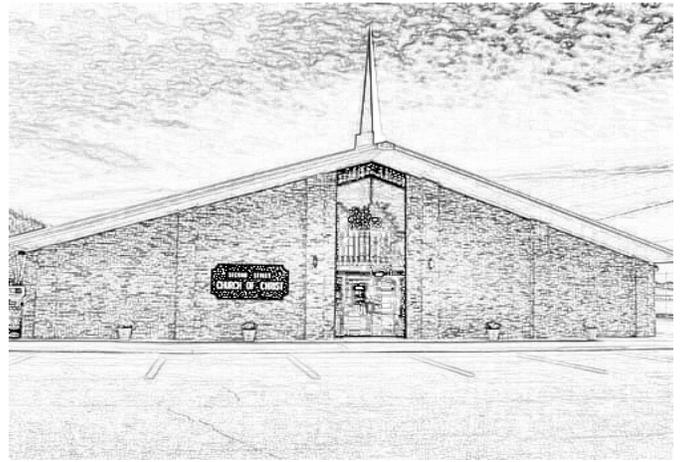


# Second Street Church of Christ



June 5, 2016

## Hope Changes Everything

### 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*

Enduring incredibly difficult situations is nothing new. Yet, one seems insufferable. Trying to live without hope.

It is when life seems darkest, we need to remember who our God is. God is not limited by what is possible for us.

When Sarah laughed at the notion that her husband at the age of 100 and she at 90 would have a child together, God interrupted the doubt with a question (Genesis 17:17-18; 18:11-14). "Is anything too difficult for the LORD?" A year later, this elderly couple was staying up late at night with the cries of their new born son.

When the unstoppable super power of the day had swallowed up all the surrounding nations and destroyed every fortress with only Jerusalem remaining, God promised that the invading king would not shoot a single arrow against Jerusalem's walls (Isaiah 37:33). The following morning Assyria's army lay dead.

When our lives have been broken and destroyed by sin, God's power can achieve what we cannot do for ourselves. God can make us alive with Christ giving us spiritual life and an undeserved future inheritance (Ephesians 2:3-7). In fact, God is able to do far more abundantly within the life of a believer beyond all that we might ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

As long as we possess life, hope lives for what God can do in our lives. Hope exists because of who God is. And for those who die in the Lord, the greatest of hopes then becomes reception.

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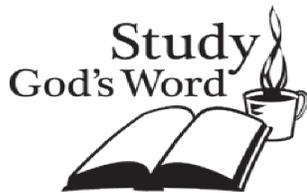
# Announcements

**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.

**Summer Series** Wednesday night. David Lambert will be speaking on Aaron.

**Summer Youth series** Thursday night will be here. Mickey Beam will be speaking. Come out and support this effort.



*Trays for June*

**Debra Brewer**

*Welcome!*



*We are Glad  
You are Here!*

## *Late Again*

Tour guide: "And this is where the Magna Carta was signed."

Tourist: "When did this happen?"

Tour guide: "Twelve fifteen."

Tourist: "Wouldn't you know it. We only missed it by 25 minutes."

## **Summer Youth Series**

*What is Truth?*

June 9	Second Street	Mickey Beam
June 16	Plainview	Jeff Horton
June 23	Gum	Jeremy Pierce
June 30	Pine Grove	Nathan Hale
July 14	Tilden	Jonathan Bates
July 21	Beans Ferry	Russ Crosswhite
July 28	Picnic at Plainview	

## **2016 Summer Series**

*Great Lessons from Old Testament Characters*

- June 8 – Aaron – David Lambert (Tishomingo)
- June 15 – Jonah – Scott Webster (Red Bay)
- June 22 – Joshua – Travis Brown (Millport, AL)
- June 29 – Elijah – Neil Myers (West Walker)
- July 6 – Ruth – David Conley (Liberty)
- July 13 – Gideon – Russ Vickers (Hillcrest - Baldwyn)
- July 20 – Josiah – Ron Deaton (Liberty)
- July 27 – Caleb – James Pasley (Fraleys Chapel)

## Choosing the reproach of Christ

Like his parents, Moses would have to choose between his royal family and his Israelite brethren. Events would eventually culminate in a decision to identify with one or the other.

The Bible recalls “the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel,” and “made their lives bitter with hard service” and “ruthlessly made them work as slaves” (Exodus 1:12,13). The easy choice for Moses would have been to remain with his royal family. Instead he “refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin” (Hebrews 11:24,25).

Moses could have, one supposes, immersed himself in the privileged life of a prince for the rest of his life. Most people could only dream of the life Moses led, but he determined to transition from prince to peasant. It would not be easy to wrench himself free from his royal family in order to join his spiritual family.

It never is.

Oddly the Hebrew writer switches terms from Moses’ decision to favor Israelite slaves to favoring Jesus Christ. “He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt” (Hebrews 11:26). Of course, in the literal sense Jesus Christ would not live for another millennium after Moses’ death, so it seems instead the author is including his readers in the need to side with the despised and unpopular; as Moses chose the Israelites, he seems to be saying, his readers should choose “the reproach of Christ.”

Then, as now, siding with Christ was not considered the “cool” choice. “If the world hates you,” Jesus had warned, “know that it has hated me first” (John 13:18).

Today a glance at the television will tell you that Christianity is not considered the popular lifestyle. In fact, antagonism toward Christianity is becoming more acute. Note the “rats” of secular people on social media in bitter, profane opposition to Christian principles. It has become acceptable on these sites to tear savagely into Christian beliefs.

To choose Christ and his church today is a decision we take knowing it will be deeply resented. The Lord warned that his way would not be popular: “For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few” (Matthew 7:13,14).

When Christians suggest that the church should accept the homosexual lifestyle, they are exhibiting their desire to side with conventional wisdom, rather than the church. When church leaders drop their insistence on a cappella music, it is because they desire the approval of their religious neighbors rather than the church. When church scholars seek to explain away biblical teaching on the role of men and women in worship, it is because they fear the rejection of colleagues in academia. When preachers no longer call on believers to be baptized, it is because they fear their congregations will not grow when they make this biblical stand. There are those within our ranks who will mock our commitment to returning to the Bible as if such was the action of the rural and the unsophisticated.

In that sense, to choose the church that seeks the Scripture for its only authority is to choose the church that is reproached. Yet compromise and courage are rarely synonyms; courage and making a stand are.

Make no mistake, it is hard to choose the unpopular church, the uncompromising Jesus, and the “uncool” teachings of Scripture. We are the church “everywhere spoken against” (Acts 28:22). It is hard to choose in its favor. Hard indeed, yet necessary.

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## 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	Faye Johnson
Troy Yarbrough	Phillip Pharr
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Jeanie Ivy	Marie Azzinaro
Gerald Nunley	Lauren Chase
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Allison Heitzman
Dana Clayton	Tim Denson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood



### June Birthdays

*Jim Johnson 6/15*  
*Ashlyn Holcomb 6/26*

### June Anniversaries

*Larry & Stephanie 6/7*  
*Jim & Jan 6/25*  
*Ronnie & Carol 6/28*

### Sympathy

*Tate / Debra Wren family*