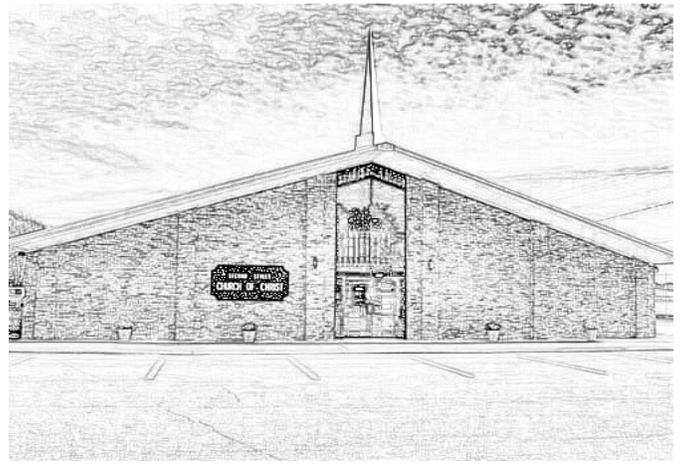


Second Street Church of Christ



July 2, 2017

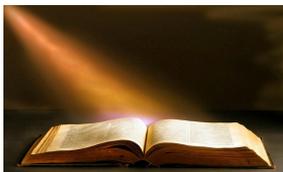
MINISTER

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***

Stop doubting

For whatever reason, Thomas missed the first meeting of doom and gloom of the disciples after Jesus' crucifixion, behind locked doors, when the newly risen Lord appeared to them. He then spent a week of nurturing his doubt and his refusal to believe his friends.

When Jesus appeared a week later, the Lord, knowing of Thomas's skepticism, addressed him directly.

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and examine my hands. Extend your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue in your unbelief, but believe." John 20.27

A number of versions translate Jesus' command this way: "Stop doubting."

Jesus provides all the evidence necessary to resolve our doubts. To Thomas he showed his hands, with the imprints of the nails, and his side, that had been pierced with the spear of the soldier while he hung, already dead, on the cross.

Jesus does not want us to continue with our doubt, for it destroys faith, if it is not resolved. At times, it serves as an excuse not to do God's will. Or it is used as a cover to do evil.

Doubt cannot remain without harming us. And Jesus knows that we today need to stop with doubt. He said, "Blessed are the people who have not seen and yet have believed" John 20.29. In the same way that Jesus prayed for us today, John 17, he offers us evidences of his resurrection as well, that we might believe in him, 1 Corinthians 15.1-8.

The issue is not if evidence exists, but if we are going to admit its solid nature, in order to believe in Jesus. The Scriptures present us with evidence of Jesus. The person who considers them impartially will put an end to doubt. By them is proved that Jesus is the resurrected Christ, Acts 18.28.

To cease doubting means that we must take action, to believe, to trust in the Lord, to surrender to him our life, to follow him. And to confess him, as Thomas did: "My Lord and my God!" John 20.28.

Father, we believe in Jesus, for the evidences are conclusive.

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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.

Speaker Today is Doug English.

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus."

A Mirror For The Soul

A mirror is probably one of the most honest things there is. It doesn't lie. Every time one looks into a mirror there is an accurate reflection of exactly what we are. About the only way to make a mirror lie is to distort it. Even then, the reflection is not flattering.

James says looking into the Bible one can see self in his natural face. This means bare bones, nothing doctored up. An actor can be made up to appear very different than natural, but that becomes hypocrisy. The word hypocrite is an old word for an actor, one who pretends to be someone else. The Bible rips away the veneer of pretense and lays bare what we are in God's view.

The Mirror of the Soul reveals the origin of the soul (Genesis 2:7). It equally tells us the great value of the soul (Matthew 16:26). The mirror God gives us also shows us our personal defects and shortcomings (Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). Most important of all it shows us the eternal destiny of the soul (Matthew 25:46).

The mirrors we use sometimes get smudged and dirty. Good housekeepers will clean them with diligence. A dirty mirror tends to blur our vision of what we actually look like. When clean, a better and accurate image is reflected. The word of God is ever clean and pure (Psalm 12:6). It never fails to show us what the Lord thinks of us.

James pictures one who, after seeing self in God's mirror, instantly walks away and forgets what was seen. The tenses show that one takes a look (once) then instantly ignores it, and continues to avoid the mirror. The only one blessed is the honest person who sees self as God sees him, makes whatever corrections are needed, and does what God would have him do. Take a good look at yourself in the Bible. What do you see? What does God see?

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer; he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:23-25).

We will serve the Lord

“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:14-15 NIV).

Who will we serve? Will we follow God or will we serve something, anything else? This is a question that people have had to face since time began and one that all people will continue to be challenged with. Even though many, or even most, in our society don't want to make a choice, that in itself is a choice. “You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God” (James 4:4 CSV).

As Joshua spoke one last time with the leaders of Israel he challenged them with this choice: Who were they going to serve? God had brought them out of Egyptian slavery, through the wilderness and into the Promised Land. The land was now theirs. They had homes and a life of their own. But would they stay faithful to God? If not, they needed to choose who they would serve.

This is the same choice that we must make. Paul expressed it this way: “Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey—either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness?” (Romans 6:16). It is either sin or obedience. It is one or the other – there is no third option. So what will our choice be?

Notice the choice that Joshua had already made: “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” To Joshua there really was only one choice he could make. God had freed them from slavery, taken care of them, provided everything for them that they needed. God had kept his promises. They were now a free people in their own land. Was there really any other choice that they could rationally make but to serve God?

*Will we serve God
throughout our life so
that we can receive
God's gift of eternal
life?*

Christians, too, have been set free from slavery – slavery to sin. We have been set free to serve a new master. “But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification—and the outcome is eternal life! For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:22-23).

Notice that we are still slaves, but we are now slaves of a better master with a better reward. When we were slaves of sin we got paid what we earned: death. Now that we have a new master we receive a gift: eternal life in Jesus. We produce fruit which results in our being made holy for God.

That day Israel chose to serve the Lord – although it only lasted for a while. “Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel” (Joshua 24:31 NIV). As long as they served God, they received great blessings. When they forsook God, their life was difficult.

What will our choice be? Will we serve God throughout our life so that we can receive God's gift of eternal life? Or will we earn the wages of death that sin gives us? May we make the choice that Joshua made: “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!”

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	Stephanie Vandagriff
Stephanie Moore	Margie Pharr
Larry Sartain	Flora Wanner
Carolyn Holcomb	Ellie Sander
Lou Dodson	Lynn Sander
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
David James	Nicky Newell
Jimmy Searcy	Wayne Thomason
Alton Cleghorn	Christy Hickox
Suzanne Vandagriff	James Bailey
Patsy Wanner	Ken Saylor
John Johnson	Linda Jones
Kenneth Orrick	Brenda Leatherwood
Dawn Branch	



July Birthdays

James Holcomb 7/18

LaSha Higginbottom 7/18

Barbara Livingston 7/22

Miranda Holcomb 7/30

July Anniversaries

Wallace & Glenda 7/1

Sympathy

George Burnett family