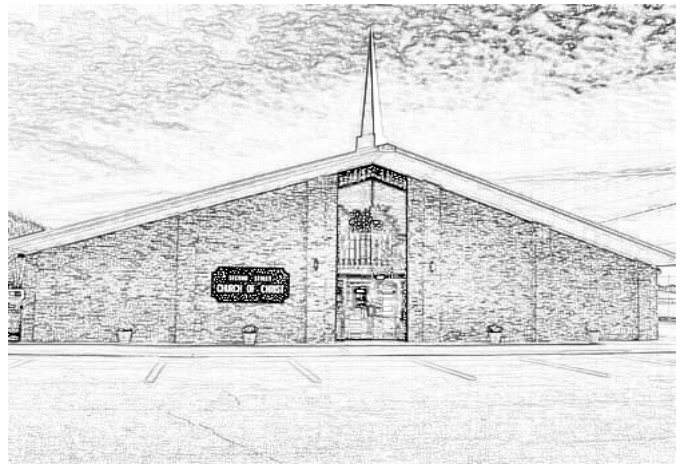


Second Street Church of Christ



September 3, 2017

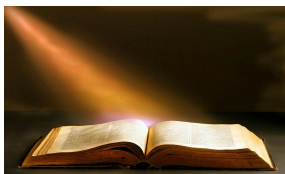
MINISTER

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*

Deserving

“*Then the king sent and called for Shemei, and said to him, ‘Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere. For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head.’ And Shemei said to the king, ‘The saying is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do’*” (1 Kings 2:36-38 NKJV).

There are few ideas which are more frequently abused in modern society than that of entitlement. Commercials bombard us with luxury and leisure, persuading us that we all deserve such. Leaders of third world countries speak before global venues, demanding that those in better circumstances provide the help that is owed by them to the poor of the world. Millions of the poor everywhere expect governments to provide for every need (and for many things they simply desire). “We deserve it” has become the universal creed, without regard for any responsibility on the part of the one making the demand.

Thoughtful readers of the Bible have learned not to ask God for what they deserve. The fact is, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). If God were to give all of us exactly what we are owed, we would all be lost in sin and condemned to eternal destruction. I do not want what I deserve. I want God’s grace instead (Ephesians 2:8-9).

King David of Israel was once cursed and insulted by a man of the tribe of Benjamin named Shemei. When Shemei apologized, David promised not to take vengeance upon him. But when Solomon became king, David instructed him to see that Shemei was brought to justice (2 Samuel 16:5-13; 19:18-23; 1 Kings 2:8-9).

Solomon did not immediately execute Shemei, but rather confined him to Jerusalem, under penalty of death if he did not remain in the city. Shemei un-

(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.

Aaron Pope will be speaking today.

Be praying for our search for a minister, that one will be chosen that has a love for the Gospel and will always speak nothing but Your Word.

Fellowship Meal next Sunday at Noon instead of 5:00. No scripture and songs.

Blindness!

The blind are led by those who see, whether it is a dog or another person. Jesus said that “if the blind lead the blind they will both fall into the ditch.” So many around us are groping in a world of darkness and despair. Those who are spiritually blind need to be led by those who are sighted and in tune with the nature and will of God. And we have learned that the One who can truly lead us out of darkness into the light is our Savior Jesus. Reach out to a blind neighbor or friend or relative and touch them with the Light of the world. Hallelujah, what a Savior!

*Steven Clark Goad
Blythe, CA*

(Continued from page 1)

derstood and agreed to those terms. However, after some time, a need arose and Shemei left Jerusalem temporarily. Upon his return Solomon called him to account, and his sentence was enforced – Shemei was put to death (1 Kings 2:39-46).

Note the king’s statement when Shemei was first warned, “Your blood shall be on our own head” (1 Kings 2:37). Shemei would be accountable for his own actions. His death would not be (and was not) Solomon’s or David’s fault. He knew the conditions that prevailed. He accepted responsibility. Yet, when he had cause, he ignored his peril and therefore he paid the price.

It is popular today to argue that a loving God could not and will not punish sinners with eternal condemnation. Surely he will forgive us and save us. Such statements ignore our own responsibility. If we are lost, it is not because God does not love us (John 3:16). It is not because he is a vengeful, angry God, looking for any excuse to do us harm. The very opposite is true:

“But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Our heavenly Father is filled with love, grace, and mercy. He wants us to spend eternity with him in heaven. But we still have responsibility. We are accountable to his laws and his will (Matthew 7:21). If we are lost in Hell, it will be because we do deserve it (2 Corinthians 5:10). If we are saved in heaven, it will be by his grace (Titus 3:4-7).

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The encouragement of the scriptures

“For everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope” (Romans 15:4 NET).

As we live as Christians we sometimes become discouraged. When we are “down” it can seem difficult to continue going on. But there is something we can “take” for that! Often when we are physically sick we are told to take a pill, to take medication which will help to pick us up again. The solution for when we are spiritually discouraged is God’s word.

Paul throughout the letter to the Romans has been quoting from God’s word given to the Israelites, contained in what we call the Old Testament. These were about the only scriptures available to Christians at the time he wrote this, as the letters and gospels were in the process of being written. Paul reminded the Christians in Rome that these things written in the past were actually written for “our instruction” – these were not just for the Israelites of old but they are for Christians, both in his day and in our day.

I’ve met many Christians who realize the need to study and live the words of Jesus recorded through the various writers in what we call the New Testament. But often, Christians do not think they have a need for what was written in former times to the Israelites. The apostle Paul would disagree! It is by going to the older writings that we can learn what we need to be encouraged to endure and have hope. Not only are the New Testament scriptures vital to us as we follow Jesus, but the Old Testament exists to instruct us as well.

Our need to be reading and studying the Bible is vital if we want to survive as Christians.

There are so many things we can learn from the Old Testament. We see the love of God, God’s care for his people, and the great power of God. We can find people who have gone through difficult times and that God did not forsake them. We see the need of being faithful to God no matter what we may go through.

As we read through the writings recorded in the past, we also receive encouragement. Through the Psalms we can see how to praise God despite our circumstances, as David and the other writers did. In the Proverbs we can see how practical it is to follow God – most of the proverbs of Solomon are as applicable today as they were 3,000 years ago when they were written. As we read through the Prophets we can see that God had a plan so that all people could follow him in the Messiah. I don’t believe you can read the Old Testament and not come away with both a better knowledge of God as well as the encouragement to live for him.

With the knowledge of who God is and the encouragement to keep on living for him, we are then equipped to endure whatever it is that we come across in our lives. This encouragement gives us hope – the hope that nothing can separate us from the love that God has for us; the hope of having eternal life because of Jesus.

Our need to be reading and studying the Bible is vital if we want to survive as Christians. It is good to know about God and know about Jesus, but how much better it is to actually know God and know Jesus! This is what we receive when we spend time in God’s word.

“Now may the God of endurance and comfort give you unity with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:5-6).

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

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	Henry Vandagriff
Susan Vandagriff	Jo Vandagriff
Patsy Wanner	Ken Saylors
John Johnson	Cheryl Pardue
Kenneth Orrick	Brenda Leatherwood
Barbara White	Fred Albers
Brenda Strickland	



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.



September Birthdays

Janey Dees 9/20
Carol Taylor 9/30

September Anniversaries

Jeffrey & LaSha 9/23

Sympathy

Gaddy family
Floyd family