

Second Street Church of Christ



February 19, 2017

MINISTER

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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***

Unselfish love doesn't need Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a wonderful holiday where we focus on those we love.

It's a romantic time that should bring joy to those who have good relationships. For those who don't, well, it's kinda cruel.

Of course, the holiday is economy driven and we fall in line and spend our money. Nevertheless, the day is important and we should express our fondness for that special person.

As Christians, educated on Gods Word, we should have a greater understanding of love. The world's version is so confused as to be practically meaningless.

As taught by God's Word, true love is unselfish and completely foreign to worldly definitions.

Proper love is focused on the recipient of our love instead of our own needs (1 Corinthians 13:1-8). It "does not seek its own" (1 Corinthians 13:5, NKJV).

Love always gives, rather than takes (John 3:16; 15:13). It has no ulterior motives and needs no exterior motivation. It's driven from within and is a mighty force.

The romantic model of marriage is for the husband and wife to become one flesh (Genesis 2:15-25). We place them above ourselves and we treat them the way we desire to be treated.

Completely unselfish, we do all we can to ensure that our marriage is as healthy as it can be.

Modeling itself after Christ's selflessness (Ephesians 5:22-31), we don't need reminders to express our love or affection. Media campaigns are unnecessary and gold, chocolate and flowers are but baubles.

When love is breathing, it's never forgotten. A craving isn't overlooked. It demands to be fed.

Likewise, when we have a powerful, unselfish love, it is always on our minds and on our lips. Nothing could stop us from sharing and caring.

For those who need reminding, we have sadness and a suggestion to see what God offers in his Word. He has a better way.

***Proper love is focused
on the recipient of our
love instead of our own
needs***

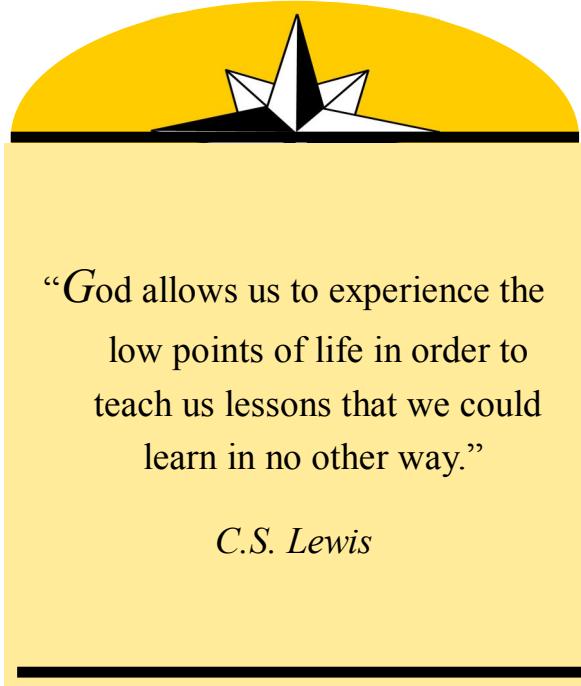
Announcements

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.

Ladies Fund is due to Rajama.

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

Ladies Day Tilden Church of Christ March 4 9:00am. Speaker Roslyn May Miller.



The Study of Love

In 1997 Western Christian Foundation published a book by Nelson M. Smith, entitled Agape Study Manual. Brother Smith identified all the places the word love and its related terms appeared in the KJV Bible. Then he wrote comments on every single verse where love was mentioned. The book has 475 pages.

Brother Smith said he was no scholar, but one thing he understood well: Love is at the center of God's plan of salvation.

How would our lives be changed if we read the Bible through while focused on love, especially the love of God?

How would we change the lives of others if we moved throughout each day while focused on love, especially God's love for the lost?

How would our families change if we spent every moment with them charged with love, especially God's familial love?

How would our congregations be changed if a handful of saints decided to love as Jesus loved?

Just reading about love in the Bible won't change anything. But reading with open hearts, with prayers to be transformed by the Word, with effort to become like the Lord Jesus Christ, God will make love radiate from our lives outward to touch and bless everyone around us.

*J. Randal Matheny
UPLift, randal.us/#UPLift*

Bulletin Digest

Nowhere to turn around

“Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears” (Hebrews 12:16-17 NKJV).

I set out to direct our group to a favorite place in Dhaka. We had a new driver, and most of the Banglades with whom I was traveling had not been in Dhaka very much. Therefore I, the foreigner, turned out to be the one who knew the route, or at least that is what we thought. In the few years since I had last been there they have built several new roads and overpasses in the city and it was not long before I realized we were not going the right way. The problem was that there was no place to turn around and retrace our path. We wound up going a few miles into ever-increasing traffic before we could finally get back on course.

That is the situation in which Esau, the elder son of Isaac, found himself. Jacob had bargained him out of his birthright as the older of the twins. Then, when Isaac promised to give Esau the primary blessing, Jacob and his mother conspired to take it also (Genesis 27:1-29). When Isaac and Esau discovered the theft Esau pleaded in tears, “Bless me – me also, O my father!” (v. 34). However Isaac could only reply, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing” (v. 35), and, “Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you my son?” (v. 37).

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews used this incident to illustrate the importance of our making wise decisions. He pointed out that Esau changed his mind and desired to be restored to his rightful place, but to no avail. In spite of his efforts “he found no place for repentance.”

The word translated “repentance” in Hebrews 12:17 is defined by Bauer’s Lexicon as “a change of mind,” “remorse,” “repentance, turning about, conversion; as a turning away.” In other words Esau found himself going in the wrong direction and with nowhere to turn around. Note that this text does not teach that God will withhold forgiveness from a penitent sinner; rather it warns that a sinner may find himself so badly entangled that he simply cannot bring himself to change – sin has imprisoned him.

Another implication of this story has to do with the dire consequences of sin. If one continues to read the Genesis account of the two brothers (Esau and Jacob) he will find that they are eventually reconciled and come to peace with one another. Though Esau vowed to kill his brother, he did not – in fact he sought to benefit him. Further, God prospered Esau and he became a wealthy man in his own right, even without the extra inheritance to which he had once been entitled.

But although Esau gained other blessings, he never got back the preferred status in the family he had willfully surrendered. It was Jacob, the younger sibling, who received the birthright normally given to the older. Once the bargain was made, it could not be reversed.

Our sins will always leave scars and wounds. Relationships, health, jobs, and possessions may all be lost or damaged because of wrongs we do. If we seek forgiveness from God through obedient faith and repentance, he will give it (1 John 1:9). Of that we are assured. But that does not mean that all the hurt and damage goes away. It does not mean that lost health and wealth will be somehow restored. Some things just cannot be changed.

That is one of many flaws of the reasoning Paul referred to in Romans 6:1, which is still applied by many today. What is so bad about sin, since Jesus provides forgiveness and pardon? Why not sin and enjoy it and depend upon grace? Paul answers that argument definitively, but we also note that the consequences of sin often prohibit enjoyment. Though we may be forgiven spiritually, we and the victims of our wrong-doing will continue to suffer materially from those actions.

When we start down the wrong path, it may be a long ways before we can get turned around.

*Our sins will always
leave scars and
wounds.*

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
Tim Thomas	Margie Pharr
Lena Hammett	Wayne Thomason

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