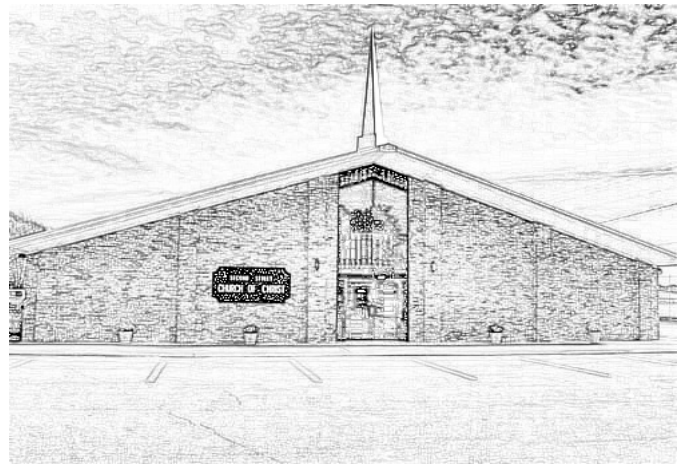


Second Street Church of Christ



March 19, 2017

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

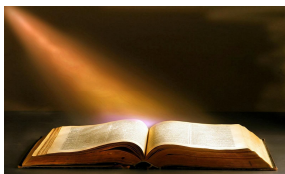
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SERVICE TIMES

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***

Honesty

“Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel: ‘This is what the Lord commands: When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said’” (Numbers 30:1-2 NIV).

God’s desire has always been that his people keep their word. This involves honesty in every aspect of that word. If we are honest, we are “free of deceit, truthful and sincere” (*Oxford Dictionary of English*). This means that what we say must be true, but it is more than that. It also means that we do what we say and that we don’t use truth in a way that would deceive another person.

When God gave the Israelites a summation of his law in the Ten Commandments, the idea of honesty permeated his instructions. “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God...You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:1-17). Each of these requires honesty: honesty with God, honesty with each other, and honesty with ourselves.

As we read through Numbers 30, we find that there were provisions made for the head of the household to exercise the spiritual leadership God expected of him. If, as a husband or father, he learned of a vow his wife or daughter had made, he could free her of that vow if he judged it to be unwise (Numbers 30:3-15). If he said nothing, then what she promised had to be fulfilled. His silence was confirmation of the vow that had been made.

God still wants his people to value their word. Jesus condemned the use of oaths when we make a promise or statement (Matthew 5:33-37). From what he said, we can see that people had made some oaths binding and others not binding, dependant upon what was sworn by. We probably know people who will swear by almost anything to try to get us to believe them. Why do people do this? Is it not because they are not always honest? Jesus emphasised that we need to be truthful: “All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one” (Matthew 5:37). This is repeated in James 5:12. We need to be a people of our word.

Not only do we need to do what we say, what we say needs to be truthful. “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another” (Ephesians 4:25 ESV). Because we are Christians, we must put away dishonesty. Notice, in the tenses that are used, that Paul assumes that this had already been done. If we have put away all falsehood, we then speak only the truth and it must be with everyone. Remember that Jesus defined our neighbor as *any* person, as in the story about the good Samaritan.

The reason we must be truthful at all times is quite simple: “for we are members one of another.” This is also translated as “for we are all members of one body” (Ephesians 4:25 NIV). The various parts of our physical body send truthful information to our brain. If they don’t, we realize that something is seriously wrong! It works the same for Christians. We are all part of the body of Christ, so we must always be truthful in our communication with the other parts of his body.

Honesty is not only the best policy but, for the Christian, it is the only policy!

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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.

Singing & Fellowship March 25, 6:00pm at Edna & Jims.

Baby shower April 4th, 6:00pm for Jeffrey & Lasha at Belmont café.

Welcome our new brother in Christ, Brent Taylor

“To what greater inspiration and counsel can we turn than to the imperishable truth to be found in this treasure house, the Bible?”

Queen Elizabeth II

Ticks and Sin

Ever had a tick on you? Ticks are small blood sucking mites. They spend a good bit of time just waiting in bushes, grass and woods for a victim—you! Once you happen by, they jump on and attempt to quickly crawl to a protected spot on your body. Then they sink their mouth parts into your flesh and begin to feed on life blood. If undetected, a tick will fill itself full and then drop off, often leaving its host inoculated with some debilitating disease such as spotted fever, relapsing fever, Lyme disease, tularemia, encephalitis or rickets. The tick is a lot like many kinds of sin:

- It may get on you when it is small and almost undetectable.
- It doesn't demand much sacrifice, but it may cause a little irritation.
- Once embedded, it's hard to get off.
- It gets bigger the longer it stays on you.
- It leaves you very seriously ill.

Some advice for dealing with ticks and sins:

DON'T WALK IN PLACES THAT ARE INFESTED. “See then that you walk circumspectly not as fools, but as wise (Ephesians 5:15).

EXAMINE YOURSELF DAILY. “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).

HAVE OTHERS EXAMINE YOU, AND HELP EXAMINE THEM TOO. “But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today’, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:13).

IF ONE GETS ON YOU, GET IT OFF IMMEDIATELY. “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed” (James 5:16).

IF YOU REALIZE YOU ARE GETTING SICK, SEE THE DOCTOR. Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Mark 2:17).

*Amon White
Broadway church of Christ
Metropolis, IL
Bulletin Digest*

Encouragement

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24 NKJV).

When Moses, the Man of God, died at the end of Israel’s wilderness travel, the young man Joshua was elevated to the leadership of the nation. At the time of his appointment he was told to “be strong and of good courage” by three different beings: first by Moses who appointed him (Deuteronomy 31:7), then by God himself (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9), and finally by the men of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh (Joshua 1:18).

Actually, by the time he was appointed to lead Israel, Joshua could no longer be considered a young man. He was above the age of 20 when they were delivered from Egypt (Numbers 14:29-30), therefore he was at least 60 when Moses died. Yet, compared to the venerable man of God he was young both in age and experience. He was also facing a brand new challenge, to lead a mixed multitude of men, women, children and possessions into a land already occupied by strong nations.

We all face situations that are daunting, which cause us to doubt our abilities and question the possibility of success. And we all are aware that one of the greatest barriers to that success is our own hesitancy. James taught about the need for certainty of faith in prayer:

The humblest of workers, pledging cooperation, strengthens any enterprise.

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:6).

Uncertainty causes failure in more than prayer. Good leadership must be decisive and confident. Any doubt as to one’s course of action will discourage those who follow and undermine the authority and abilities of the leader.

Uncertainty also leads to failure in individual efforts. One cannot devote all of his energies and resources into any enterprise until he has first reached a firm decision as to the correct course of action. Only when he is sure can he commit totally.

That is why encouragement is so vital. Few people, if any, are so self-confident that they can always act only upon their own convictions. It is always easier to know that others are in agreement, and that others support their decisions. The less experience one has, or the more unusual the endeavor, the more important such encouragement becomes.

Joshua received support both from those to whom he respected most (Moses and God), but also from those whom he was to lead (the army of Israel). Obviously when someone of high authority gives his blessing to some work, it carries much weight. But no encouragement is insignificant. The humblest of workers, pledging cooperation, strengthens any enterprise.

Criticism usually abounds. One does not have to ask for it, it is generally offered liberally. But encouragement is less evident. Yet this is one of the primary tasks of the church, “to stir up” one another that we might abound in Christian love and good deeds. Our fellowship works best when we are mutual encouragers, always fighting doubt and discouragement by lending emotional as well as physical support to all who would do well.

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
Faye Johnson	Cassie Tierce
Phillip Pharr	Elizabeth Posey
Stephanie Moore	Virginia Higginbottom
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	Alton Cleghorn
Joel Robbins	



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