

# Second Street Church of Christ



January 22, 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*

## Christians are the spiritual Israel of God

Some people are surprised that the Old Testament is so much larger in size than the New. In my Portuguese Bible it takes up 764 pages out of a total of 994. That's 76% of the whole Bible. Several explanations as to why may be adequate, but here is one thought, how the Lord was building up to, and preparing for, the time when Christ would come and fulfill his eternal plan.

In both Testaments, God created a people for himself. In the Old Testament, it was Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Each of Jacob's sons became a tribe in Israel. In the New Testament, God's people is the church, and they are variously described as the body of Christ, the family of faith, the temple of the Holy Spirit. No more is there a physical connection to define God's holy ones. We are born into God's family because we respond to his message and obey his commandments, John 3.3, 5.

In his first letter, Peter took descriptions of the people of Israel and applied them to Christians. In that pivotal moment when Israel was gathered before Mount Sinai to receive the law, the Lord defined who they were, as he spoke to Moses.

“And now, if you will diligently listen to me and keep my covenant, then you will be my special possession out of all the nations, for all the earth is mine, and you will be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you will speak to the Israelites” Exodus 19.5-6.

*In both Testaments,  
God created a people  
for himself.*

All this and more, says Peter, now applies to God's spiritual house, which has Christ as the priceless cornerstone.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. You once were not a people, but now you are God's people. You were shown no

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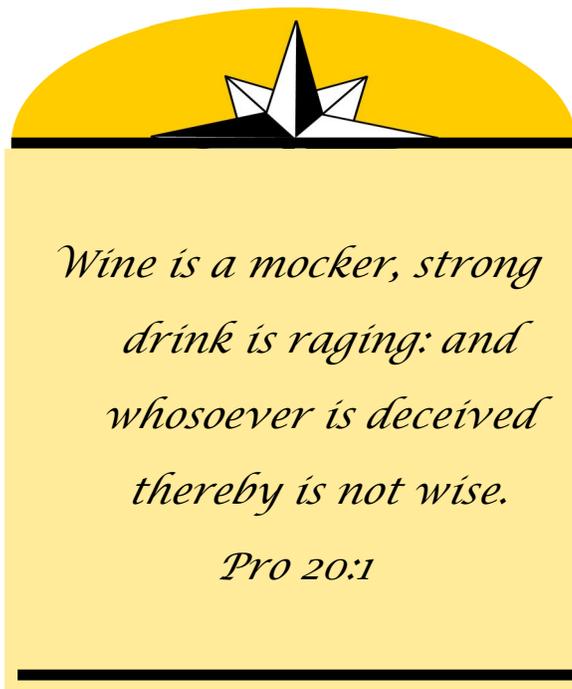
## Announcements

**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.

**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)

mercy, but now you have received mercy” 1 Peter 2.9-10.

So now as God’s people we have an identity and a purpose. Paul calls us the “Israel of God” who are “all who will behave in accordance with this rule” Galatians 6.16. The rule he cites is probably that of following an unadulterated gospel, of depending on the sacrifice of Christ for our life—the whole point of his letter to the Galatians. It is the rule of living in God’s grace. It is seeking the good of all, especially of “those who belong to the family of faith” Galatians 6.10.

Who we are defines what we do. We are not end-point recipients of God’s grace, but the conduits of his salvation. We have a keen sense of who is in Christ and who is outside, and we know what it takes to move from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. We who were not a people now belong to this people of God, and just as God desires that all be saved, we also desire and work for the inclusion of every soul in this safe place of grace and glory, Hebrews 2.10.

Peter’s description of our identity does not give us cause for pride. On the contrary, it gives us reason for thanksgiving. We are who we are, we are *where* we are, because of God’s mercy. And it motivates us to extend that mercy to those who have yet to experience it. Those who aren’t so motivated might ask themselves if they do not feel a deep sense of gratitude. In God’s kingdom, there can be no sense of entitlement.

There can only be joy at being chosen and wonder at being given such a precious gift to share.

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# Why do we need the church?

Because the Lord established it

- ◆ *Matthew 16:18*
- ◆ *Acts 2:47*
- ◆ *Ephesians 1:22-23*
- ◆ *Ephesians 5:23*

Because in it all spiritual blessings dwell

- ◆ *Ephesians 1:3*
- ◆ *1 Peter 1:3-5*
- ◆ *Hebrews 8:6; 9:15*

Because in it we have fellowship with others

- ◆ *Ephesians 4:14-18*
- ◆ *1 Corinthians 12:12-20*
- ◆ *Romans 12:4-5*
- ◆ *1 John 1:3-7*

Because it is the body the Lord is coming to collect

- ◆ *Matthew 24:40-25:46*
- ◆ *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*
- ◆ *1 Corinthians 15:24*

## Rest From Their Labors...

God's Word is very plain in its declaration that men ought to work. Whether we consider the examples of Jesus—a carpenter (Mark 6:3), Paul—a tentmaker (Acts 18:3), or Peter—a fisherman (Matthew 4:18), it is clear that work should be a part of our lives. Making this point even stronger, Paul wrote: "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

It is also interesting to note that the Bible offers advice about how we do our work. Solomon wrote: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). And Paul wrote: "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:22, 23).

But with all of that being said, Christians have the privilege of looking forward to a time that is free from work. This time is not merely the retirement that so many long for—it is eternal rest which results from being faithful to Jesus. Describing this John wrote: "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them'" (Revelation 14:13). While the labor of the Christian on earth never ceases, the eternal rest which awaits will be worth it all. There is a rest waiting for those who faithfully serve God. It is found in heaven.

*Chad Ramsey  
Bulletin Bites*

## 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**

### Prayer List

Paula Wanner	Dianne Vandagriff
Faye Johnson	Cassie Tierce
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	



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.



### January Birthdays

**Bonnie Holcomb 1/1**

**Debra Searcy 1/10**

**Doris Vandagriff 1/17**

### January Anniversaries

**Debra & Jerry 1/2**

### Sympathy

*Braden Family*