

# Second Street Church of Christ



April 16, 2017

## Careful righteousness

### MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

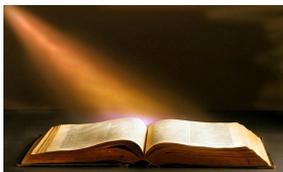
### Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126  
Belmont, Ms. 38827

Website:

[secondstreetcofc.com](http://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***

Jesus expects us to do works of righteousness. Our righteousness must go far beyond that of practitioners of religion, in order to enter God's kingdom, Matthew 5.20. One way in which it must go beyond is in a superior motivation behind it.

“Be careful not to display your righteousness merely to be seen by people. Otherwise you have no reward with your Father in heaven” Matthew 6.1.

In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 6, the Lord Jesus cites three examples of righteousness that we must practice: giving, prayer, and fasting.

We must do these three, but looking to God and not to people, expecting reward from the Lord and not human praises. Whoever does them to be seen by others has only this as a reward, for he will not receive anything else from God.

Faith practiced in secret seeks reward from the heavenly Father and not human honors. The mission is not done in secret, it is published from the housetops. The point is why we do what we do, who it is that we want to see us doing it.

*That the Father is “in heaven” is significant. From heaven he sees all.*

That the Father is “in heaven” is significant. From heaven he sees all. From heaven he sends help and every work is practiced thanks to the ability he gives. From heaven he approves those who seek him and will receive us on the last day, that we might enter therein.

As much as people might speak well of our righteousness, only the praise and approval of the heavenly Father are what matter.

*Our Father who is in heaven, purify our hearts of wrong motivations, so that we may do all to receive your reward.*

Used by permission from Forthright Magazine ([forthright.net](http://forthright.net)). Copyright © 2017 J, Randal Matheny

## ***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.

**Welcome David Stafford**, he will be speaking to us today.



*Do we suppose that it will be easier for us because we believe truth and practice righteousness? Rather, we may suffer more by the very virtue of knowing the truth. [OCM]*

### **Finding the Ancient Paths**

Twenty-five hundred years ago, through Jeremiah, God said to the southern kingdom of Judah, “Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” However, they said, “We will not walk therein” (Jer. 6:16).

God has never left his people without guidance. In the Hebrew Scriptures, through Moses God gave the Israelites the Law (or Torah; sometimes this refers to the first five books of the Old Testament or to the 613 specific laws of the enclosed). Throughout Israel’s history, the prophets repeatedly tried to get God’s people back to the Law. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfilled both the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 5:17-20). In a Moses-like persona, Jesus went up the Mount and gave his disciples a new type of Law (or Torah; Matt. 5-7). This Law is not one that he would carve into tables of stone, but one that he would etch into their minds and hearts (Heb. 8:10-12).

In our world of religious confusion, people take many paths to find the good way, but God said we could only find the good way in the ancient paths. God pled to Judah to find the ancient paths and follow his Law, but they refused to do so and this decision led to their destruction. Today, Jesus is the Way to the Father (John 14:6) and we need to be followers of that Way (Acts 19:2). That is, we need to get back to Jesus’ teachings and follow his precepts, and only then can we become followers of that Way. “We need to get back to the Bible. We need to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent and call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways. We need to restore the church as it was in the days of the apostles” (housetohouse.com).

While there is no explanation for why people forsake the ancient paths today, their destination is the same as the ancient Jews. It is destruction and their god is their own appetites (Php 3:19). While some mind only earthly things, we should remember that we are citizens of heaven (Php. 3:20a). When our god is our own appetites, we leave the ancient paths and find new, perverse paths.

*Stephen Scaggs*  
*Collinsville, VA Bulletin Digest*

## In the eye of the beholder

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins” (Proverbs 10:12 NKJV).

When I walked out on the campus early one morning before devotional, one of the teachers, Arther, was out by the main gate. When I joined him he greeted me with, “It is a beautiful morning.” We walked back together to the building where the devotional was to be, and there Siroj, a student, said, “The weather is bad today.”

On the same day, in the same place, within two or three minutes, two people expressed exact opposite opinions of the same phenomenon. How can that be? We understand that each saw the day through the perspective of his particular experience and preset opinions. One’s culture, background, experience, motives, attitude, and expectations, among many other things, all contribute to his or her point of view.

It is observable fact that almost never does anyone see events with complete factual objectivity. Even if we are not biased by our own attitudes and experience, we cannot see an event simultaneously from every angle or all sides. Two objects which appear to be very close to each other from one spot may turn out to be several feet apart when seen from another side.

It is often stated in literature that lawyers do not like cases built on eyewitness testimony. This seems strange to the non-lawyer. One is brought up to think that a witness’ testimony is absolute proof. Yet it is demonstrated often that the testimony of multiple witnesses is contradictory, changes, and is often obviously unreliable. We frequently see what we expect to see (and don’t see what we don’t expect), rather than what is really there.

In addition, we are also prone to interpret what we see and remember the interpretation rather than the exact events. We see part of a series of events, then the result of the series, and our mind fills in the missing parts so that we “remember” the whole thing.

All of this illustrates the importance of understanding our own perspective and of striving to achieve the best possible. Solomon spoke of the opposite results of hatred and love. One with anger or malice in his heart sees others as opponents and enemies. His every impulse is towards strife. One whose heart is filled with love sees the good in others, and minimizes or overlooks the bad.

*The perspective from which we see others will determine how we treat them.*

James gives a deeper analysis. “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members” (James 4:1-2). If we are asked why we fought another, our answer would most often be about what he did to us. The other person is usually blamed as the cause. James says that, no, we are the cause of the fights we have. “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.”

The perspective from which we see others will determine how we treat them. If we are suspicious, they will always appear guilty. If we feel unjustly treated, then all they do is aimed at our harm. We all have known cases where “whatever so-and-so does, it is wrong.” Most of us have had that attitude at some point.

Like weather, people and circumstances are rarely all good or all bad. Which we choose to see, and how we classify them, usually depends more on us than them. Let Paul’s words shape our point of view:

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not see its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

## 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
Cassie Tierce	Kathy Alexander
Phillip Pharr	Susan Vandagriff
Stephanie Moore	Margie Pharr
Larry Sartain	Flora Wanner
Carolyn Holcomb	Ellie Sander
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Lynn Sander	Brenda Leatherwood
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
David James	Joel Robbins
Jimmy Searcy	Wayne Thomason
Lena Hammett	Alton Cleghorn
Owen Lewis	



### April Birthdays

*Amber Johnson 4/21*

### April Anniversaries

*James & Bonnie 4/15*

### Sympathy