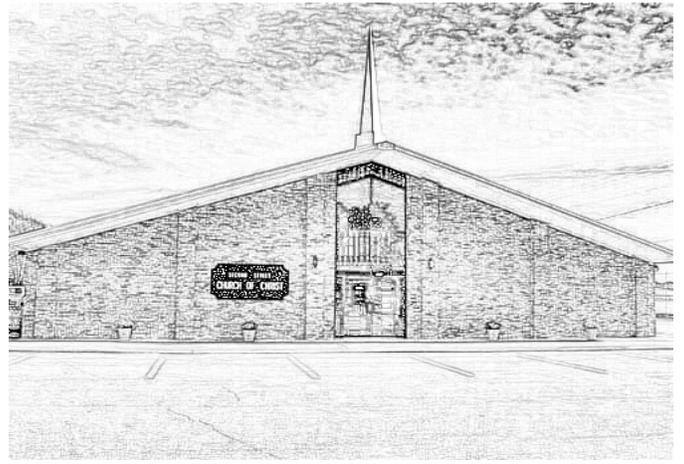


# Second Street Church of Christ



August 2nd, 2015

## MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

## 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*

## Why We Need to Stop “Overreacting” to False Doctrines

Before you “overreact” to the title of this blog post, stop and consider it for a moment. I tried to think of another way to say it, but I couldn’t and it means EXACTLY what it says, we need to stop *overreacting* to false doctrines. To “overreact” means to react excessively or inappropriately. Yes, of course, we need to beware of, respond to, and rebuke false doctrines, but we need to make sure our response is appropriate and biblical. Because all too often we overreact to false doctrines by swinging to an opposite extreme.

### A Historical Perspective

Many of the false doctrines that exist today, in some way, began as an overreaction to other false doctrines. Here are some examples:

- The Catholic doctrine of **apostolic succession** seems to have begun as an overreaction to heretics like the gnostics. The Catholic argument may have sounded something like this, “Don’t listen to those false teachers, listen to the men who were trained by the apostles, they couldn’t possibly be wrong.” Instead of appealing to Scripture, they panicked and appealed to the reliability of church leadership.
- The Protestant idea that **baptism** has nothing to do with salvation may very well have been an overreaction to the ritualism of the Catholic church. The Protestants were right that [water sprinkled on a baby’s head](#) has nothing to do with salvation, because a baby lacks faith in Christ; but they were wrong to go so far as to say *water* has nothing to do with salvation (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21).
- And **ecumenicalism** – the idea that it doesn’t matter what you believe, we should all just come together as one – is an overreaction to the hideous dividing and denominating of “Christianity” into thousands of splinter groups.

We could go on and on, but the point is that when we see a theological error, we tend to swing to an opposite extreme and wind up holding an erroneous position ourselves.

### Opposite is Not the Goal

Just because someone is wrong, doesn’t mean the opposite extreme is right. I’ve seen my brethren – even close friends – take wrong positions because they overreacted to false doctrine. And sadly, I’m quite certain I’ve been guilty of this myself.

- Just because some people misunderstand **grace**, thinking it means you don’t need to respond to the gospel in obedient faith, does NOT mean we need to take a position that waters down, minimizes, or dismisses grace.

*Continued on pg. 2*

# 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 7:00 pm.

**Summer Series** has ended! It has been a great series!

**Summer Youth Series** ended with the picnic at Plainview. It was a great study this year, "Conquering our Giants"!

**Ladies Devotionals at Southern Magnolia** will resume on August 6th.

**Christianity and Islam** August 2nd - 5th. Fraley's Chapel Church of Christ in Corinth, Duane Estill speaking. Sun 9:30, 10:30 & 1:30 lunch at noon. Mon - Wed 7:00.

**Senior Adult Rally** Booneville Church of Christ August 15th @ 9:30. Stacy Love speaking. Lunch provided.

**Trays for August** Shea Cozort

## August

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes."  
- Psalm 119:97-99

Day	Old Testament I	Old Testament II	New Testament
1	o 1 Samuel 16	o Isa. 59	o Mark 13:32-14:11
2	o 1 Samuel 17	o Isa. 60, 61	o Mark 14:12-31
3	o 1 Samuel 18	o Isa. 62, 63	o Mark 14:32-52
4	o 1 Samuel 19	o Isa. 64, 65	o Mark 14:53-72
5	o 1 Samuel 20	o Isa. 66	o Mark 15:1-20
6	o 1 Samuel 21,22	o Jer. 1	o Mark 15:21-41
7	o 1 Samuel 23	o Jer. 2:1-3:5	o Mark 15:42-16:20
8	o 1 Samuel 24	o Jer. 3:6-4:4	o 1 Pet. 1:1-2:3
9	o 1 Samuel 25	o Jer. 4:5-31	o 1 Pet. 2:4-25
10	o 1 Samuel 26	o Jer. 5	o 1 Pet. 3
11	o 1 Samuel 27,28	o Jer. 6	o 1 Pet. 4
12	o 1 Samuel 29,30	o Jer. 7:1-29	o 1 Pet. 5
13	o 1 Samuel 31	o Jer. 7:30-9:26	o 2 Pet. 1
14	o 2 Samuel 1	o Jer. 10	o 2 Pet. 2
15	o 2 Samuel 2:1-3:5	o Jer. 11	o 2 Pet. 3
16	o 2 Samuel 3:6-39	o Jer. 12, 13	o Jude
17	o 2 Samuel 4,5	o Jer. 14	o James 1
18	o 2 Samuel 6	o Jer. 15, 16	o James 2
19	o 2 Samuel 7	o Jer. 17	o James 3
20	o 2 Samuel 8,9	o Jer. 18	o James 4
21	o 2 Samuel 10,11	o Jer. 19, 20	o James 5
22	o 2 Samuel 12	o Jer. 21:1-22:10	o Rom. 1:1-17
23	o 2 Samuel 13	o Jer. 22:11-23:8	o Rom. 1:18-32
24	o 2 Samuel 14	o Jer. 23:9-40	o Rom. 2:1-16
25	o 2 Samuel 15	o Jer. 24:1-25:14	o Rom 2:17-3:8
26	o 2 Samuel 16,17	o Jer. 25:15-38	o Rom. 3:9-31
27	o 2 Samuel 18	o Jer. 26	o Rom. 4
28	o 2 Samuel 19	o Jer. 27	o Rom. 5
29	o 2 Samuel 20	o Jer. 28	o Rom. 6
30	o 2 Samuel 21	o Jer. 29	o Rom. 7
31	o 2 Samuel 22	o Jer. 30	o Rom. 8:1-17

- Just because some people allow their **worship** to be dictated by their emotions, does NOT mean we need to take a position *against* heart-felt worship or crush any signs of emotion during the worship assembly.
- Just because some people falsely teach that you can be a practicing **homosexual** and a Christian, does NOT mean we need to take a position that is hateful toward homosexuals.

Taking the extreme opposite position of those who teach falsely on grace, worship, sexuality, or any other issue is not the goal of faithful Christians; but it is certainly easy to fall into this trap.

### Moderate is Not the Goal

But then again, when this discussion comes up, someone usually quotes the cliché, "The truth is always somewhere in the middle." But **that's NOT necessarily true either**. And in reality, the position that truth is "always somewhere in the middle" is actually an overreaction to those who go to extremes.

Just because some people overreact and go to the opposite extremes, does NOT mean we should overreact to that and always take a moderate position.

God does not call us to be "moderate in all things." He calls us to be a people who are radically committed to His glory. Which means there will be times when we take positions that are extremely different from those around us. So if you always take the middle ground, there will be times when your position is extremely wrong.

### Biblical is the Goal

So how can we determine the right position? How can we determine the appropriate reaction to false teaching? How can we know where to stand?

Our goal should NOT be to take an opposite OR moderate position, but to **take a biblical position on everything**. Sometimes that will look like we're "joining the crowd," sometimes it will be the extreme opposite of the position everyone else seems to be taking, and sometimes it will be somewhere in the middle.

The way to determine the biblical position is NOT by making adjustments in relation to others, but in simply examining God's word and taking a position in relation to God. Our *ultimate* goal is not to separate and distinguish ourselves from all the heretics. Our goal is to join ourselves with God and invite others to join us as well.

We become what we focus on. When we focus on Jesus, we become more Christ-like (Hebrews 12:2). When we focus on heretics, we become heretics.

I love you and God loves you,

**Wes McAdams**

# 5 STUMBLINGBLOCKS THAT MAKE CHRISTIANITY APPEAR UNATTRACTIVE

*Examining Matthew 8-10*

## INTRODUCTION

- ◆ As Christians, we spend our lives trying to reach out to others with the Gospel.
- ◆ To do so, we strive to put the “best foot forward” in presenting God’s Word and his prescriptions for the salvation of mankind.
- ◆ However, sometimes we can get so wrapped up in making Christianity attractive to people that we gloss over very real issues that can be problematic for people.

## STUMBLINGBLOCK #1 – THE LACK OF WORLDLY ATTACHMENT

*Matthew 8:19-22*

## STUMBLINGBLOCK #2 – UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR

*Matthew 8:28-34*

## STUMBLINGBLOCK #3 – ACCEPTING THINGS THAT DEFY HUMAN REASONING

*Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26*

## STUMBLINGBLOCK #4 – PERSECUTIONS AND RIDICULE

*Matthew 10:16-18, 25*

## STUMBLINGBLOCK #5 – FAMILY PROBLEMS

*Matthew 10:34-39*

## CONCLUSION

- ◆ Sometimes it is tempting to respond to such issues by casting them aside or with scorn.
- ◆ However, Jesus talked about counting the cost (Luke 14:28-33), and these things are legitimate issues for many people.
- ◆ That does not mean they cannot be overcome. There is one thing that can overcome them all – the love of Christ. (1 John 4:9-11; Romans 5:6-8)

**Quote of the day:** "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)

We often talk about the wonderful admonition in verse 8: how it is important to think about the right things and to have those attributes in the forefront of our minds. However, the words of verse 9 often seem to be left out of the equation as Paul gives it.

You see, while it is a great and important call for us to think about the right things, it does us absolutely no good if we do not act upon those things that are right. Many people have thought about doing what was right. They have thought about teaching someone the Gospel, making the right decision in a tough situation, or reaching out to help someone in time of need. But unless the steps are taken to put those things into action, all that thought is for nothing.

Paul emphasizes the two-edged importance of our focus as Christians. We must think about the right things, but we must follow that up with doing the right things as well.

Don't just think, do.

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**      **7:00pm**

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**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	Virginia Higginbottom
Norma Taylor	Joey Pierce
Craig Pierce	Buddy Saylor
Faye Metts	Billy Joe Payne
Becky Raper	Barbara Blackman
Phillip Pharr	Kristy Phillips
Cathy Alexander	Ann Martin
Tamri Barnes	Gerald Nunley
Jenell Truelove	Willa Dean Thomas
Elle Sander	Shirley Stacey
Flora Wanner	Sherry Oswalt
John Tate	R C Byram

### August Birthdays

*Ronnie Taylor*      *8/1*  
*Lily Robinson*      *8/6*  
*Jerry Brewer*      *8/8*  
*Rajama Johnson*      *8/30*



### August Anniversaries

