

Second Street Church of Christ



August 6, 2017

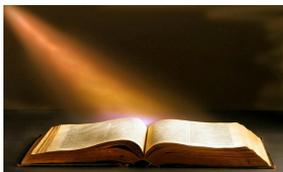
MINISTER

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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***

For me

“Alas and did my savior bleed, and did my sovereign die? Would he devote that sacred head for such a one as I?” (Isaac Watts)

If you are a little older you will notice something about these lines from the familiar song, “At the Cross”: Isaac Watts distinctly did *not* write “for such a one as I.” You might recall he said, instead, “for such a worm as I.” This seems to be a form of verbal airbrushing.

I don’t know if the PC Police got in on this one. Did some devotee of “I’m OK, You’re OK” (a best seller by Thomas Harris) object that we ought not to be calling ourselves after the icky creatures lacking limbs?

Isaac Watts wrote something similar in his classic “Amazing Grace.”

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me” (John Newton).

A wretch? A worm? Isn’t it Christianity’s job to give us all good self-images? And we can’t be calling ourselves worms if it is our life’s goal to feel good about ourselves, right?

All of which would be good points if, indeed, it was God’s purpose to affirm our self images, or if the purpose of Christianity was to affirm our pride.

In fact, the purpose of Christianity is to do the opposite!

Can we say it, ever so cautiously, that sometimes our actions should be condemned, not confirmed? And when did it become a good thing not to be deeply conscious of our sinful condition? And how, exactly, are we going to change if we do not first feel a profound sense of remorse for our sins?

Peter was astonished by Jesus and declared, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man” (Luke 5:8). Jesus did not abandon his sinful disciple, but neither did he dispute Peter’s sinful nature. The Prodigal declared he was “no longer worthy to be called” a son (Luke 15:19). We know the father accepted him back, but the young man’s self-assessment was not far off. Joshua the high priest was observed wearing “filthy rags” (Zechariah 3:1-3). God arranged to cleanse him, but the rags were still filthy.

If you have been forgiven a debt of five dollars, you might say “thank you.” If you have been forgiven an incomparable debt, you might respond with your life. You would move from wretch to saint.

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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.

Love One Another

“All men will know you are my disciples if you love one another” (John 13:35). It’s so simple most of us miss it. Love. It is the first and second greatest commandments. Love God above all others. Love others as we love ourselves. Pow! It’s the formula for world peace. It’s the remedy for political shenanigans. It would solve the conflict we have with our neighbors. Love is the very essence of Yahweh Himself. But Satan wants to keep humans at each others’ throats. And he seems to be doing a pretty sad job of it. May we all learn to love one another in word and in deed. Time is short.

Overcoming Temptation

We are constantly tempted with sin. How do we prepare? How do we cope?

Scripture says, “No temptations has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Cor. 10:13).

How do we find the way of escape and endure the temptations that we face?

First, we must know the Word of God. What is God’s will for my life? What is expected? What is righteous? What is wicked? We can only know these answers as they are revealed in the pages of Scripture (cf. Heb. 5:14; 1 Tim. 2:4). We have the perfect example of Jesus Christ as He was tempted in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11). Time and again, Jesus faced His temptations with the phrase, “It is written” (v. 4, 7, 10). When faced with temptation, we should at least be able to say, “I know that this is right/wrong because the Bible tells me so.”

Second, we must utilize the power of prayer. Jesus taught us to pray, “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” (Matt. 6:13). He told the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation” (Matt. 26:41). Evidently, passionate prayer aids in our ability to be alert to sin and temptation.

Jesus knows that His disciples must pray in order to be equipped to face the temptations and difficulties ahead. Prayer accomplishes within us what is later lived out. We need hearts prepared by and cultivated by prayer to be ready for what we will face. Are we ready?

*Bart Warren
Glasgow, KY*

Six times and still nothing? Faith presses on

Ever feel like Habakkuk when he cried out, “How long, LORD, must I cry for help?” Sometimes it might feel like we are pressing forward with faith and obedience, and yet we do not see God’s intervention.

What can two stories about faith, obedience and God’s power teach us about living for our God? After all, we are neither the first nor the last to strive to live for God in a world filled with injustice and trials.

Let’s start by imagining we were one of those ancient Israelite warriors preparing to march around Jericho. Perhaps we were born shortly after Israel had received the Law at Mt. Sinai.

We have witnessed how God enabled Israel to overcome the powerful kings Sihon and Og. We have walked on dry ground across the Jordan riverbed because God caused the Jordan to stop flowing.

Therefore we have good reason to trust God’s message to Joshua. God had said that the walls of Jericho would collapse after we march around it for seven days.

And so we march in silence around Jericho for the first time. Absolutely nothing happens to the wall.

On the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth days our eyes examine both the lower and upper walls as we silently march onward. Is a crack forming? Does a single clay brick fall revealing the wall is weakening? Nothing! In faith we are obediently doing what God said, but there is no evidence that God is doing anything.

This is not an article suggesting that seven times is a magic number to make God give us what we want.

On the seventh day. God’s command is to march around the city seven times. After completing six revolutions, the walls appear as solid and impressive as ever. We are doing what we are supposed to do. Why hasn’t God begun to work? Why?

Let’s step into the shoes of an ancient Syrian named Naaman. Let’s put ourselves in his place.

An Israelite prophet has sent out his servant to tell us that if we would dip ourselves seven times in the Jordan River our leprosy will be cured. We now stand in the river. Six times we have dunked ourselves under the water. Once again we have stood up examining our hands and arms. But the leprosy remains as extensive ever.

Each dunk in the water is not removing more and more leprosy. This does not appear to be working. It does not look like the God of Israel is doing anything.

However, arising the seventh time our skin is as beautiful as a baby’s. And with that seventh march around the city followed by a great shout, the walls of Jericho collapse. God was at work. God was faithful.

This is not an article suggesting that seven times is a magic number to make God give us what we want. Rather, sometimes we need to press forward in faith and obedience even when we do not see the results as quickly as we desire. Faith presses on. Our God is reliable.

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
Ellie Sander	Brenda Jourdan
Lou Dodson	Lynn Sander
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Jimmy Searcy	Tim Brown
Christy Hickox	Mike Gaddy
Susan Vandagriff	James Bailey
Patsy Wanner	Ken Saylor
John Johnson	Cheryl Pardue
Kenneth Orrick	Brenda Leatherwood
Paul Meachum II	Barbara White
Fred Albers	Jo Vandagriff
Jimmy Higginbottom	
Gene Searcy	



July Birthdays

Ronnie Taylor 8/1

Lily Robinson 8/6

Jerry Brewer 8/8

McKenley Cleveland 8/21

Rajama Johnson 8/30

July Anniversaries

Sympathy