

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

Ray Sturgill is staying with his daughter, Jennifer, in Mooresville. He is waiting to be scheduled to have two stints inserted to address his coronary artery blockage. Floyd and Judy Coley are feeling better after recovering from their illnesses due to Influenza A.

Tim Burdsall is recovering well from knee replacement surgery.

Cindy Murray's husband Randy is dealing with an irregular heartbeat, dizziness and shortness of breath.

Delores Hendrickson is still struggling with a bad cough and is having some vision issues caused by dry macular degeneration in her eyes but is feeling some better.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.

Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee. She recently had wires inserted for a device to help her with the pain.

Karen Sproles' son, Chet, is being scheduled for knee surgery.

**Pray For Our Shut-Ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

**2025 Planning Sessions:**

Our 2025 planning sessions were postponed due to weather issues and are now scheduled for Saturday, January 18 starting with breakfast at 8:00 AM and separate planning sessions for men and women to follow.

**Benevolent Opportunity:**

We will be collecting spaghetti and pasta sauces during the month of January. These items will be donated to the Martinsville school food pantry.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song.

**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 12, 2025

***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 (March through October)

**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

# POINTING FINGERS AT OTHERS

*Roger Campbell*

See if any of this sounds familiar: the prime minister or president blames the legislature and the legislature blames the top ruling figure in the country. The national government blames the state/provincial governments and the state/provincial governments blame the national government. The coach blames the players and the players blame the coach. The teacher blames the parents and the parents blame the teacher. The husband blames the wife and the wife blames the husband. The overseers blame the congregation and the congregation blames the overseers.

When we say “pointing fingers,” we refer to placing the blame for something on someone else. If a blatant mistake occurs, some activity does not go well, or if something is left undone that should have been done, people often begin pointing fingers.

Finger-pointing is not something that is limited to one gender, one culture, one financial class of people, or those from one level of educational training. It is something that folks from all walks of life do, and it knows no geographic boundaries.

Finger-pointing has been around since the population of the earth was only two people! After Eve and Adam violated God’s instructions by eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they began making excuses. And in this case, their excuses involved pointing fingers at someone else, as if blaming someone else for their misdeed somehow would erase the reality of their own sinful conduct.

After the transgressions took place in the Garden of Eden, God asked Adam, “*Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat*” (Gen. 3:11)? What was Adam’s response? “*The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat*” (3:12). Adam admitted that he ate the fruit, but, at least in part, he was pointing a finger at someone else. He pointed a finger at Eve, saying she gave him the fruit. And, his words also had “the ring” of blaming God for giving him the women who gave him the fruit.

Well, what about Eve? She, too, did some finger-pointing. When Jehovah asked her, “*What is this that thou hast done*” (3:13), she admitted that she had, in fact, eaten the fruit, but her complete

statement was, “*The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat*” (3:13). Instead of taking full responsibility for her failure, she pointed a finger at the serpent.

In the next book of the Bible, we again read of a person who sinned against God, but rather than “man up” and show remorse for his evil-doing, he tried to place the blame on someone else. We are talking about Aaron, the first high priest of Israel and older brother of Moses. What sin did Aaron commit? He led the Israelites in building and worshipping a golden calf. Moses’ question to his elder brother was, “*What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them*” (Exodus 32:21). Aaron’s wimpy, finger-pointing answer was, “*Thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us. ... And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf*” (Exodus 32:22-24). At whom did Aaron point a finger? At “the people.” Aaron gave a cowardly, nonsensical, blame-others response. God’s people deserve better leadership than that!

In contrast to the finger-pointers in the world, when King David messed up by committing adultery and other evil deeds, rather than blame someone else, he “told it like it was.” With no stipulations or attempt to minimize his guilt, David declared, “*I have sinned against the LORD*” (2 Samuel 12:13). His sin was ugly, but his spirit of repentance and taking responsibility for his grievous error was beautiful.

The Bible says, “*So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God*” (Rom. 14:12). It also is written that the God of judgment “*will render to every man according to his deeds*” (Rom. 2:6). When we stand before the judgment seat of the risen Son of God, pointing a finger at others will not remove the guilt of any transgressions we have committed.

If a sin was committed, but we had no involvement in it, we are not responsible for it. On the other hand, if we broke God’s law or failed in some manner when others were counting on us, let us be mature enough to admit our fault, take responsibility for our action, and strive to do better in the future.