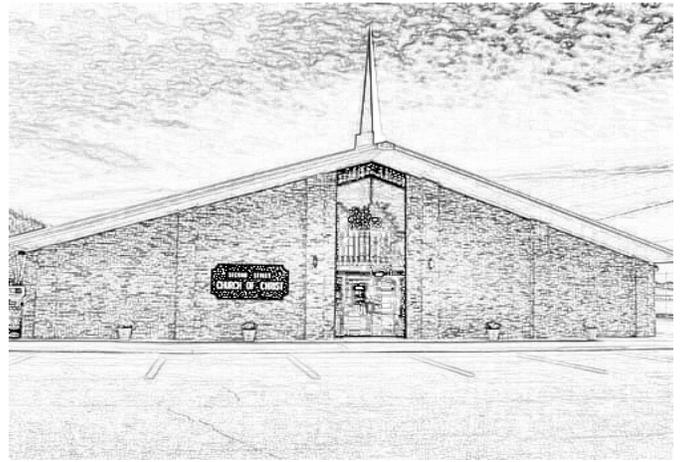


Second Street Church of Christ



April 3, 2016

The 'Corinth Syndrome'

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126
Belmont, Ms. 38827

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*

The fact that the man speaking was supposedly a gospel preacher made his words that much more incredible. His solution to dwindling attendance and a seemingly unpopular preacher in a small-town congregation near his home was to build a really nice (expensive) new church building there and hire him to be the new preacher. All he needed was several area churches to fund the new building and his salary, and he could almost guarantee immediate church growth. He got the idea from a large denomination.

He was not the first brother to think that spiritual problems can be cured by material means. Paul tried to open the eyes of the church at Corinth, saying, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ... For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (1 Cor. 3:1,3). The Corinthians believed that who performed their baptism was of greater significance than the fact that they had been born by the Spirit at baptism into the one body (1 Cor. 1:10-17; 12:13).

The cure for the problems at Corinth was to think spiritually about spiritual problems, even about all of life. They needed to acknowledge and submit to the authority of Christ. So Paul wrote, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (1 Cor. 14:37). Individually following His example and collectively doing what He taught us will lead to solving every spiritual problem we face. We must each strive to live so that we can say, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1).

J. Brooks Boyd Jr.

Livingston church of Christ

Livingston, TN Buletin Digest

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.

Singing & fellowship April 14th at Edna's.

Bear Stuffing April 12th.

Trays for April

Shea Cozort



The overlooked aspect of the gun rights debate

The bumper sticker says: "Guns don't kill, people kill." Clever, succinct slogans are indispensable to political activism. However, the full truth is often a casualty of such pithy sayings.

Do guns kill, or do people? People endlessly argue over this point but they fail to attack the real issue. Therefore, nothing changes.

Imagine a room with a simple wooden chair and table. A man sits in the chair and a gun is on the table. Neither are moving and no violence occurs. Beside the gun is a bullet. All three continue to sit without any movement or action.

By themselves, people, guns or even bullets won't kill. Even when they're all combined, violence isn't axiomatic. Only in some situations does a shooting occur.

What sets them apart is the spiritual component and that's been overlooked in the overall debate.

Friends, people with guns, bullets and purpose **do** commit murder. We can legislate, scream and threaten but it's pointless until we deal with the purpose. With the exception of accidents, murders require intent and purpose. That is the real battleground.

Crime and gun violence in particular will never be stopped until we deal with the spiritual aspect of the person committing the crime. Purpose doesn't need a gun to kill. It will find a way.

The gospel is the only sustainable answer for crime. Criminals will ignore laws. However, God knew we all needed boundaries so he created government (Romans 13:1-5).

If we would all come to the Lord, we would be busy serving God and living righteous lives (Romans 12:1-2). Love for the Lord and our fellow men would overwhelm us and we would be at peace with others (1 John 4). Even when we had conflict, we would embrace God's measures (Romans 12:17-19; Matthew 18:15-20).

Once we remove the evil in our hearts and battle Satan's temptations (1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7), the purpose to murder is obliterated and the gun and the bullet won't be armed with a reason to kill.

Sadly, the national debate ignores the spiritual aspect and crime continues to thrive. Banning guns is useless because the purpose will just find another way. Only Christ is the answer to crime but people won't listen.

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What do you see?

A London merchant and the poet William Blake watched the sun rise up out of the sea. The bright, yellow disk revealed itself, gilding the water, and painting the sky with a thousand colors.

“What do you see?” the poet asked the merchant.

“Ah, I see gold,” the merchant replied. “The sun looks like a great gold piece. What do you see?”

“I see the glory of God,” Blake answered. “And I hear a multitude of the heavenly host crying, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty. The whole earth is full of his glory.’”/1

The universe is not only an argument for the existence of God, but calls us to worship the Almighty who created it and to ask the great question of why we are here.

The universe itself cannot answer that question. A revelation is required.

So [Psalm 19](#) reflects the two books of God, as some have called them, the book of creation, and the book of Scripture.

The former should lead us to the latter.

Or it might well be that, in a world where creation (men call it Nature or Gaia) is idolized, deified, personified, and idealized, we need the book of Scripture to help us see the greatness of God in the heavens and the earth.

The Bible is always a great place to begin. Actually, the only place to begin.

For it, like creation, shows all the signs of a creative and engaged God. The Bible demonstrates a Presence above and beyond the powers of men. Its beauty, power, unity, and message can convert the skeptic and convince the atheist.

The Bible informs the seeker with the expansive will of God and answers our most important questions about who he is, who we are, how we got here, and where we need to go.

He who seeks God will find him in the Book. For here does God come to meet with man, here is revealed the mind of God, here the Pathway opens up to the glories of heaven.

The Bible appeals to heart, mind, will, and deepest emotion. The Bible fills the emptiness of soul. The Bible reduces man’s pride to ashes and resurrects his dashed hopes.

Man will see in creation what he wishes to see. A greedy merchant saw nothing more than a huge coin. Blake was informed by Scripture and, upon seeing the glory of the sunrise over the sea, turned to Scripture, specifically, [Isaiah 6:3](#), to express the meaning of what he saw.

The Bible is the great lens through which we come to understand our world, our need, and our God.

Read, study, ponder, and apply the Scriptures. In them, find God.

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study **7:00pm**

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
Barbara Blackman	Mary Gilley
Cathy Alexander	Jeanie Ivy
Gerald Nunley	Lauren Chase
John Tate	Lou Dodson
Mike Braden	Elton Bruton
Dana Clayton	Jo Vandagriff
Sammy Green	Allison Heitzman



April Birthdays

April Anniversaries

James & Bonnie 4/15

John & Betty 4/17

Sympathy

Marilyn Pharr Family
Norma Taylor Family