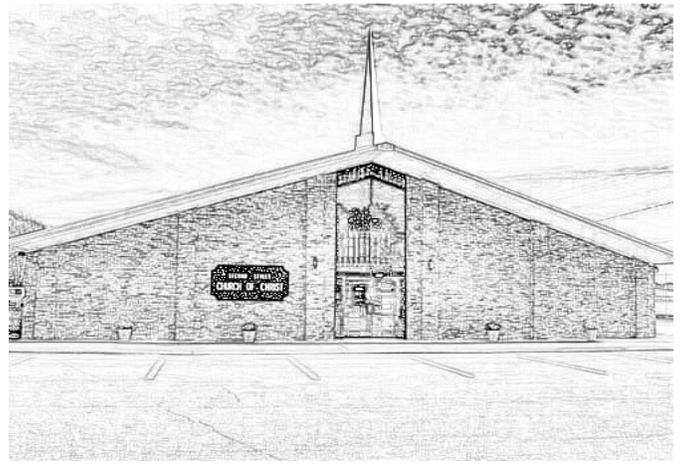


Second Street Church of Christ



March 12, 2017

The chosen in Christ

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***

Paul's words in Ephesians 1 are clear. Nevertheless, a story about a letter can perhaps provide a fresh appreciation for his message and what it means for us.

Although I certainly did not graduate with a degree in chemistry and chances are you have not either, let's pretend we did. Now imagine receiving a letter from our alma mater's chemistry chairperson: "The president of our university chose us in chemistry before our chemistry program ever began to be educated and prepared for employment."

Although this style of writing is not contemporary, we understand the message. Experience has taught us to anticipate what is coming next – a fund raising request to support the chemistry program's new phase of development. After all, this is a forward planning university.

Going back to the chairperson's statement, what is he or she telling us? We can know several things.

First, the department's chairperson identifies himself or herself with us as a fellow chemistry graduate. Second, before the chemistry program ever began a clear goal existed. The university president had determined that those in chemistry would be well educated and ready to enter the work force.

We might smile and feel grateful that our educational preparation was not an accidental result, but a deliberate goal. Thank you Mr. president for your foresight and planning!

Would anyone interpret the chairperson's statement to mean that the university president had composed a list of who would apply and be accepted into the program to be educated and prepared for employment? Of course not.

Why not? There is a huge difference between claiming what the president chose would be done for "us in chemistry" and asserting that the president "chose us to be in chemistry." The latter statement alters the sentence structure of the former. The chairman's actual statement focused on *what* the president's plan determined

*We can know who we
are before our God.
This transforms our
outlook on life.*

(Continued on page 2)

Announcements

A newspaper reporter was interviewing an old farmer and asked him to what he would attribute his success as a farmer. With a twinkle in his eye the man replied, "It's been about 50 percent weather, 50 percent good luck, and the rest is brains."

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.

Scripture and Song followed by fellowship meal next tonight. We would like to extend an invitation to all visitors.

Bear Stuffing Tuesday night March 14th.

(Continued from page 1)

would be done for those in chemistry.

All of this is straightforward and easy to grasp. Now let's look at Paul.

He wrote that God "chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and unblemished before him" (Ephesians 1:4). What has Paul taught us?

First, Paul identified himself with us as those in Christ.

Second, we can know that before the world even began, God had a clear goal for what would be done for those of us who would be in Christ. We would be holy and unblemished in his sight.

We can know who we are before our God. This transforms our outlook on life. No guilt. No doubt. We can feel good about who we are. We can live with confidence and approach God's throne unashamed and without fear, not because of what we have achieved, rather because of what God has done for us in Christ. God deserves praise for such a wonderful and gracious plan that so profoundly impacts our lives.

Does this tell us anything about *who* will be in Christ? No.

However, some may assert that before creation God chose Jim, but not John. Does it matter whether God chose *who* would be in Christ? Yes. A tremendous distinction exists between claiming God selected Jim versus God has chosen what would happen for Jim if he enters Christ.

I can imagine someone who insists God created salvation's roll call prior to creation objecting, "But it says, 'God chose us in Christ.' This means he specifically chose you and me. We are the 'us'."

On the one hand, this line of thinking subconsciously inserts a verb Paul never wrote. Paul did not write, "God chose us *to be* in Christ," rather his clause unveiled that "God chose us in Christ to be holy ..." On the other hand, the "us" points to the group category of Ephesians 1:1, namely the saints and faithful in Christ.

What can we take away from Ephesians 1:3? We ought to join Paul in praising God for his marvelous plan! We can rest assured that God sees us as holy and unblemished, and this is not just some accidental afterthought.

Furthermore, because of what God does for us in Christ, we can live with confidence before God. Yes, from the very beginning God knew what he would do for us in Christ. Praise be to God!

If you belong to Christ, you can turn to another brother or sister in Christ and say, "God has chosen us to be holy and blameless in his sight. Praise be to our God."

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Fifty Shades of Betrayal

The latest “Hollywood buzz” has been for the movie “Fifty Shades of Grey,” the film version of the pornographic novel series of the same name. Despite its upcoming “Valentine’s Day” release, “Fifty Shades of Grey” is anything but a tender romance. The story depicts graphic and perverted immorality, and the male lead is a controlling stalker-type who enjoys predator/prey relationships.

Many “God-fearing” American women devoured these books and discussed it publicly with a wink and a nudge. Now that the film version is being released, Christians (both male and female) will have to decide whether or not to participate. You can read an online review if you wish to know the details of the movie. However, based on the well-known facts of the film’s content, here are three ways Christians would be betraying the Lord if they go to see this movie:

Betraying God’s Design for Marriage and Intercourse. At the simplest level, the movie in question is based on intercourse outside of marriage, otherwise known as fornication. Hebrews 13:4 says, “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” One-fifth of the movie is graphic immorality.

To willingly return to sin is to betray Christ’s work on the cross...

Betraying God’s Plan for Christians to Be Examples. The apostle Peter laments those who have “escaped the pollutions of this world” through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and become entangled once more in them (2 Peter 2:20). “Pollution” would be a kind word to use for this movie. A Christian would be betraying God to participate in such filth because it sends the message to the world that nothing is “off limits,” and that Christians can continue to live in sin.

Betraying the Work of Jesus on the Cross. To willingly return to sin is to betray Christ’s work on the cross, shedding His own blood to redeem us from our wicked deeds. The book of Hebrews says that to fall into such sin again is to crucify Christ again, and put Him to open shame (Heb. 6:6)! What better way to put Christ to public shame than to revel in the sin shown on the big screen that Jesus died to save you from!

There are many other “shades of betrayal,” such as wasting the time and money God has blessed us with, but these three should suffice to encourage Christians to steer clear of this movie.

*Matt Clifton
BulletinDigest.com*

Generation follows generation, yet it lives. Nations rise and fall; yet it lives.
Doubted and criticized, yet it lives. Condemned by atheists, yet it lives.
Betrayed by fanatics, yet it lives. Wrongfully used, misquoted, yet it lives

YET IT LIVES! . . .

A lamp to our feet and a light to our path,
a guide for the youth and the aged,
a food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty,
a light to the ignorant, salvation for sinners,
a rest for the weary, the roadmap to heaven.
To know it is to love it. To love it is to accept it.
To accept it is to obey it. To obey it is eternal life.

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	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	Wayne Thomason
Tim Thomas	Margie Pharr
Lena Hammett	Mary Lynn Clark



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.



March Birthdays

Jonah Holcomb 3/3
Jimmy Higginbottom 3/15
Lena Hammett 3/15
Shawn Robinson 3/15
Michelle Holcomb 3/26
Elijah Johnson 3/30

March Anniversaries

Jerry & Janey 3/2
Barry & Debra 3/17

Sympathy

Ray/McCrary Family
Orrick Family