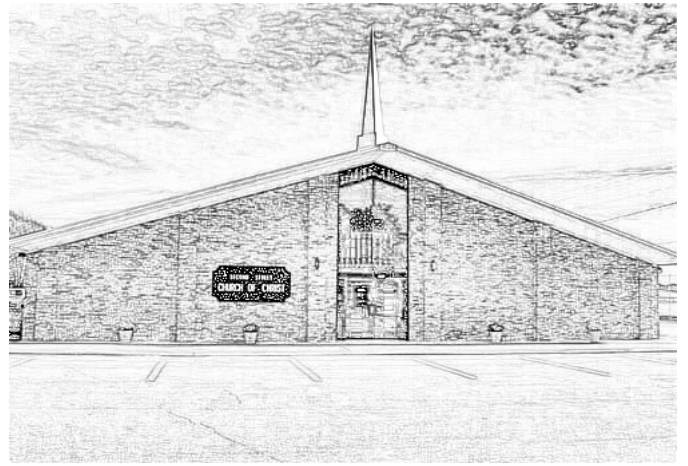


# Second Street Church of Christ



March 27, 2016

## Lessons from a fear of clowns

### MINISTER

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### SERVICE TIMES

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

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

Many fears appear ridiculous, but they're very real to the person who suffers from them. One of the more common phobias is coulrophobia or a fear of clowns. The fear has been around for a long time but the name is fairly recent.

Either because of a bad experience or because of the media's portrayal, many people are afraid of them. Clowns such as serial killer John Wayne Gacy and Pennywise in Stephen King's "It" don't help matters.

Clowns are supposed to be fun with their permanent smiles and bright colors, but instead they evoke dread. Hiding their true identity, they're perceived to be deceptive and dangerous.

Others scoff at such a notion. They're just clowns, they're harmless.

The contrasting view of clowns brings an illustration to mind. Most people think Satan is a fairy tale concept with his pitchfork and pointy ears. There isn't anything to fear from something that doesn't even exist.

Just like an adult who fears clowns, those who know Satan is real are mocked as being childish. Except Satan is much more frightening than any phobia or fear. The Devil takes the soul and nothing matters more than that (Psalm 16:10; Revelation 20:7-10).

Satan hides behind a disguise, as well. "For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14, NKJV).

Appearances can be deceptive. Satan is the lord of lies and he mimics our voice and preferences as he subtly guides us into destruction (John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8). We must fear him and cling to Christ so we can be saved spiritually (2 Corinthians 11:3; John 17:15).

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## *Announcements*

**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.

**The sign-up sheet** to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.

*Trays for March*

**Michelle Holcomb**



### **What Howard learned in Heartbreak**

Howard Rutledge, a United States Air Force pilot, was shot down over North Vietnam during the early stages of the War. He spent several miserable years in the hands of his captors before being released at the war's conclusion. In his book *In the Presence of Mine Enemies*, he reflects upon the resources from which he drew in those arduous days when life seemed so intolerable:

“During those longer periods of enforced reflection, it became so much easier to separate the important from the trivial, the worthwhile from the waste. For example, in the past, I usually worked or played hard on Sundays and had no time for church. For years Phyllis [his wife] had encouraged me to join the family at church. She never nagged or scolded, she just kept hoping. But I was too busy, too preoccupied, to spend one or two short hours a week thinking about the really important things. Now the sights and sounds and smells of death were all around me. My hunger for spiritual food soon outdid my hunger for a steak. Now I wanted to talk about God and Christ and the church. But in Heartbreak's [the name POWs gave their prison camp] solitary confinement, there was no preacher, no Sunday School teacher, no Bible, no hymnbook, no community of believers to guide and sustain me. I had completely neglected the spiritual dimension of my life. It took prison to show me how empty life is without God.”

It took the presence of a POW camp to show Rutledge that there was a center to his private world that he had been neglecting all of his life.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man (Ecc. 12:13).

*Gordon MacDonald  
via Laings church of christ  
Laings, OH*

*Bulletin Digest*

### **Boost Your Budget by Missing Worship?**

If you miss worship on the first day of week does that mean your pocket has a little extra in it to spend the rest of the week? If you answer yes, you have the wrong answer. Giving as we have been prospered means exactly that – giving as we have been prospered; not giving as long as we show up to worship! If we miss worship one week, but we prospered that week, then a portion of our prosperity from that week still belongs to God. And to deny that is to deny God (1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11).

*Eugene Adkins  
Keltonburg church of Christ  
Smithville, TN Bulletin Digest*

## When God sings

When the beloved James told happy saints to sing, James 5.13, perhaps he instructed them to do this because that is what God does.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.  
Zephaniah 3.17 ESV

God loves to save people. It makes him happy. He and all the heavenly host rejoice when someone repents, Luke 15. He breaks out in song.

Excuse my manner of speaking, but you and I can make God sing.

God saves today through his people proclaiming the Good News. When we fail to do it, there is no salvation for others. He has put his church on earth as his mission agent to save others. What an amazing thought!

Unfortunately, few of his people today cause God to sing. Many have left up sharing the gospel to others, especially to people paid to do it.

Not only does God *not* sing at that, he is deeply saddened. He mourns. He sees so many weighed down by self-interest, busy schedules, worldliness, entertainment, insecurity and doubt. They fill their lives with things that will perish. They fail to find the certainty of truth. They let Satan obscure their vision of God's greatness and goodness. They leave off Scripture and prayer.

Before we can help others, Jude 22-24, we must follow Jude's instructions:

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith, by praying in the Holy Spirit, **maintain yourselves in the love of God**, while anticipating the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings eternal life. Jude 20-21 NET

Both Jude and James end their letters with the need to save others, just as Jesus ended his ministry by giving his people the mission of proclaiming salvation, Matthew 28.18-20. Peter sets his imperative smack dab in the middle of his first letter:

But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and **always be ready to give an answer** to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. 1 Peter 3.15

Peter ties together making Christ the Lord in our hearts and readiness to explain our hope. If we are not doing the latter, we have failed to do the former.

How do we hope to enter into the joy of our Master eternally, when we fail to give him joy now?

The joy of salvation is not only in having it, but in sharing it as well.

Make God sing for joy. Show someone how to be saved.

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**      **7:00pm**

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Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*  
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**Psalms 133:1**

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	Matthew Horton
Joey Pierce	Cathy Harrison
Troy Yarbrough	Phillip Pharr
Pete Wooten	Brenda Leatherwood
Becky Raper	Barbara Blackman
Cathy Alexander	Jeanie Ivy
Gerald Nunley	Lauren Chase
John Tate	Lou Dodson
Mary Gilley	



### March Birthdays

**Jimmy Higginbottom 3/15**

**Lene Hammett 3/15**

**Shawn Robinson 3/15**

**Ann Martin 3/23**

**Michelle Holcomb 3/26**

### March Anniversaries

**Jerry & Janey 3/2**

**Barry & Debra 3/17**

### Sympathy

*Marilyn Pharr Family*