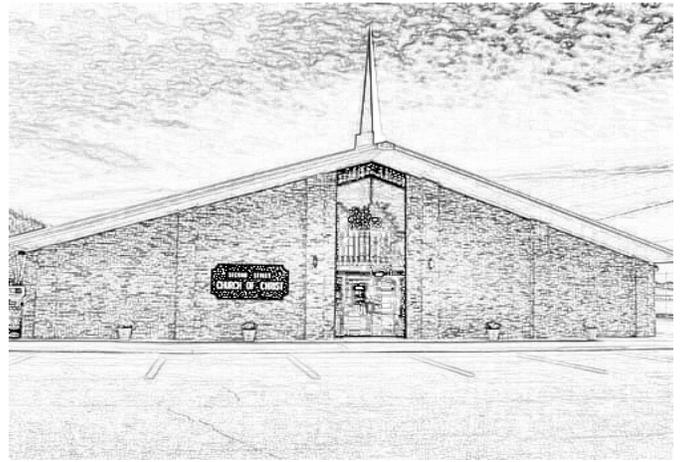


Second Street Church of Christ



September 18, 2016

Are you growing?

Soils and hearts are alike as far as Jesus was concerned.

There is the hard ground next to a road. The little grassy paths on which the people of Palestine walked would become hardened. The soil would become so packed down as to be almost impenetrable. Any seed inadvertently thrown down on this ground would be “devoured” (Mark 4:4). A hard-hearted person may hear the word of God, but in no time at all Satan takes it away (Mark 4:15).

Stony ground fairs only marginally better. The sowed seed begins to grow but soon after it sprouts the sun kills it because it had no source of water (Mark 4:5-6). It has been said, “Well begun is half done,” and that may be true. The problem is that well begun is not completely done. These stony-hearted folks begin well, but when persecution comes, they fall away (Mark 4:17).

Some seed falls on ground where thorns are already growing. Perhaps the farmer cut off the tops of the thorns in an effort to kill them, but the roots of those plants were already in place. Since the thorns have a head start, the seed is choked to death (Mark 4:7). There are people whose worldly interests already clutter their minds to the point that, even if they were to hear the word, it couldn’t grow for very long (Mark 4:19).

Then, there is the seed sown on good ground. The ground has been prepared correctly and all the conditions are right. When the seed falls into this ground it has no problem growing strong roots and springing up into a healthy plant. Not only is the good soil important to the beginnings of the desired plant, but also the plant grows until it completes its purpose by giving fruit.

The book of James teaches this principle. We are begotten by the word of truth

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***

(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.

Food Pantry item - Rice-a-roni.

Pinevale Food Drive spaghetti sauce, cooking oil, paper towels.

Trays for Sept

Rada Malone

An excellent wife is a crown to her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones. Proverbs 12:4

Faith Brings Optimism

Ken Stegall

The interesting thing about a pessimist and an optimist is that they are both right. Just ask them. They will be more than happy to share their evidence.

We all tend to find what we are looking for in life. It's the old adage "Is the glass half full or half empty?" The answer is "Yes," Happiness, peace and success in life are determined, not by circumstances, but by your attitude.

If you look for problems, you'll find them. If you look for solutions, you may or may not find them, but you will find the strength to endure through your problems. And endurance quite often brings the solution.

The difference between a pessimist and an optimist is that an optimist focuses on the future and a pessimist focuses on the immediate circumstances. If that's true, then we as Christians have every reason to be optimistic. Our God has promised us an incredibly bright future. And we trust Him. That's what the Bible calls faith.

Every pessimist considers himself to be a "realist." The implication being-"If you are optimistic, you are ignoring the facts!" But one can be optimistic even in dire circumstances. . . IF he believes that someone who 1) loves him and 2) is powerful enough to control every situation IS, in fact, IN CONTROL. However, if you believe that things are truly out of control, and/or that God doesn't truly love you, there is no basis for optimism. So when we find ourselves becoming pessimistic, we need to focus on those two things.

I'm an optimist. And, I like to believe that I'm also a realist. That means that when it looks like things are out of control in my life, or in the world, I need to remind myself that what I'm really feeling is that things are out of MY control. And I pray for faith to remind me to be at peace knowing that my loving Father is in control.

I don't always understand His ways. That's because He's bigger than I am. I'm thankful for that. He can see all the way to the end of my life and He certainly knows that I need some struggles to give me reason to trust Him.

(Continued from page 1)

(James 1:18). We learn to listen more than we speak and to put anger in its place (James 1:19-20). We receive with meekness the implanted word (James 1:21). But that's not all. We become doers of the word and not only hearers (James 1:22-24). Because we are doers of the word, we continue in the law of Christ (James 1:25). If our religion is true, we become people whose lives show the truth of God's word (James 1:26-27).

Just as a plant grows and achieves its purpose, those who are obedient to the will of Christ grow up and achieve his purpose. Are you growing?

Used by permission from Forthright Magazine (forthright.net). Copyright © 2016 John Henson

Illusions of security

With fifteen years behind us, we're developing a long-range perspective on the September 11th terrorist attacks on our nation.

Hopefully, the palpable shock and fear we felt will be passed on to the next generation.

All of us were permanently changed by 9/11. Laura Tinnel and her family live in the nation's capital and her thoughts on that tragic day really resonate.

Like most everyone else who was watching, they thought the initial plane was an accident. But that was quickly dispelled when the second plane appeared.

“The realization that this was no accident struck like a head-on collision. Confusion and panic followed, as another plane hit closer to home. That day we lost something very dear: our sense of security. We realize now that in a free society, security is an illusion. But it is an illusion I would have preferred to keep.”

We lost an innocence as a nation that cannot be regained. This was happening on our own televisions. Horror enveloped the nation.

All planes were grounded and everyone went on alert. Suspicion and doubt followed us everywhere in the aftermath.

Security measures were dramatically increased for our protection. Yet, we complained loudly about the inconvenience and the suppression of our rights.

Time has passed, less is being done and we feel safer and more comfortable. We must beware complacency.

Security isn't only physical. As spiritual beings, we're at war and we must continually be alert and aware of the dangers (Ephesians 6:12). Our enemy Satan is relentless (1 Peter 5:8) and he knows all the tricks (John 8:44).

However, security can be an illusion. We don't know what will happen and when.

The spiritual war is inescapable. We either utilize the weapons God's provided (Ephesians 6:10-17) or we'll be destroyed (Revelation 20:11-15). Cluelessness is never a defense.

Of course, we all hunger for the illusion of security where we can do as we please without consequence. That's no longer possible in a world where terrorism is a constant threat.

Physically or spiritually, it's no different. Danger never leaves us so we must always be ready and armed with the weaponry of God.

Used by permission from Forthright Magazine (forthright.net). Copyright © 2016 Richard Mansel

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	Faye Johnson
Phillip Pharr	Ellie Sander
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Jeanie Ivy	Larry Sartain
Dorsa Sparks	Jennifer Steger
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Allison Heitzman
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Charlotte Lard	David James
Janice Moody	Flora Wanner



September Birthdays

Josiah Cozort 9/1

Adam Cozort 9/5

Janey Dees 9/20

Carol Taylor 9/30

September Anniversaries

Jeffrey & LaSha 9/23

Sympathy

Ezell Family
Yarbourough Family