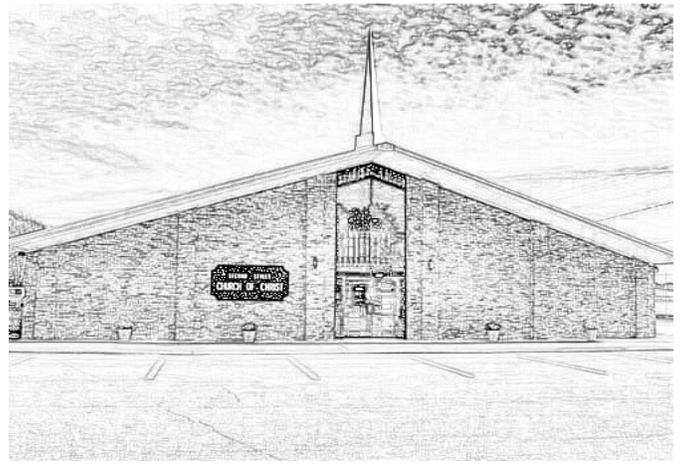


Second Street Church of Christ



April 23, 2017

We are special

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

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Office

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Belmont, Ms. 38827

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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***

“*F*or you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 7:6-8 ESV).

The Israelites were to be a “holy” people. They were God’s “treasured possession” out of all the people who lived on the earth. God had chosen them. God “set his love” on them.

But what does it mean to be holy? Someone once explained to me that the word “holy” has the idea of something that is different from what surrounds it. This is what God was calling the Israelites to be: different from all the other nations. This is why he gave them the Law and, just before they were to enter the land, Moses was emphasizing again the need to obey God’s commands.

Ultimately, that promise involved one particular descendant who would be the Messiah, the one who would be a blessing to all people.

But what made Israel so special that God would treasure them above all other people? It wasn’t because they were the largest group, because they weren’t – Moses said they were the smallest. The reason they were treasured by God was “the oath that he swore to your fathers” – it was because of the promise God made to Abraham hundreds of years earlier. That promise involved Abraham’s descendants becoming a great nation and possessing the land where Abraham lived. Ultimately, that promise involved one particular descendant who would be the Messiah, the one who would be a blessing to all people.

(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.

Friends and Family day Red Bay. Fellowship meal following morning services. Afternoon service at 1:30pm. Roy Williams speaker.

*We're writing a gospel, a chapter each day,
By the deeds that we do and the words that we say;
Men read what we write, whether faithless or true,
Say, what is the gospel according to you?*

-- GNW

(Continued from page 1)

This is why Israel was treasured by God and why they needed to obey him. "You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today" (Deuteronomy 7:11).

This is also how God views Christians today. Notice what Peter wrote to Christians in the first century, using the same words we find about Israel.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:9-10 NIV).

Some of the older English translations used the word "peculiar" in 1 Peter 2:9. This was not saying that Christians are to be a "strange" group of people, but that they are "peculiar" to God – the second definition of this word is "special, belonging exclusively to" (*New Oxford English Dictionary*). Christians today are God's special people who belong exclusively to him.

It is not that God has chosen me, exclusively, to be special to him. *All* Christians are special to God. God chose Christians to be "a royal priesthood, a holy nation." Christians today are God's special possession. As his special possession we need to love, serve, and obey him.

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:1-3).

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Avoiding hopelessness and bitterness

If our lives are unfolding as expected, wonderful. However, if we can relate to the expression that “expectations are just premeditated resentments,” if crises of health, finances or injustice have slashed our dreams, then we will want some relief.

- **Remember who God is.** When the road has been rough, we might be tempted to accuse God. However, God is not our problem. God loves us and seeks our well-being. He sent his son to be sacrificed to ensure it (John 3:16; 10:10). God does not tempt us (James 1:13). Every good gift comes from God (James 1:17).
- **Focus upon what matters.** How important will today’s concerns be in 100 years? Maybe our dreams and expectations are beyond our reach. However, God has ensured we will receive what truly matters, a living hope and an indestructible inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4). Furthermore, Ecclesiastes 1:14 reminds us that to live for earthly based goals involves the futility of chasing after the wind.
- **Praise God.** If we belong to Christ, we have reasons to praise God (Ephesians 1:3; 1 Peter 2:9-10). It is good for praise to precede petition.
- **Depend upon God.** God’s power is supreme. While evil may try to destroy us and cause us to rail against God, whatever God does is for our good. Cast your cares _____ up-
on him because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). Pray for God’s will
to be done (Matthew 6:10).
- **Live one day at a time.** Jesus taught us to ask God to provide what we need today (Matthew 6:11). Furthermore, he instructed us to not worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34).
- **Pursue our God-given purpose.** When God made us alive with Christ he gave us, as his workmanship, a purpose to fulfill in doing good (Ephesians 2:10). We are to love others as we love ourselves, shun evil, maintain the unity God creates and in general promote God’s will, thus living worthily of our calling (Ephesians 4:1).
- **Acknowledge our humanity.** While eating well, driving defensively and making wise financial plans can assist in avoiding problems, we can’t control our circumstances. We are created, not the Creator. Accidents, disease, economic ruin, etc., can come from outside of our sphere of influence.
- **Re-frame our trials.** Who in their right mind wants to suffer? Yet God can even use trials and suffering to achieve his good purposes. Through Jesus’ suffering, God worked to bring us back to himself (1 Peter 3:23-25). Through our trials, God can rescue us from the dangerous living of spiritual complacency in order that we might become spiritually mature (James 1:2-3). While we may not like hardships, we can view them as blessing our lives with growth training opportunities (Hebrews 12:7-11).

When the road has been rough, we might be tempted to accuse God.

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