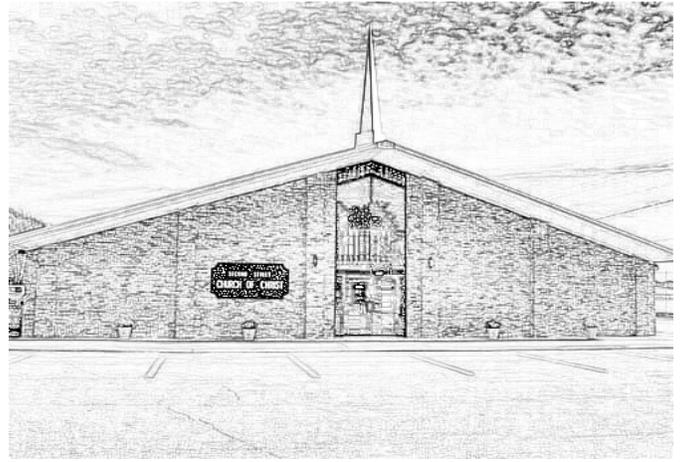


Second Street Church of Christ



December 11, 2016

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

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Office

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Belmont, Ms. 38827

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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***

Jealousy is an emotional poison

*F*ew things are as dangerous as jealousy. It corrodes everything it touches.

Jealousy has been a problem since “Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him” (Genesis 4:8, NKJV).

Solomon said that “envy makes the bones rot” (Proverbs 14:30).

Countless lives have been destroyed by it’s poison. Joseph Kennedy said that “more men die of jealousy than of cancer.” It’s very serious and it must be faced and overcome.

Jealousy has a predictable face but an individualized backstory.

Erica Jong said that “jealousy is all the fun you think they had.” We know nothing of other people’s hearts and lives. Yet, jealousy ignores that detail.

It can find its way into all of our hearts like it did with King David (2 Samuel 11). Gary Allan said that, “You can be the moon and still be jealous of the stars.” No one is free from danger.

Jealousy emanates from a sinful heart and a mind that has lost its focus. It’s the “jaundice of the soul” (John Dryden).

“Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them” (Proverbs 24:1).

Jealousy deconstructs reality to suit our needs. We lose our grasp on reality and we see the world through a distorted lens. Then when we get what we desire, it’s not what we wanted.

We need to simplify things and replace the fleshly with the spiritual and develop healthier goals and perspectives.

If we desire heaven above all, this world loses its luster and its grasp on our hearts. Spiritual values are immune to jealousy and envy so learn and live them as soon as possible.

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***“more men die
of jealousy
than of cancer.***

Announcements

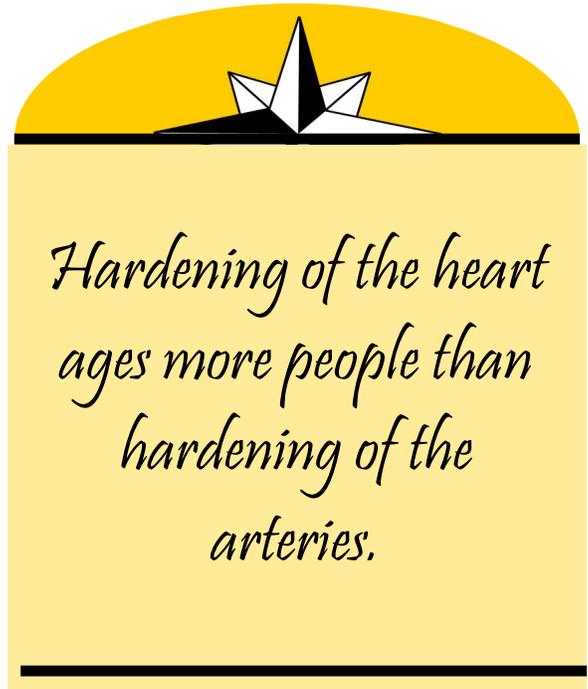
Welcome Visitors!! You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

The sign-up sheet to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.

Food Drive item - see list in the back for items that may be lacking.

Clothing Drive Continues - See Debra Wren if you have any clothes to bring.

Thanksgiving meal - A little over 30 meals were delivered to members and individuals in the community. Thanks to those who prepared food and helped deliver the plates.



If anyone is interested in helping.
From the Gatlinburg Church of Christ:

Our building was fully insured. If anyone wants to help those who lost their homes, we ask them to send a contribution to the Gatlinburg church of Christ and mark it For Fire Relief. We will use it to help our members first and then others as funds permit. The address is: Gatlinburg church of Christ, P.O. Box 361, Gatlinburg,

“Christ is our steering wheel, not our spare tire”.

The Purpose of Life...

Life is a precious gift from God. It is God who “forms the spirit of man within him” (Zechariah 12:1), and it is to God that our spirits return after death (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Consequently, it would seem that men ought to use their lives to please God. But rather than striving to “seek the Lord” (Acts 17:27), men often expend their energies in other ventures.

Some, for example, act as if their purpose in life is to gain physical wealth. And to that end they focus all of their efforts. Those who struggle in this area should be reminded of several basic Biblical truths: 1) “One’s life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses” (Luke 12:15); 2) Christians ought to “lay up for [themselves] treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Matthew 6:20); and 3) “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10). Life’s purpose is not to amass earthly wealth.

Others act as if their purpose in life is to maintain their physical health. While it should be granted that our bodies are important to God (1 Corinthians 6:19), and that “bodily exercise profits a little” (1 Timothy 4:8), it must be remembered that at the longest, our lives are but brief (James 4:14). For this reason, we must make sure that we do not become so consumed with caring for our bodies that we lose focus upon God.

Still others act as if the purpose of life is to experience pleasure. This, too, misses the point of our existence. Our purpose is to “Fear God and keep His commandments. For this is man’s all” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Chad Ramsey

Are we spiritually healthy?

*F*rom the elder, to Gaius my dear brother, whom I love in truth. Dear friend, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, just as you are living according to the truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are living according to the truth.” (3 John 1:1-4 NET)

In the letter we call “3 John” we find correspondence from the writer, who identified himself as “the elder,” to a Christian named Gaius. It has long been attested that the writer was the apostle John, which would seem to be accurate. In this letter we find three men who can each tell us something about what being a Christian should look like.

Gaius is commended for “living according to the truth” and his faithfulness (3 John 1:4-5). Gaius had a reputation which all knew: he was a follower of Jesus and practiced what Jesus had taught. Gaius, in particular, was known for showing hospitality by keeping travelling Christians. He did not even know them, but they knew they could find a welcome in Gaius’ home. In this way Gaius became a co-worker with them in the work they were doing for Jesus (3 John 1:8). This is something that we, too, should be doing as we try to follow Jesus.

But all was not a bed of roses in the group of Christians that Gaius was with. There was a man named Diotrophes.

Diotrophes was a problem. He “loves to be first” (3 John 1:9), which would seem to be referring to his wanting to be the one in charge. He wanted this so badly that he would not acknowledge the authority of the apostles. In addition, he refused to welcome travelling Christians and would go so far as to throw those who did help them out of the congregation! No wonder John summed this man up by saying, “Dear friend, do not imitate what is bad but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does what is bad has not seen God” (3 John 1:11). This is definitely not the type of person anyone should want to be like!

Gaius is commended for “living according to the truth” and his faithfulness

Instead, there was a lovely man named Demetrius. This is what John wrote about him: “Demetrius has been testified to by all, even by the truth itself. We also testify to him, and you know that our testimony is true” (3 John 1:12). This is all we know about him – but wouldn’t we like to know more?! All testified about his goodness and even “truth itself” commended him (as well as the apostles). Gaius was told to be like Demetrius, not Diotrophes.

This short letter tells us that there have been good Christians as well as Christians that really did not follow Jesus since the good news of Jesus was first proclaimed. Sadly, it is those “who likes to put himself first” and “does not acknowledge our authority” (3 John 1:9 ESV) who cause the most heartache for Christians, as they create discord in the body of Christ. Instead, we should be like Demetrius, who “has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself” (3 John 1:12 ESV).

Notice as well what John said of Gaius – he prayed that Gaius would be as physically healthy as he was in spiritual health (3 John 1:2). If that were said of us, would we be healthy or very ill? That is worth thinking about!

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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

Prayer List

Paula Wanner	Debra Brewer
Joey Pierce	Faye Johnson
Phillip Pharr	Elizabeth Posey
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Larry Sartain	Flora Wanner
Jennifer Steger	Carolyn Holcomb
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Lynn Sander
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Charlotte Lard	David James
Jimmy Searcy	Tim Thomas
Steve Harris	Dianne Vandagriff
Manzy Caldwell	Kathy Gober
Aletha Ray	



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.



December Birthdays

Flora Wanner 12/3

Faye Johnson 12/15

MaKayla Johnson 12/17

Steve Holcomb 12/21

Jan Higginbottom 12/26

Joe Horton 12/29

December Anniversaries

Sympathy

Cozort Family