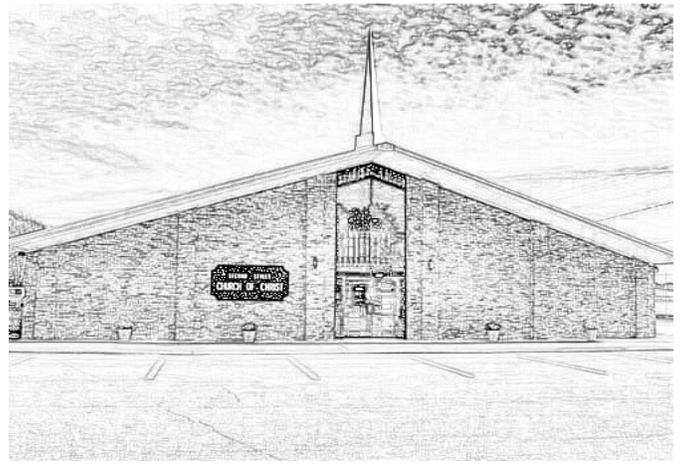


Second Street Church of Christ



January 15, 2017

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

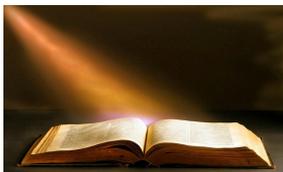
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Office

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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*

What it means to be a new creation

A look in the mirror will tell nothing. Except for perhaps a softer, more peaceful expression on one's face, there is no noticeable difference in physical appearance after baptism than before. No one can publish any drastic before and after pictures, when it comes to conversion. No one sprouts wings. No halo appears. No special light or aura surrounds a new Christian's body. We look the same.

But if one has obeyed the gospel according to the New Testament, something real and profound has occurred. God has acted, the old order has been damaged and diminished, the Spirit has breathed life into a soul, and the new life has appeared where before there was only death and the destiny of destruction.

"So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5.17.

The great premise of all appeals to living for Christ is based upon this truth of the new that has already come. The total transformation has already occurred. God "delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" Colossians 1.13-14. The transferral process is 100% complete.

So now we must live in Christ in accordance with our new status. To use a military metaphor, the victory has been assured, now it's a matter of mopping up. What does that entail? Paul provides some clues in 2 Corinthians 5.

*The self is no longer the
center of our existence,
because Christ has
replaced it.*

First, Christ controls us.

"For the love of Christ controls us, since we have concluded this, that Christ died for all; therefore all have died" 2 Corinthians 5.14.

Paul speaks in the context of his work among the Corinthians, about both his motivations and his ministry. Our goals and even our reactions to others are not controlled by what we want to get from others, but from what we want to give to them.

Second, we live for Christ.

"And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised" 2 Corinthians 5.15.

(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.

BE THINKING about helping out with teaching a class in 2017. The time is drawing near to change out teachers. When several people help out, it helps ease the task for all the teachers.

Ladies Fund is due to Rajama.



(Continued from page 1)

The self is no longer the center of our existence, because Christ has replaced it. As that center which gives our existence meaning, he also provides our example as the one who died and was raised. His experience and objective are ours as well.

Third, perspective changes.

“So then from now on we acknowledge no one from an outward human point of view. Even though we have known Christ from such a human point of view, now we do not know him in that way any longer” 2 Corinthians 5. 16.

The human point of view judges by appearance and deals with others in terms of what advantage may be gained. Jesus is no longer scorned, but worshiped.

Fourth, our work is clearly defined.

“And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation” 2 Corinthians 5.18.

“Ministry” is a fancy, churchy word. This is our service, defined as a “message” v. 19. It’s what we do. This is not Job 1, like the old Ford commercial, but the only job. We don’t work for a living, we live to glorify God in this work.

Take all the selfies you want, but you still won’t see the difference. It won’t be in the color of your eyes, in the shine of your hair, or in the freckles on your nose.

It will be the Spirit of God residing in the heart, the process of holiness spreading light into every corner of the soul, the joy of spiritual transport into the presence of God, from which there need be no return.

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Cleansed by blood

“**T**he Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ‘When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a case of leprous disease on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests, and the priest shall examine the diseased area on the skin of his body. And if the hair in the diseased area has turned white and the disease appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a case of leprous disease. When the priest has examined him, he shall pronounce him unclean.’” (Leviticus 13:1-3 ESV).

Throughout the Law of Moses we read about designations which may seem strange to us. People could become “unclean.” There were diseases which made you unclean, in particular skin diseases, including, but not limited to, what we know today as leprosy. Being in contact with certain animals and their dead carcasses, could also make a person “unclean.” And some foods were “unclean.” As we no longer use the designations of “clean” and “unclean,” these can be confusing to us when we read about them.

The problem with the things that made a person “unclean” was that they were harmful or could contain potential harm to a person. In Leviticus 13 and 14 it was skin diseases that were under consideration. We know today that these diseases are contagious. This is also why those who came into contact with an unclean person was also made unclean. This was not information that the people had at the time of Israel’s travel from Egypt to Canaan.

What do we do with a contagious disease? We place the people in quarantine and observe them. This was what the Israelites were instructed to do (Leviticus 13:45-46). They did not want disease to run rampant throughout the camp. By quarantining those suspected of having a disease they were able to keep diseases in check. And if they had a serious disease they could no longer be part of Israelite society.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

If a person got well who had a skin disease, there was instruction about how to show that he was now “clean” and be admitted back into Israel (see Leviticus 14). Again, there were examinations to be done but if the disease was gone, the last thing to be done was a sacrifice involving the blood of an animal.

It is of note that while Jesus was on the earth and healing people, the lepers also began to come to him. Their disease could not be cured – the most severe forms of leprosy even today have no cure. They had no hope except for Jesus. When they came, Jesus would even touch them before they were cleansed! And heal them he did (see Mark 1:40-45).

Those with leprosy were repulsive to people, but Jesus had time for them. This tells us that no matter how repulsive we may think we are, Jesus welcomes us. We don’t have to get everything sorted out first – he is waiting for us to follow him. And he will cleanse us.

Just as the leper was cleansed through a blood sacrifice, Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice to cleanse us of our sin so that we can be made “clean” before God.

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Jesus’ sacrifice provides the cleansing of our sin so that we can be part of the *ekklesia* – the people of God. We are then *clean* – we are perfect in God’s sight.

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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

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	Dianne Vandagriff
Joey Pierce	Faye Johnson
Phillip Pharr	Elizabeth Posey
Stephanie Moore	Fred Webb
Larry Sartain	Flora Wanner
Jennifer Steger	Carolyn Holcomb
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Lynn Sander	Brenda Leatherwood
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Debra Brewer	David James
Jimmy Searcy	Aletha Ray
Betty Williams	



January Birthdays

Bonnie Holcomb 1/1

Debra Searcy 1/10

Doris Vandagriff 1/17

January Anniversaries

Debra & Jerry 1/2

Sympathy

Braden Family