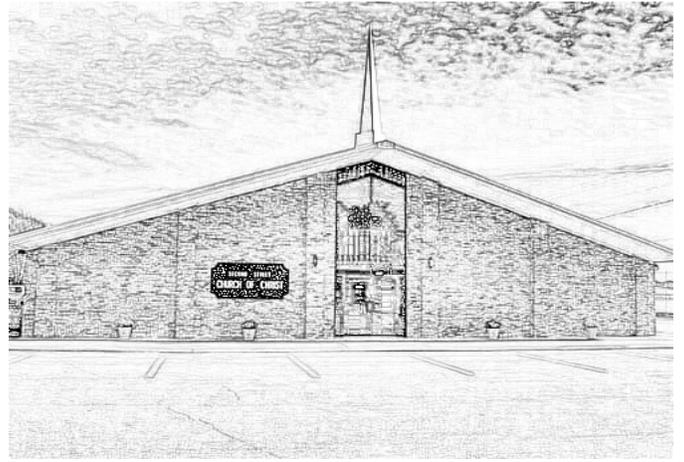


# Second Street Church of Christ



July 9, 2017

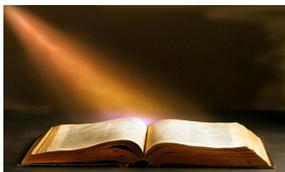
## MINISTER

### 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***

## Dying Wedding Vows

Remember when “honor and obey” was a standard part of wedding vows? Then, the feminist movement said, “No way will I vow to obey my husband!” Today, you rarely hear a couple using this worthy vow to recognize and accept the roles and relationships God established in marriage (Genesis 2:22-24; 3:16; Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:17).

Now, “till death do us part” is also being rejected. More and more couples are opting for such preemptive phrases as “for as long as our love shall last,” “until our time together is over,” and “for as long as our marriage shall serve the greatest good” (“Till Death Do Us Part” is Dying Out, Jennifer D’Angelo, FoxNews.com, July 22, 2005). The rationale offered is, “Don’t make a promise you can’t keep.”

The same article noted that actor Brad Pitt considers his marriage to Jennifer Aniston a “total success” for having lasted five years. Rationalization does not change reality: after five years, their marriage ended in failure, not success.

When a husband and wife do not honor marriage for what God intends it to be a life long union, they lay the foundation for marital failure. Add to that a distorted and selfish definition of love, and you have a recipe for trouble (Hebrews 13:4; Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Ephesians 5:25-31; Titus 2:4). To vow “as long as love shall last” implies the person has no say in the matter; that somehow love decides when “it” will leave a marriage. No, love is a conscious decision of the heart that acts toward its object in good ways (in this case, the husband toward his wife, and vice versa). If love does not last it is because one or both parties decided to no longer love the other.

We should also note that wedding vows mean something; they are solemn commitments to bind oneself to another and to fulfill the obligations of a husband or wife. One such obligation is to honor the permanency of marriage. When marriage is not viewed as “till death do us part” it becomes increasingly easy to end it rather than solving the problem (with love). Vows must not be lightly made nor conveniently broken (Proverbs 20:25; Ecclesiastes 5:4-5). God says marriage is “Till death do us part,” regardless of the changing attitudes toward it (Matthew 19:4-6; Malachi 2:14-16).

*Joe R. Price  
via Huntington Park church of Christ Shreveport, LA*

## *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 Aaron Cozort.

*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.*

### How Things Have Changed!

Thinking on the blessings of our freedom in America has brought to mind that many things are not the same in our fair land anymore. We need to be reminded often of Psalm 33:12 and Proverbs 14:34. The first says: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance." The second says: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

Our nation has come a long way in only a few years! In a time not that long ago abortionists were sent to prison; pregnancy out of wedlock was scandalous; homosexuals were considered perverts; pornography was known for the sin-sickness it is; marriage was sacred. Unmarried people living together was wrong; divorce was a disgrace; homemaking was honored, and day care was provided by mothers in their homes.

Ladies and gentlemen did not curse; houses and cars were never locked; a man's word was honorable; drugs were used for sickness and purchased at the pharmacy; popular music was without demoniac beats and words! Child abuse was almost unheard of; schools in the neighborhood and students prayed and read their Bibles; high school graduates could read their diplomas and were able to add well enough to see how much money they had; creation was known as an acceptable truth; authority in the home was enforced; "In God We Trust" on our money meant something; and living on welfare was a disgrace.

Yes, things have changed. Most of the changes have been in the wrong direction. It is high time for all to return to the Bible for study, self-control, discipline, and the right way to live here and go to Heaven at last. Will it begin with you? Christians, it is time to stand up for the cause of Christ and let our light shine (Matthew 5:14-16).

*Gary Colley  
Hazel, KY*

## Remedies for going the distance

“What’s the point?” “Is this worth the effort?” We have all heard such comments and perhaps even asked such questions in certain situations.

When such thoughts reveal a floundering faith in Christ a physician’s care may be required. Just as athletes might need some athletic tape or analgesic spray to press on, Hebrews offers remedies for going the distance in moments of doubt and discouragement.

Space does not permit outlining all of Hebrews’ remedies. However, if we are open to assistance, consider these two powerful prescriptions. The author reminds us to remember who our God is whom we serve.

*For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do” (Hebrews 6:10).*

While the enemy might try to discourage us with thoughts that nobody cares about the effort we are putting forth to serve Christ, our God who examines our hearts remembers every time our love has spilled forth in service. Do we remember all of the phone calls, words of kindness and encouragement, visits to the sick, prayers offered, the hours spent in preparing for classes and teaching, anonymous financial gifts, etc. that we did five or ten years ago? We may have forgotten, but God has not.

And so when we consider today, we need to remember God will remember every time we love others and serve Christ. Accordingly with this thought in mind the author of Hebrews could write: “*And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Hebrews 6:11-12).*

However, what if our resolve is not suffering from feelings of ineffectiveness, but rather incapability to take another step forward. Perhaps the obstacle or mission just seems too great to tackle. Now what?

Hebrews calls us to envision our Christian lives as running a race within a giant stadium filled with God’s faithful people who have passed on (Hebrews 12:1). While we might derive some encouragement from imagining these heroes of faith as spectators cheering us onward, the author has a much more tangible and powerful idea in mind.

*We are to learn from our pioneer and trail blazer who has shown us how to live with faith.*

Rather than emphasizing that they are looking down, we are called to look up into the stands to consider their *life testimony* (Hebrews 11). Witnesses are those who testify (Acts 1:8; Luke 11:48). Their stories of faith in the midst of duress, trials and doubt proclaim – I overcame my obstacles by faith. You can too!

We can relate. Their examples are inspiring. No imagination is required to use this stadium resource. From scripture we know about their faithfulness in spite of seemingly insurmountable hurdles. We also know about our own heroes of faith who have passed on, whether they might have been related to us or not.

And just when we’ve become accustomed to using the stadium to encourage us further down the track, Hebrews takes this exercise to another level. Don’t just focus on what you can learn from the lives of these heroes of faith, step up to “*fix your gaze upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).*

That’s right, learn from Jesus. What did he do when he was running in the stadium and facing his darkest hour? He did not allow his impending suffering to encompass and smother his vision, rather he also looked upward and beyond. He looked forward to the joy that awaited him beyond the cross.

We are to learn from our pioneer and trail blazer who has shown us how to live with faith. “*Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood” (Hebrews 12:3-4).*

For deceased heroes of faith, the final chapter of their lives under the sun has been written. They passed through the same types of difficulties and trials we experience. Yet, they were able to finish the race. We can too.

So, what will the story of our life proclaim?

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## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

**Bible Study**      **9:00am**  
**Worship**          **10:00am**  
**Evening**           **5:00pm**

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**      **7:00pm**

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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	Dawn Branch
Jimmy Searcy	Wayne Thomason
Alton Cleghorn	Christy Hickox
Suzanne Vandagriff	James Bailey
Patsy Wanner	Ken Saylor
John Johnson	Linda Jones
Kenneth Orrick	Brenda Leatherwood



### 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*