Will we finish strong for the Lord? It doesn't matter how many people we have led to the Lord or our length of service if we abandon God in the end (Hebrews 10:26-31).

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10, NKJV). Used by permission from Forthright Magazine (forthright.net). Copyright © 2015 Richard Mansel

What's Going On?

Welcome Visitors!! You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00pm.

Summer Series will be beginning June 3rd.

Summer Youth Series will be beginning in June also.

*Trays for May
Rada Malone*



Welcome Elijah Russell Cozort!

Born 5/15/2015

Momma is doing better after a rough delivery.

Quote of the day: "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21, KJV)

I never cease to be amazed at the beauty of the language used to describe our God in the texts of the Bible. The writers used language of awe and majesty in their references to the Creator.

How do we talk about God? Do we speak of him with awe and wonder? Do we acknowledge his continued presence in our lives? Are we comfortable proclaiming his glory and greatness?

Christians should never be ashamed to proclaim the glory and wonder of who God is. In a world that continuously tries to remove God from every facet of life, we need to boldly acknowledge, not just the existence of God, but the continued work and care of God in the lives of mankind.

Let the beauty of God and his word be seen, not only in the actions of our lives, but in the ways that we talk and think about God each day. Give glory and praise to him each day. By doing so we extol his presence in the midst of a world that increasingly tries to denounce him. Adam Cozort

The Importance of Family

NOTES:

That Good Part

“But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’ And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her’” (Luke 10:40-42 NKJV).

In South Asia there is a popular saying that every evangelist soon learns: “No eating, no meeting!” In other words, if you plan for people to gather for hours listening to sermons or Bible lessons, there needs to be some thought given to providing refreshment. That may seem to us like greed or self-interest, but in those cultures if people give up several hours of their day for spiritual purposes they are also forfeiting the time that would ordinarily be spent in preparing meals for themselves and their families. There are few microwaves or frozen dinners in those nations.

The price paid for this practice however is that someone must cook the meal. That often means that some of the more mature Christians will be busily engaged in physical duties while the others are studying God’s word. As a teacher / preacher it pains me for anyone to miss lessons just to do house-hold chores. Yet I recognize that those chores also have a purpose and a place in the overall success of the meeting.

That was exactly the setting in the house of Martha of Bethany. She had undoubtedly already worked for hours to feed the group brought by Jesus. Her sister, Mary, was being lazy – visiting with or listening to Jesus while Martha was left to do all of the work. No doubt Martha (I have always thought of her as the older sister, though we don’t really know) longed to be in that room as well, but her sense of responsibility would not allow her to shirk her duty as hostess. This led to her exasperation with Mary and her insistence that the sister be made to do her part.

At this point we may make an interpretive error. It is normal for us to read Jesus’ answer to Martha as a rebuke for her own choice of service. We seem to think he said, “Mary chose wisely, but you did not – you should be more like her.” I am no longer sure that is really what the Lord meant.

As we seek to live as a Christian we will often have to choose between right and wrong, the good and the bad. But we will also sometimes make choices between the good and the better, or between two actions both of which are accepted by God.

Martha is not being rebuked for spending her time cooking. If there is a rebuke in Jesus’ words it is for judging her sister wrongly – for not recognizing that Mary’s actions were not only valid, but were actually better than Martha’s.

Paul illustrates this principle in his teaching about spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14). “But earnestly desire the best gifts” (12:31). “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy” (14:1).

All gifts were from the same spirit (12:4) and were beneficial. Yet some were of greater over-all value than others, prophecy being a prime example (14:2-5). Paul is very emphatic, however, in declaring that no one should be considered greater or less than others because of the gift which he or they possessed (12:12-27).

Some Christians struggle with the concept of choosing between two right things. If I do not fulfill the other opportunity will I not have sinned? The answer is no. So long as we are seeking to serve God sincerely and humbly, in truth, he will bless our efforts. Both Martha and Mary were doing good – it is just that Mary’s service was even better than that of her sister.

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study **9:00am**
Worship **10:00am**
Evening **5:00pm**

Wednesday

Bible Study **7:00pm**

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

The process for becoming a Christian is the same as it was over 2000 years ago! To become a Christian, one must:

Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17

Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6

Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3

Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10

Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38

Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10

None of these alone will make you a Christian. These commands are from God and must be obeyed from the heart to become a Christian.

Prayer List

Paula Wanner	Crystal Rich
Norma Taylor	Joey Pierce
Craig Pierce	David Livingston
Faye Metts	Carla Carlson
Becky Raper	Barbara Blackman
Phillip Pharr	Kristy Phillips
Cathy Alexander	Ann Martin
Tamri Barnes	Gerald Nunley
Billy Joe Payne	



May Birthdays

Rada Malone 5/4

Caleigh Tidwell 05/09

Stephanie Harris 05/16

Stella Higginbottom 05/17

Debra Wren 05/18

Mallory Cleveland 05/27

Shea Cozort 05/29

May Anniversaries

Wendell & Doris 5/25

