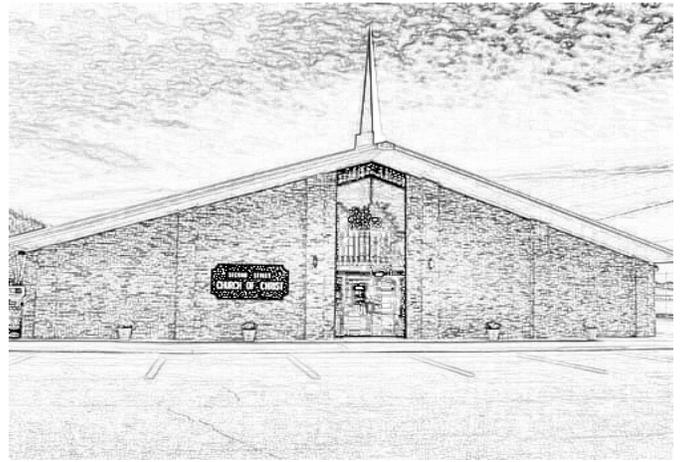


Second Street Church of Christ



May 8, 2016

Who Gets the Credit?

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

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Office

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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*

My wife and I went out to see the latest Marvel film yesterday evening. As always, we stayed until the very last credit because Marvel puts in little extras to give you a wee glimpse of what will happen in the next film (or another one to come soon).

But you have to wait until all the credits have gone. And they credit everyone for anything they have done that had to do with the film. I guess if I had a small bit to do with the film I'd probably want to see my name in the "end crawl" as well! I often wonder at some of the names or some of the positions (what is a "best boy" or "best boy grip" anyway?).

In many ways, this reflects our western society – people want to receive the credit for what they have done. Sometimes it goes beyond that: people not only want the credit but they want the credit for being the best.

Although we find in the New Testament the principal that we should give "respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due" (Romans 13:7 NET) often Christians want more than this. If someone is recognized and they aren't, they feel slighted. They want people to know what they have done and often they want to feel that they are the best. Some even have competitions to see who is the best preacher or who is the best song leader. Some want people to know exactly how many people they have converted and how many congregations they have started.

What would the apostle Paul have thought of this? Notice his reaction to people wanting this type of recognition.

"What is Apollos, really? Or what is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, and each of us in the ministry the Lord gave us. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused it to grow. So neither the one who plants counts for anything, nor the one who waters, but God who causes the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters work as one, but each will receive his reward according to his work. We are coworkers belonging to God. You are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

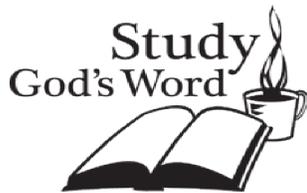
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Announcements

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.

Scripture & Songs followed by fellowship meal tonight.



Trays for May

Michelle Holcomb

Welcome!



We are Glad
You are Here!

It doesn't really matter who does the work because we are all servants. One person may plant the seed (teach someone the word of God), another may water it (give further teaching), but neither makes the person a Christian or causes them to grow spiritually. In fact, Paul went so far as to say that neither the one who plants nor the one who waters really counts for anything. Why? Because it is God who causes the growth, not people.

We may try to compete with other Christians but the reality is we are only servants, doing what our master has asked of us. Those who teach work together as coworkers. We will each be rewarded according to our work. But we are not in competition with each other. We are to work together because we all belong to God.

So, who gets the credit when someone becomes a Christian? Who gets the credit when a Christian grows spiritually?

The answer is quite simple: God does!

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Dear Preacher,

I found your card on the door when we got back from the park Sunday afternoon. I suppose you had been by to see why we didn't come to church Sunday morning, so I will explain. You see, my mother came to spend a few weeks with us, and we all went to the park on a picnic. We sure had a good time!

Preacher, I saw something I could hardly believe on Sunday as we were going to the park -- John Money-maker was plowing his cotton. I think that is terrible, don't you? I think you ought to do some preaching about the people who stay away from the church to plow on Sunday. And say, I saw Bill Pleasuremaker down on the creek fishing. It sure made me feel bad! Maybe you can throw in a point in a sermon that will make him see where he is wrong. I just don't know why people act that way.

Well, preacher, I just thought I'd drop you a line to let you know why we were not there Sunday. Mother will be here about six weeks, then we will be right there every Sunday morning in time for preaching!

Your friend --Lukewarm.

The Parable of the Railroad Crossing

Adam B. Cozort

Two vehicles came to a railroad crossing from opposite directions. As they approached, the warning signals at the intersection began to blare. The bells went off, the gates went down, and the lights flashed. The driver of one vehicle heeded the warning, brought his car to a stop and prepared to wait for the intersection to clear. The other driver was in a hurry and did not believe the danger was imminent; therefore, he swung his vehicle around the gate and prepared to cross the tracks and continue on his way. As he crossed the tracks the train hit his car and killed him.

Unfortunately, this particular event is not unknown or unheard in our day. We have all known of occasions where just this sort of action has occurred. Some will take to blaming the train operator; some will say that the warnings were not bold enough; some will argue that if the car had been faster it would not have been an issue. Nevertheless, all of these arguments miss the true source of the problem that caused the disaster. The driver ignored the warning. He received exactly the same warning that the first driver received; the only difference is that he did not heed the proffered warning, deciding he knew better.

With as many applications as this parable has for our physical lives, it has an equal impact in spiritual application. The Scriptures are filled with God's warnings against ignoring his will, living for self, and following one's own desires and directions. He has warned repeatedly that there is impending doom for those who will not heed the warning at the crossing. One such passage is 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, which clearly states: "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

God is adamant that the unwillingness to heed his warnings and obey his commands will lead to destruction (Luke 16:29-31). Yet many people are in too much of a hurry. They state that they will stop at the next warning signal, but they are just too busy right now. Some do not really believe the "train" is coming. Since they have not seen it and have never been hit by it previously, it must not actually be there. Others believe it to be fun to see just how close they can come to getting hit and still get through the intersection. All of these attitudes will eventually lead to the demise the second driver incurred.

As we come to the intersections of life and are presented with the warning signals of God, telling us of the dangers ahead, let us be wise and heed the warnings. They will assist us in our ability to live long and effective lives; as Solomon wrote: "The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened" (Proverbs 10:27) and, "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death" (Proverbs 14:27). They will also save our souls, as Paul advocated to the Colossians when he wrote of the Lord: "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28). We never know when the last warning will come or when the "train" will be too close to avoid again; the only safe choice is to listen to the commands of God and obey them – for therein we know we are safe.

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	
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	
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