

Second Street Church of Christ



February 5, 2017

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126
Belmont, Ms. 38827

Website:
secondstreetcofc.com



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***

Are we following God or asking him to follow us?

One of the more bizarre stories in the Old Testament is reminiscent of the paths to apostasy that many take in our own era. We should learn from their folly (Romans 15:4).

When there was a void of spiritual leadership in Israel, Micah of Ephraim consoled his mother because someone had stolen 1,100 shekels of silver from her. In her fury, she had placed a curse on the thief (Judges 17:1-2).

However, her anger abated when Micah told her that he had stolen the money.

She replied, "May you be blessed by the Lord, my son!" (Judges 17:2, NKJV). Joyously, she dedicated the money "to the Lord" so idols could be made (Judges 17:3).

Two hundred shekels of silver were converted into idols, images and an ephod (Judges 17:4-5).

A Levite from Bethlehem came to Micah's house and he soon agreed to be their priest for a price (Judges 17:7-12). Having idols for worship, an ephod and a Levitical priest, Micah felt empowered (Judges 17:13).

Meanwhile the tribe of Dan sent men to Ephraim and they came to Micah's house. Finding the priest, they made him a more appealing offer. He stole the idols, images and ephod and went with them (Judges 18:18-21).

The Danites went to Shiloh where they "set up for themselves" idols for worship "all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh" (Judges 18:30-31; cf. Joshua 18:1).

Using similar items to what God authorized, they felt justified. Yet, authority comes solely from God and his Word, not from our preferences (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Galatians 1:8-9; Romans 10:17).

Sincerity will never eclipse God's will (Acts 26:9-11; 23:1). We can't do what we want and expect God to follow us into heresy (Isaiah 55:8-9). No one alive is greater than the Lord's mission.

**No one alive is
greater than the
Lord's mission.**

(Continued on page 2)

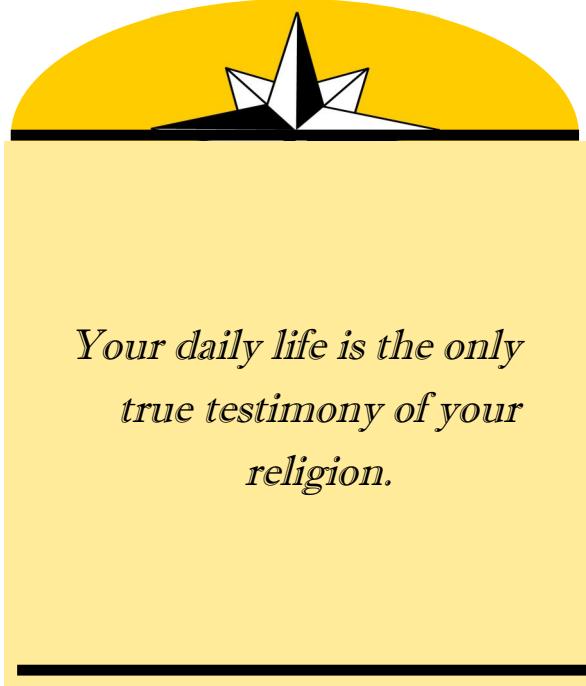
Announcements

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.

Ladies Fund is due to Rajama.

Monthly Singing hosted by Jeffrey & LaSha Feb 28 at 6:00pm at Higginbottom Family Restaurant in Dennis.



(Continued from page 1)

Churches around the world add the holy to the profane, convinced that God will follow and condone their concoction, as long as they're sincere. But, God doesn't follow us.

We're not the Lord, he is. He will never leave the light, no matter how much we beg (1 John 1:5).

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The Limpet and the Rock

There is a little sea creature called *Noto acmaea testudinalis*. It is a little gastropod animal having arched, non-spiraling shells with broad ventral openings. These little things are all over the world. They cling tenaciously to rocks and submerged timber. By the way, they are better known Limpets.

What they do is scrape out a place on a rock and cling to it. They occasionally leave the rock to forage for food, but always return. The only danger they face in life is when they are not clinging to the rock.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon made use of the limpet in the following illustration.

"Our little friend the limpet does not know much, but he clings. He cannot tell us much about what he is clinging to, is not acquainted with the geological formation of the rock, but he clings! He has found something to cling to; and with his little bit of knowledge, he uses it to cling to the rock of his salvation; it is the limpet's life to cling. Thousands of God's people have no more faith than this; they know to cling to Jesus with all their heart and soul and this suffices. Jesus Christ is to them a Savior strong and mighty, and they cleave to him as to a rock unmovable and immutable."

"In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God" (Psa. 62:7).

I cannot comprehend the nature of God, but I believe (Job. 9:10). God is beyond my comprehension. Where my feeble understanding fails, faith takes over. I need no deep and complicated explanation of my God in heaven in order to have a faith that keeps me in the cleft of the Rock of Ages. *From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I"* (Psa. 61:2).

*O Rock in the desert, I fly unto thee,
When tempest and storms sweep the sky.
I hide in the cleft that was riven for me,
For safety on Thee I rely.*

The Moral: Be a spiritual Limpet!

Bulletin Fodder

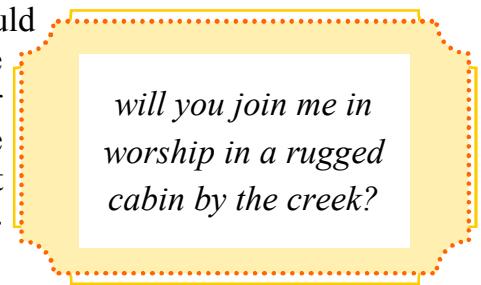
Meeting in a cabin by the creek

A brother in Christ said it during a church business meeting about the legal challenges facing the church. We were talking about whether the church could continue to preach on the subject of biblical marriage. For transparency's sake, allow me to disclose that the topic was whether preachers could still declare that gay marriage was not biblical marriage, whether the church would come under legal pressure to not say so.

Christians are, as it turns out, already responding to this challenge.

Some suggest Christians vote for certain candidates, express our views in the political arena. Friends, the last time I checked, Christians also have first amendment rights. As long as this is so, this is an avenue we can legitimately pursue.

Sadly, others Christians have already caved in. They have adopted the world's perspective on these vital issues. They argue that in the name of love and grace the church should cease to be "judgmental" over these issues. From comments I have heard in person and read on social media, these Christians need not fear legal or government censure. No ungodly jurist, no representative of the ACLU will ever bother these congregations. Why would they? What they believe is what the world believes. They have dissolved their convictions into the effluent of worldly thinking.



will you join me in worship in a rugged cabin by the creek?

Of course we can consult godly, Christian lawyers for advice and assistance. At this point that, too, is still a right in our nation.

But my brother in Christ said something that has struck me as deeply, profoundly true.

"Brother Stan," he began, "when 'they' sue us and take away our church building, and you begin preaching in a cabin by the creek, we will be there with you."

Make no mistake, beloved, for its first two thousand years there have been more church meetings in cabins than in ostentatious church buildings, more worship in the elements than in air conditioning. Christians have huddled in basements and in forests, hillsides and shacks to worship God according to the word of God. They may not have worshiped in comfort, but they have maintained their integrity.

"Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29).

I hope this country never comes to the point where Christians lose their meeting houses over points of conviction. But if they "come after" us, the church must still be the church, and God's people must still be God's people.

Next Sunday, if necessary, will you join me in worship in a rugged cabin by the creek?

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
Carolyn Holcomb	Ellie Sander
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.



February Birthdays

Edna 2/3
Johnathan 2/7
Alan 2/11
Wallace 2/11
Larry 2/16
Wendell 2/19

February Anniversaries

Tim & Faye 2/28

Sympathy
Stegar family
Steward family