

# Second Street Church of Christ



July 22, 2018

They did what was right in their own eyes

## 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*

“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6 ESV).

This statement introduces an episode concerning a Levite from Bethlehem who was looking for a different place to live. He ended up in the hill country of Ephraim, just north of Bethlehem. There a man named Micah hired him to be his own personal priest. This man had made an idol and his own shrine for worship. Originally one of his sons served as his priest but when he had the opportunity to have a Levite as his own personal priest he jumped at the chance (see Judges 17).

In the next chapter, we find the tribe of Dan looking for a place to settle. When the land was divided by Joshua, this tribe was given coastal land on the Mediterranean Sea. Unfortunately for them, this land was occupied by the Philistines and they were unable (and possibly unwilling) to conquer their allocated territory, even though God had said that he would be with his people and drive out those who lived there. (This places this incident earlier in the history that is recorded in this book.)

The tribe sent five men to explore the land. As they went through the hill country of Ephraim they happened on Micah’s home and recognized the young Levite. After discovering that he had been hired as a priest, they asked him to inquire of God whether their journey would be successful. The priest told them that they were under God’s eye.

After exploring the country all the way to the far north, they reported that they had found an ideal place to conquer. It was at Laish – the land was good and the inhabitants were unsuspecting.

An army of 600 was sent to conquer the land. Their journey took them by Micah’s house. They took Micah’s idols and household gods and made an offer to the Levite: “Come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to

*(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.



**Add the Christian Graces**  
**2 Peter 1:5-11**

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:5-8

Add **FAITH** 

Add **VIRTUE** 

Add **KNOWLEDGE**

Add **TEMPERANCE**

Add **PATIENCE**

Add **GODLINESS** 

Add **BROTHERLY KINDNESS**

Add **LOVE** 

Barnes Bible Charts

be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?" (Judges 18:19 ESV).

The young man was overjoyed. What an opportunity! He could not only be a priest but he would be the priest for an entire tribe. So he traveled with them to the north, where the inhabitants were conquered and a new settlement of Dan was built.

The sad part of this incident is that idolatry was introduced to an entire tribe. At the end of the story, we find out more about this "young Levite". "And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land" (Judges 18:30 ESV).

Why was this young man, a grandson of Moses, so willing to forsake God to serve idols? At least part of the reason seems to be wanting something that he could not have. He wanted to be a priest, someone who would be looked on as important and spiritual. But, not being a descendant of Aaron, this was denied to him. So he did what he wanted, what was right in his own eyes.

How often are we like this? We know what God's word says, yet we want something different. So we forsake God's word and convince ourselves that we are still following God. We do what is right in our own eyes.

What is sad about this incident is that it seems to have influenced this tribe for generations. May we realize that what we do now can have a lasting impact, either good or bad, for generations to come.

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# Loneliness

“**T**hen I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun: there is one alone, without companion; he has neither son, nor brother . . . This also is vanity and a grave misfortune” (Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 NKJV).

I have traveled often both with and without companions from the U.S. Thankfully, I have never had to travel in other countries completely by myself. Whether or not there are other Americans in the party, I always am accompanied by Christians native to the countries which I visit. I would never say that I could or would not go alone; however, I certainly prefer the fellowship of others whenever it is available.

Solomon discussed the advantages of companionship:

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Summarized briefly the wise King argues that companionship is beneficial because:

1. Two (or more) can accomplish more than one alone.
2. If problems arise, there is help immediately available.
3. A companion offers additional warmth (this may be emotional and/or spiritual as well as physical).
4. Two or three are stronger than one and thus are able to provide greater security in threatening situations.

The New Testament speaks often of the blessing of Christian fellowship. As soon as the Church was established, disciples began to spend much time together (Acts 2:41-47). Their activities included having meals together, studying God’s word, praying, evangelizing, and doing good works for others. The key to this whole paragraph, however, is found in verse 44: “Now all who believed were together.” That is a statement not only of how things were in the first days of the Church but of how they should always be.

I have often been told by others, “I believe in God, but I don’t see any need for attending church.” The idea seems to be that one can read the Bible, pray, and maintain a personal relationship with God without any need for fellowship with other Christians. This concept is foreign to Scripture (See for example Hebrews 10:23-25).

In great contrast, we are commanded to love and prefer each other (Romans 12:10), to help one another (Galatians 6:1-10), and to seek the interests of others (Philippians 2:4). Jesus taught that we serve him as we serve people in need (Matthew 25:31-46). There is no provision for solitary relationships with God or with Christ. The very definition of Christianity involves fellowship with others: “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

Spiritual loneliness is a great threat to faith. The good news is that it is almost never necessary. Jesus provided his Church as a constant source of comfort, encouragement, and security. Every Christian is, immediately upon conversion, added to the Church. Its fellowship is a great and essential blessing to which every believer has access, and for which every believer has need. Let us never neglect such company.

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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**

### Prayer List

Paula Wanner	David Alexander
Cassie Tierce	Rita Johnson
Betty Lindley	Francis Mortland
Barbara Trollinger	Lee Pounds
Ralph Montgomery	Linda Parker
Lou Dodson	Lynn Sander
James Adams	Christian Harris
Londyn Perry	Kaye Pope
Christy Hickox	Brenda Leatherwood
Susan Broussard	Kenneth Orrick
Tonia Martin	Misty Inmon
Julie Wilson	James Nevins
Henry Vandagriff	Charles Ashley
Stephen Saponara	R. C. Byram
Joyce Swindle	Naomi Rodgers
Lanetta Girod	



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.



### July Birthdays

James Holcomb 18th  
Lasha Higginbottom 18th  
Colton McCollum 23rd  
Miranda Holcomb 30th

### July Anniversaries

Wallace & Glenda 1st  
Rajama & Randy 2nd

### Sympathy