

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Sean Mathews recently had blood tests indicating elevated prostate PSA levels and is discussing next steps with his physicians.

Ken Roosa is under the care of cardiologists for some heart issues. He has been placed on medication and is scheduled to see a specialist for further evaluation. Ken has also been suffering with back pain.

Cindy Murray's husband, Randy was diagnosed with and being treated for influenza Type A.

Iris Hash's son, Bobby Eppards, is back home after completing cardiac rehab and doing well.

Floyd Coley is experiencing issues with his hip, and is scheduled to see a surgeon after the first of the year to discuss options. Floyd is also dealing with GI issues.

Doris Parnell is suffering from shoulder pain, and is also battling kidney issues.

Joni McConnell is home and doing better, but will be scheduled for a procedure to remove fluid from her lungs. At some point in the future, she will also be scheduled to have a heart valve repaired.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, and Kathy Malowitz

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb and his wife (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See reports of their works on the bulletin board.

Prayers Of Sympathy:

Our prayers go out to our sister Evelyn Murphy at the passing of her nephew Paxton Brown, in Ohio.

Benevolent Opportunity

We are now collecting ramen noodles for donation to the MSD of Martinsville school food pantry.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be today, following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song then dismiss for the day.

2026 Planning Sessions:

On Saturday, January 10th we will meet at the building at 8 AM for breakfast served by the ladies of the congregation. Following breakfast, the men and women will have separate meetings to plan the works of the congregation for 2026. The men will also conduct their monthly business meeting prior to their planning session. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

January 4, 2026

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

TEACH MY PEOPLE THE DIFFERENCE

Obeying the Gospel is the difference between heaven and hell.

Knowing the difference between right and wrong is firmly fixed within those who love the truth. Loving the truth solves our problems because we always turn to the truth to know right from wrong. When we know the truth, we act (work, operate, function) according to the truth. *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, IF ye continue in my word, THEN are ye my disciples indeed: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).* To continue in (live according to) the Gospel/Truth makes us free (forgiven) from the penalty of our sins.

When we speak of “obeying the Gospel,” there are many who have no idea what that means or what we’re talking about. They act as though they’ve never heard that expression. And, they probably haven’t heard it because of two, perhaps three, reasons: 1) they don’t read the Bible for themselves, 2) denominational preachers don’t preach it, 3) they have read it or heard of it, but because they don’t consider it important, it never registers in their mind; i.e. obeying the Gospel is not significant. Part of this thinking may stem from being told all their lives that man has no part in his own salvation and therefore cannot do anything to secure it.

“Obeying the Gospel” (the Truth) is the difference between heaven and hell. *“...The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that **obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Thess. 1:7-9).* The Holy Spirit in this passage plainly says that those who do not obey not the Gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord—that’s eternal hell where the devil is cast (cf. Matt. 25:41,46). The lost, those who have never heard the Gospel; and, those who have heard it but never obeyed it *“...are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7).* Men aren’t lost because they have never heard the Gospel. They’re not lost because they haven’t obeyed the Gospel. Men are lost because they have sinned. *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).* Sin, just one sin, separates from God. Sin is a transgression (violation) of God’s law (the Scriptures, the Gospel, 1 John 3:4).

We must LOVE THE TRUTH! It’s tragic indeed when people don’t love the truth because they don’t care about the truth. The truth is the ONLY thing that can save one from their sins. Jesus said, IF we obey the Truth and keep on obeying the Truth (John 8:31-32)—the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:8), the Word of Christ (John 12:48), the Law of Christ (James 1:25; Gal. 6:2), THEN the Truth will make us free (forgiven) from our sins.

Do you love the truth? People remain in their sin when they do not love the truth and obey it. *“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved**” (2 Thess. 2:10).*

Under the law of Moses, the priests were given the charge of teaching the people the law of God. To know God’s law made them able to know the difference between right and wrong. Regarding the priests, we read, *“And they shall teach my people **the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean**” (Ezekiel 44:23).* This was under the Old Testament and was “taken away” when Jesus died on the cross (Col. 2:14). However, the principle taught in this passage has not changed. It is true in every generation. The Holy Spirit wrote in Romans 15:4, *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were **written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**”*

The priests were to teach the people the difference between the holy and the profane. “Holy” is that which is sacred, hallowed, dedicated, consecrated, separate from evil. It has to do with God’s holiness, divinity, sanctity, uprightness. “Profane” is that which is common, ordinary, plain, not special, not dedicated, of no value or use in God’s service. God is worthy. He is Holy. He is Divine. Nothing about him is common, ordinary, plain. How dare anyone

relegate him, assign to him, that which is common and plain. God almighty is the very antithesis (opposite) of that which is common.

In Isaiah 55:8-9 God said, *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* Also, *“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations” (Psa. 33:11).* *“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them” (Psa. 139:17)!*

God’s word and way is this world’s everlasting guide. The vast majority of humanity do not see it and refuse to acknowledge it, but it does not change the fact and truthfulness of it. *“For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations” (Psa. 100:5).* *“Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations” (Psa. 145:13).* Jesus said, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).* John wrote, *“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Rev. 20:12).*

God’s thoughts, his word the Bible, shall endure to all generations. *“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isa. 55:10-11).*

The Lord God in heaven above is the Father of all that exists. It is all his, including humanity. It is he that made us and not we ourselves (Psa. 100:3). God’s will is that all the world know, and are able to make the distinction between *the holy and the profane* (the unholy). People must see the difference between *the good and the evil*. It’s the difference between *righteousness and wickedness*. So sad and tragic indeed is the fact that *“the whole world lieth in wickedness” (1 John 5:19).* That was true in the Lord’s day and it is still true today. God has much to say in his holy Scriptures about mankind making the distinction between right and wrong, good and evil.

Isaiah 5:20, *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”*

Romans 12:9, *“Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”*

Romans 12:21, *“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

Romans 16:19, *“I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple, concerning evil.”* “Simple” means to be harmless, innocent. Those who are “good” do not work, espouse or endorse that which is evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:15, *“See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good...”*

1 Peter 3:11, *“Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.”* “Eschew” means to avoid, refrain.

3 John 11, *“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.”*

Hebrews 5:14, *“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

We all must know the difference between right and wrong. We then must be diligent in teaching others to know the same and then to live accordingly. It is disturbing that people around the globe work evil with all their heart and soul instead of goodness and uprightness. They need to know NOW that their behavior is leading them down the path to eternal damnation. The Lord some day will say to them, *“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).* - Garland M. Robinson