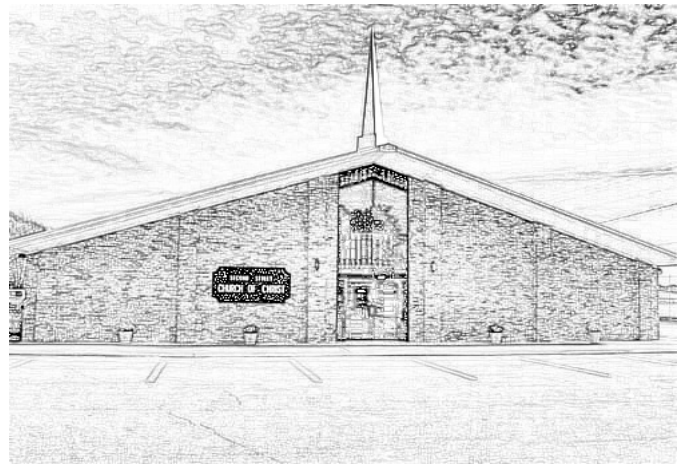


Second Street Church of Christ



July 16, 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*

Make time for God

“Now when Jesus heard this he went away from there privately in a boat to an isolated place. But when the crowd heard about it, they followed him on foot from the towns” (Matthew 14:13 NET).

Jesus had just received news of the death of John. We know from Luke 1:36 that their mothers were related, so it may not be speculating too much to suggest that Jesus and John may have known each other as children. Being close in age, if there had been family gatherings they would probably have ended up together.

More important than the family connection was their spiritual connection. John was the one to prepare the way for Jesus through his preaching in the wilderness. He was the one to immerse Jesus. They were both proclaiming the imminent arrival of God’s kingdom. But John had been arrested and finally Herod had executed him (Matthew 14:1-12).

When Jesus was on earth he was a human. He had the same emotions we have. News like this would have affected him, just as it would us. Being Deity did not exempt Jesus from fully experiencing life as a person. He had just received news that a relative and colleague had died, perhaps someone he had been close to. What did he do?

Jesus wanted time to get away from everyone. He took his disciples and they privately went to a place of solitude to be isolated from the crowds that were constantly around him. He needed time to grieve, rest and prepare to continue his work.

But that was not to be. The crowd heard that he had left and walked around the lake to be with him again. It was a large crowd that followed him – not counting women and children there were about 5,000 men, which means there could easily have been double or triple that number of people (Matthew 14:21). So much for getting away! A small town had joined him in his planned solitude! They were waiting for him when he arrived.

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 Ben Estes.

"The Bible is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God and the spiritual nature and need of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation."

Woodrow Wilson

Most are familiar with what happened next. Despite his need to be alone, *"as he got out he saw the large crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick"* (Matthew 14:14). He needed time, but they needed his time. He saw their need, felt compassion, and healed those who were sick. Evening arrived and they were without food, so he ended up feeding this large crowd with five loaves and two fish, the lunch of a boy. But he still needed time to pray alone.

"Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dispersed the crowds. And after he sent the crowds away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone" (Matthew 14:22-23).

We, too, need to spend time alone with God. As we talk to God in prayer we also need to listen to him as we read and study his revealed word.

Sometimes in our busy lives it is hard to find time to spend alone with our Father in heaven. Too often this may end up being neglected because we simply cannot find the time.

Notice that Jesus did not "find" the time – he had to "make" time to spend alone with his Father. Even when it was interrupted by the crowds, he still needed this time and made time after the day was over to be alone with God.

If this was important for the son of God, how much more important is it for us as we live our busy, hectic lives? Let's ensure we have time each day to recharge ourselves through reading God's word and talking to him in prayer.

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Squashing doubt and fear

Doubt can creep into our lives through many different avenues. Will this plan succeed? Will I be OK? Doubt spawns fear which erodes faith.

Spiritual doubt can arise when different voices spew forth conflicting messages about God and accessing eternal life. Even in the first century some Christians were wondering about questions similar to: What is my actual relationship with God? Have I chosen a sufficient spiritual path?

John provided a handbook so that God's people could navigate such doubts. Anchoring his message upon a firm foundation, he offered evidence to squash doubt and fear. Here are some of his confidence builders. His letter provides a slam dunk.

Before we can profitably glean some gems from 1 John, we first need to distinguish between induction and characteristics. Why? Since John limited his letter to discussing characteristics, we will mishear him if we understand him to be describing how people are inducted into God's family. To grasp the difference between the two, consider the NBA.

What determines whether someone belongs to an NBA basketball team? The answer is simple. When a team's administration offers a potential player a contract and that athlete accepts it by signing, he becomes a member of that team.

How someone becomes part of an NBA team is different from the characteristics that player must demonstrate as a team member. Members of the team are expected to show up for practice and so forth.

This metaphor illustrates the difference between what is required in order to become born of God (induction) and what will be true of those who have been born of God (characteristics).

Doubt can creep into our lives through many different avenues.

Since John wrote to those he knew belonged to God, he had no need to explain the gospel nor how to be born of God. If we want to know how to become a part of God's people we need to read texts like John 1:12-13; 3:3-5; Titus 3:5 and Galatians 3:26-27. What John did delineate are some characteristics of those who *have been born* of God.

Anchoring his message upon the certainty of his eyewitness testimony as well as the fact that he was passing along that original message which provides fellowship and eternal life with the Son and the Father (1 John 1:1-4; 2:24-26), John assures those who have responded to the gospel that by looking at some of their life characteristics they can be confident they have been born of God. Here is his list:

Those belonging to God exhibit righteous living (1 John 2:29).

Those belonging to God do not persist in sinful ways of living (1 John 3:9; 5:18).

Those belonging to God love others (1 John 4:7).

Those belonging to God believe Jesus is the Messiah (1 John 5:1).

Those belonging to God overcome the world (1 John 5:3-4).

Loving people and living righteously neither earns us eternal life nor transforms us into being God's people. However, if we have responded to the good news, John invites us to recognize that these characteristics proclaim we have been born of 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 | Stephanie Vandagriff |
| Stephanie Moore | Margie Pharr |
| Carolyn Holcomb | Ellie Sander |
| Lou Dodson | Lynn Sander |
| Tim Denson | Jim Johnson |
| Jimmy Searcy | Tim Brown |
| Alton Cleghorn | Christy Hickox |
| Suzanne Vandagriff | James Bailey |
| Patsy Wanner | Ken Saylor |
| John Johnson | Linda Jones |
| Kenneth Orrick | Brenda Leatherwood |
| Mike Gaddy | Paul Meachum II |



July Birthdays

James Holcomb 7/18

LaSha Higginbottom 7/18

Barbara Livingston 7/22

Miranda Holcomb 7/30

July Anniversaries

Wallace & Glenda 7/1

Rajama & Randy 7/2

Sympathy

Tidwell family