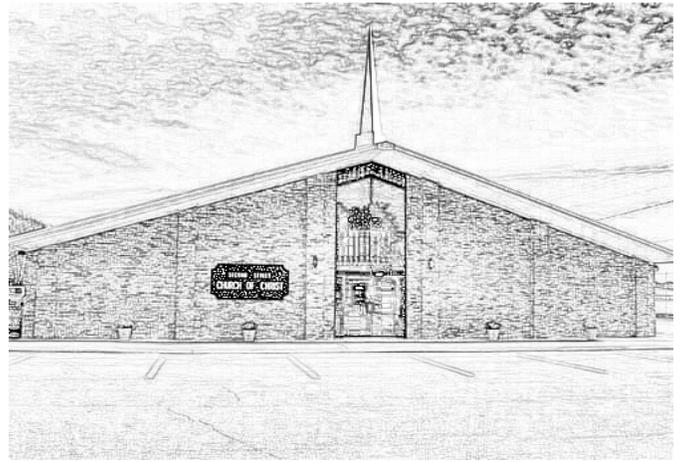


Second Street Church of Christ



May 1, 2016

Why blessings and boredom may not coexist

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*

The Guardian newspaper ran a story about the rampant boredom people feel in our age. /1 We've changed as a result of technology and it isn't for the better.

With the internet, games and smartphones at our fingertips, one would think boredom would be obsolete. Earlier generations would be mystified at being bored while on something as grand as the internet.

It's certainly inconceivable to many of us who have books to fill our time. Bookworms are never bored.

The writer of the article says we're "overstimulated" and "Our attention spans are now thought to be less than that of a goldfish – eight seconds."

"The more entertained we are the more entertainment we need in order to feel satisfied. The more we fill our world with fast-moving, high-intensity, ever-changing stimulation, the more we get used to that and the less tolerant we become of lower levels."

In other words, what we value above all ends up, in a sense, devaluing our existence. Yet, the changes are so incremental that we usually don't notice them and the young are raised without anything to compare it to.

Children were once content with imagination and a stick while today they're seemingly never satisfied with anything.

"We are hard-wired to seek novelty, which produces a hit of dopamine, that feel-good chemical, in our brains. As soon as a new stimulus is noticed, however, it is no longer new, and after a while it bores us. To get that same pleasurable dopamine hit we seek fresh sources of distraction."

We easily see the problems this presents spiritually. The Word of God was "settled" before time began (Psalm 119:89) and Jesus is unchanging regardless of time (Hebrews 13:8).

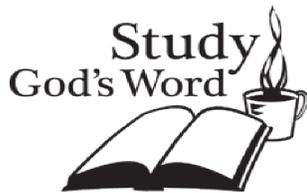
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Announcements

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.

Ron Deaton will be with us today.



Trays for May

Michelle Holcomb

Welcome!



We are Glad
You are Here!

Accordingly, people disdain scriptural worship or the Bible because they're perpetually in pursuit of sensory stimulation and the spiritual can pale because it doesn't offer the same high as technology.

Like a drug, we must continue to escalate to attain the same level of pleasure. When virtual reality is perfected, the spiritual will suffer even more.

When we plug into the spiritual, however, we see the world differently (Romans 12:1-2). Our values, perspectives and interests shift and the temporal loses its value. Transcendent things take precedence and we become visitors on earth (Philippians 3:20).

We realize that all spiritual blessings are found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3) but that is, in a sense, stationary. It's unchanging nature allows Satan to tempt us to call it "boring" and "old-fashioned."

Satan pushes humanity to utopian enlightenment without God and it's a colossal lie (John 8:44).

It requires much effort to rise above the distractions around us and to train ourselves to maintain greater focus on what matters. God will never cater to our whims.

We should use the high speed electronic world but we must never allow it to obscure the spiritual or the ways of God will no longer matter. It's where people are and we can use it for the glory of the Lord. But we must never lose our way in the process.

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*Never try to tell everything you know. It may
take too short a time. —Norman Ford*

A Kindness Tracker

You have probably seen one. It looks like a watch, yet sleeker. I believe it does keep time, though. It can come in a variety of colors. It keeps track of the steps you take and monitors your pulse and sleep patterns. It is very popular and was one of the most purchased items for Christmas gifts. Though sold by various companies and coming with various capabilities, "it" is a fitness tracker. Chances are pretty good that you own one, or someone close to you does.

Somehow recently, my mind stumbled across the idea of a kindness tracker. Not that a mechanical one could be made, but the very thought that I could somehow, each day, keep track of acts of kindness that I do excites me. It would not be for me to share with anyone, or to compare myself to anyone, or to compete with anyone. No, it would be just to keep myself motivated to do nice things for others. I could keep a running total in my mind throughout the day, and then think back over the list at the end of the day. This would supply a certain amount of satisfaction at the end of a trying day, or maybe, if the total was quite low, it could supply motivation for the next day.

There is an old story that used to make the rounds of bulletin articles and sermons. It told of man who wanted his son to have something to do that would make him feel good about himself. The son was lazing around on a snowy afternoon and the father told his son to get up and go to the neighbor's yard and shovel the snow off the sidewalk and driveway...without the neighbor knowing who did it.

Ah, there's the rub! There is an element of self-esteem and satisfaction that should not be fed by someone else acknowledging or rewarding an act of kindness. We should just do it just because it is the kind thing to do.

A few days ago, a young boy in California found a woman's wallet she had lost at a sporting event which he also attended. She simply counted the cost of the loss (credit cards, driver's license and a moderate amount of cash) and moved on by canceling her credit cards and replacing her wallet and license. A few days later, however, she received a package in the mail containing her wallet and a handwritten note from the ten-year-old boy. What joy she felt! What joy he must have felt!

We can enrich our lives and the lives of others by being more aware of our acts of kindness, as well as those done by others. "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

*Lance Cordle
Calvert City church of Christ
Calvert City, KY Bulletin Digest*

Sin Is Poison!

Wilbur Chapman tells of a distinguished minister who preached on sin. One of his leading members came to him and said, "Please don't talk so plainly about sin. It will give our young ones the wrong idea. Call it a 'mistake' if you will." The parson took a bottle of strychnine that was marked "poison" and showed it to his visitor. He said, "I understand what you want me to do. You want me to change the label. Suppose I take this label off and mark it 'oil of Anise' or some other mild liquid. Can't you see the danger in what you are asking? The milder you make the label, the more dangerous it makes the poison."

The world hardly recognizes sin anymore. We substitute politically correct names for it.

*Steven Clark Goad
Blythe church of Christ Blythe, CA Bulletin Digest*

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
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Jeanie Ivy	Marie Azzinaro
Gerald Nunley	Lauren Chase
John Tate	Lou Dodson
Mike Braden	Allison Heitzman
Dana Clayton	Jo Vandagriff
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Tim Denson	Carol Ivey
Faye Johnson	



May Birthdays

Rada Malone 5/4

Caleigh Tidwell 5/9

Stephanie Harris 5/16

Stelle Higginbottom 5/17

Debra Wren 5/18

Mallory Cleveland 5/27

Shea Cozort 5/29

May Anniversaries

Doris & Wendell 5/25

Sympathy

Stephanie Harris family