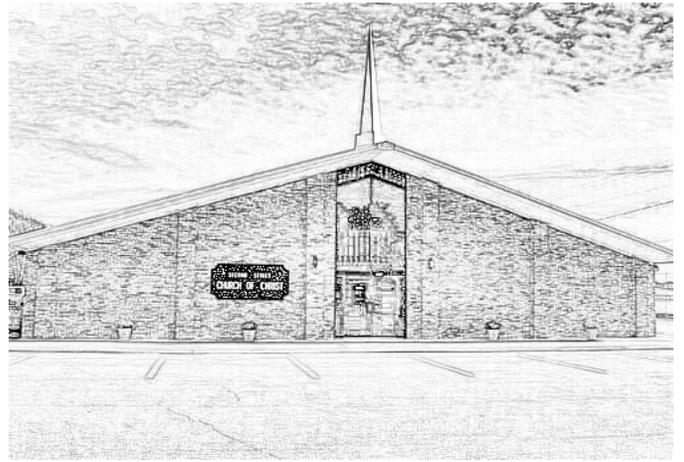


# Second Street Church of Christ



August 14, 2016

## Two wrongs do not make a right

### 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*

This is a scenario every preacher and elder knows: A family has been missing from worship. When a church leader notes this, he goes to their home to determine if there is anything he can do.

During the visit the family throws a number of accusations at the church. This church “doesn’t feed me,” this church “doesn’t have a good youth program,” someone in the church “said something insensitive,” and, my personal favorite, “there are hypocrites in the church.”

Our visitor leaves their home crestfallen and discouraged. To begin with, he is disappointed because a family he cares about appears to be out of his reach. Secondly, he is aware of his own limitations. He is not perfect. Neither is his congregation. If the family was expecting perfection, he knows, the church had lost them from the start. Like a twenty-foot goal in a basketball game, it was an expectation too high for a church to achieve.

It is interesting that in these interactions, it’s always the church’s fault. The church is too easy a target.

Statistics prove that 100% of churches are comprised of ... human beings.

Some are new Christians whose behavior reflects their spiritual immaturity (1 Peter 2:2). Others are Christians who have warmed a pew for a long time but have not matured spiritually as they should have (Hebrews 5:11-14). And, because I know one very well indeed, preachers are not perfect either.

But I have a question that rarely seems to be asked: Is there ever a sufficient reason for leaving Christ and his church?

As it turns out, people who have done wrong have been making excuses for their behavior for a long time. Apparently they believed their extenuating circumstances excused their behavior: Adam blamed Eve for his sin; Eve

*(Continued on page 2)*

# 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 and Song** followed by fellowship meal tonight.

**Bear Stuffing** Tuesday night.

**Ladies Devotional** at Southern Magnolia August 18.

*Trays for August*

**Bonnie Holcomb**

Nobody can go back and make a new beginning or undo anything that has been done. But we can always start again at the present moment, correct things that are wrong and start doing what is right and make a brand new ending.

*(Continued from page 1)*

blamed the serpent (Genesis 3:12,13). Cain was not certain his brother was his responsibility anyway (Genesis 4:9). King Saul believed the pressure of those around him accounted sufficiently for his mistakes (1 Samuel 15:15,21).

What I am getting at, beloved, is there is never a good reason to do a wrong thing; two wrongs still do not make a right. Even when it is someone in the church who fails us, we must still continue to serve God. If everyone left the church because someone disappointed us, mark this, *there would be no church left.*

Jesus was wronged, historically wronged, yet he did not use this as an excuse for wrong in return (1 Peter 2:23). We can thank God that Jesus did not use our mistakes as his reason for abandoning us.

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## **THINGS YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY FOR**

For telling the truth; For living a pure life; For your faith in Christ; For acknowledging your sins; For doing your best; For thinking before acting; For hearing before judging; For forgiving your enemies; For helping a fallen brother; For being loyal to the church; For standing by your principles; For being courteous and kind; For money given to the Lord's cause; For being honest in business.

*Bulletin Gold*

## *Grow Up*

*“But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children...” (Matt. 11:16).*

If there is a word that describes our generation, it is the word childish.

**Children are selfish.** They can surprise us with acts of giving, but their world view is not big enough to see the needs of others like they should. Babies are born totally dependent on their mothers and fathers. They are born receivers, not givers. As children grow they need to be taught to think about others. Some learn but others don't. Many have grown in their bodies but not in their minds. They expect everybody to do for them. They demand to have their way. They have to be the center of attention and whatever is done is supposed to please them. Like the Israelite men and women in Amos' time, they want to have fun and enjoy themselves, but they're not concerned about the hardships of others (Amos 6:1-6).

**Children get upset when even little things don't go their way.** To them the slightest disappointment is the end of the world. Without guidance and correction they tend to whine, pout, and get mad. This is how many teenagers, parents, and men and women definitely old enough to know better act today. Have you ever seen so much bickering? Have you ever seen so many people who pout or get mad over the least little thing? A lot of people today are like Ahab who went home and pouted when a man wouldn't sell him a piece of property he really wanted (1 Kings 21:1-4).

**Children want to play.** They love to play. Work usually doesn't come naturally; they have to be taught and required to work. In pioneer days children had to pitch in and work or the family wouldn't have enough to eat. In our modern world with all our luxuries and conveniences, children often do little work around home. Parents can make this worse by thinking they have to constantly entertain them. Even in earlier times David Lipscomb warned about this. He said good parents know how to give “wholesome neglect” to their children and let them learn to entertain themselves, rely on themselves, and do for others. It is tragic that many Americans live for nothing else but having fun. At home, at work, and at church they just want to play and not be bothered with anything serious.

It hurts a child to be told “No,” but this is what he needs. “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Prov. 29:15). There are grown men and women who hate being told “No. You can't do that.” Now that spanking has been discouraged in the home and banned at school, we have adults foolish enough to think they should never be denied anything. In marriage they throw fits when they don't get what they want. In church they stomp off in rage when a sermon convicts them of sin. They owe nothing to others. The world is here to wait on them.

*“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men” (1 Cor. 14:20).*

*Kerry Duke  
West End church of Christ  
Livingston, TN*

*Bulletin Digest*

## 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	John Michael Schultz
Gerald Nunley	Dorsa Sparks
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Allison Heitzman
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Charlotte Lard	David James
Kay Pope	Henry Vandagriff
Janice Moody	Ellie Sander
Jennifer Steger	



### August Birthdays

*Ronnie Taylor 8/1*

*Lily Robinson 8/6*

*Rajama Johnson 8/30*

### August Anniversaries

### Sympathy

*ChaseFamily*