

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Sean Mathews 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.  
Charlie Henard was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and now is being treated by receiving periodic infusions.  
Cindy Murray's husband, Randy was diagnosed with and being treated for influenza Type A and is now doing better.  
Iris Hash is being treated for bronchitis.  
Floyd Coley is experiencing issues with his hip. He met with a surgeon to discuss options and will undergo additional evaluation to determine steps forward. Floyd is also dealing with GI issues.  
Karen Sproles has finished therapy for her knees. Karen's brother-in-law has started chemo treatment for his cancer.  
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.

**Benevolent Opportunity**

We are now collecting canned meats, such as tuna, salmon, beef stew, etc., for donation to the MSD of Martinsville school food pantry.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song then dismiss for the day.

**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 11, 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](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## WATER BAPTISM AND CALVINISM

*Sinners save themselves by believing and obeying what God has said and requires. The Holy Spirit tells us what to DO to be saved in the words of the New Testament.*

*Calvinism holds that the “new birth” (which they call regeneration) is a sovereign act of the Holy Spirit that precedes and makes possible a sinner’s faith in Christ. They claim that since man is born spiritually dead, the Holy Spirit must change a man’s heart which enables him to believe. They say the work of the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with man’s decision to believe, but it is a supernatural act that transforms the sinner, enabling man to believe. The system of Calvinism teaches that all men are born spiritually dead, completely unable and unwilling to turn to God or believe in Christ on their own.*

What does the Bible tell us about man being saved from his sins? For one, the Holy Spirit does not make man do anything. If so, why doesn’t He make everyone turn from their sins and believe? If He only makes some turn and believe, then God is a respecter of persons. However, Romans 2:11 & Colossians 3:25 tell us **“there is no respect of persons with God.”**

If a man can only be saved by the Holy Spirit acting on him, then it’s God’s fault if a man is not saved. The point is, **God has done his part** in making salvation possible to ALL men. Jesus said: *“Come unto me, ALL ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matt. 11:28). By God’s grace (favor, benefit), he provided the sacrifice of his only begotten Son on the cross that paid the price (satisfied God’s justice) for the forgiveness of our sins. NOW, **it is man’s choice** whether or not to accept the Lord’s sacrifice and humbly obey God in order to receive the benefits of his grace. **Everyone**, not just an elect few, have the choice to **hear, learn, believe** and **obey** God’s commands. Those who do so will be saved and those who do not will continue to be lost because *“...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23). *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one”* (Rom. 3:10). The fact that man must choose to be saved is why Peter told those on the day of Pentecost, *“save yourselves”* (Acts 2:40). Sinners save themselves by believing and obeying what God has said and requires.

When man obeys God, he is not earning or deserving salvation, but God can’t save those who do not obey. Jesus said, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH the will of my Father which is in heaven”* (Matt. 7:21). As a matter of fact, many THINK they are doing God’s will but are not doing God’s will. Notice verses 22 & 23 of this same text. *“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

We need the Holy Spirit to tell us WHAT TO DO so we can have forgiveness of our sins. As a matter of fact, the Holy Spirit has already told the entire world what to do. The words of the Holy Spirit are the words of the New Testament. He caused the New Testament to be written. His Word is for the whole world. It’s every human’s responsibility to learn it and obey it. Jesus died for ALL men (Heb. 2:9), not just those who believe. Second Peter 3:9 tells us, *“The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance.”*

*Calvinism says: “All believers have the Holy Spirit when they BELIEVE. Baptism is the fruit of that repentance. It is a public declaration of the new life you received BY the Holy Spirit.”*

Did you notice that no Scripture is given to prove this statement? None is given because none exists. It’s simply an effort to evade the Bible teaching on God’s plan of salvation. The Bible tells us the exact moment when one receives forgiveness of sins. That’s the moment one is forgiven of their sins and becomes a Christian.

Forgiveness of sins is not obtained at the moment one BELIEVES. Belief (faith) is a step “toward” forgiveness of sins. Mark 16:16 says *“He that believeth AND is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* In John 1:12 we are told that those who believe have the power, authority, privilege, *“...to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”* Those who believe and stop there are not yet sons of God!

Forgiveness of sins is not obtained at the moment one REPENTS. Repenting is a step “toward” forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Repentance is a “change of mind.” One’s change of mind is no good unless it is completed in “action” — a change of conduct, life. *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ... Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only”* (James 1:17,24,26).

Forgiveness of sins is not extended at the moment one CONFESSES that Jesus is the Son of God. Confession is a step “toward” forgiveness of sins. Romans 10:9-10 says: *“...If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made UNTO salvation”* — not INTO salvation (Rom. 10:9-10). Jesus said, *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say”* (Luke 6:46)?

Forgiveness of sins is extended at the moment one is BAPTIZED (immersion). Baptism is the step that puts one INTO Christ. It puts one into contact with Christ’s blood that washes sins away (Rev. 1:5). That’s why Ananias told Saul: *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16). There is no Bible record of Saul eating, drinking or sleeping after being blinded on the road to Damascus. If he was saved on the road he did not know it. He was miserable for three days because he was still in his sins. Ananias told him what to do to have his sins washed away.

Romans 6:3-18 reveals that sinners are baptized INTO Christ. It is in water baptism they contact Jesus’ blood. *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized INTO Jesus Christ were baptized INTO his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism INTO death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin”* (vs.3-6). A sinner goes down into the water, it is there forgiveness of sins takes place and a new man is raised up out of the water to live a Christian life. There is no new life without it!

Notice in this same context verses 16-18 (Rom. 6). *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye WERE the servants of sin, but ye have OBEYED from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being THEN MADE FREE FROM SIN, ye became the servants of righteousness.”* These brethren had OBEYED that FORM OF DOCTRINE they had received. What “form of doctrine” had been delivered to them? It was the teaching they had received and obeyed back in verses 3-6 — the act of being baptized. Before baptism they WERE the servants of sins, but NOW they are MADE FREE FROM SIN by being baptized. - Garland M. Robinson