

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Ray Sturgill is recovering at his daughter's home in Mooresville from heart issues. Tim Burdsall is still recovering from knee replacement surgery. Delores Hendrickson was able to be with us last Sunday but still needs our prayers. Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer but holding her own.

Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee.

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.

Benevolent Opportunities:

We are collecting canned soups and meal entrees such as ravioli, beef stew, etc. through March 9th. These items will be donated to the Martinsville school food pantry.

We are also collecting full-size pillows until the end of February, to be donated to Sleep In Heavenly Peace, an organization that makes beds for foster families and needy children.

Family Game Night:

A family game and fellowship will be held Friday, February 21st starting at 5:30 PM. We will have a taco bar and an ice cream sundae bar and will play some games.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

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

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, March 5th at 5:00 PM.

2025 Gospel Meetings:

Our gospel meetings for 2025 have been confirmed. Brother Randall Jones will hold our spring meeting April 25 – 27 and brother Donnie Vick will hold our fall meeting September 12 – 14.

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).

February 16, 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

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

Ephesians 2:8-10

Garland M. Robinson

I love Ephesians 2:8-10! It is beautiful. It fits perfectly with all the other scriptures of the Bible. It tells us that salvation is offered to man by God's grace — His great favor. But, even though it's been extended to all mankind (Titus 2:11-12), not all will be saved because they do not DO what God says is necessary to benefit from it. Man must comply with God's commands in order to receive God's grace. This brings us to "faith" AND "obedience."

Many claim that man has absolutely nothing to do with his own salvation. But in spite of their claim, their actions tell otherwise. For example, does anyone believe that God will save a sinner who curses His holy name and despises His grace? Of course not! Does anyone believe that a sinner can ignore God and still be saved? Not at all! All admit that a sinner must desire to be saved. But, when a sinner desires to be saved, he is doing something. He is acting. He is working. So, a sinner IS involved in the process of his own salvation. If a sinner admits he is a sinner and needs salvation, he is doing something. He is acting, working, performing. If a sinner must "accept" the Lord's sacrifice, he is doing something. He is working. By these obvious points, all admit that man must DO something in order to receive God's grace.

Many say salvation is received by "faith alone" which does not include obedience. However, Jesus says "faith" (John 8:24) AND "obedience" (Matt. 7:21; John 12:42-43; Heb. 5:8-9) brings salvation. In the truest sense of the word, Bible faith is an act of obedience. I say salvation is by "faith", but like Jesus, I will not put the word "alone" or "only" after faith because such is contrary to Scripture (James 2:24). I agree with Jesus. "Faith only" advocates deny what Jesus said about obedience being necessary for salvation (Mark 16:16). We need to also point out that "faith" itself is a work. It is something a person must do. Jesus made this clear in John 6:29 when He said that to "believe" is a work. It is an act of obedience if it is true Bible faith. However, faith alone will not save anyone!

What does Ephesians 2:8-9 teach about works? It teaches that salvation is not by "works." Salvation does not come about by man's goodness or performance wherein he obligates God to save him. Man cannot earn salvation. Man cannot merit salvation. I do not teach that works of merit bring about salvation and have never heard that taught by anyone else. Man cannot boast in any work he performs; if so, he could save himself. But man cannot save himself.

But, man must obey (work, comply, perform) to receive God's grace. This is summed up in the word "faith." We are saved by grace "through

faith." Faith is a work (John 6:29). It is a work God commands man to do. It is not a work man dreamed up. It is not something he does of his own goodness. When men comply with God's commands "through faith", he is trusting in the saving power of Jesus. All the while, we are still unprofitable servants, we have only done that which is our duty to do.

Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches that God extends salvation to man even though man does not deserve it. God extends to man a great favor because of His love for man. Man deserves to be punished, but God says, I'm willing to forgive him and save him. However, God places a condition on man being saved (otherwise, all men would be saved). Man must respond. Man must act. Man must do something. Not just anything. Not man's own power. Not man's own goodness. Not man's own work. Man must have faith (trust in, reliance upon) in God and all that God commands him to do. Man accepts the "complete" will of God by FAITH. But, it is more than just a mental acceptance of God and Jesus. It is not simply a belief in the historic record of Jesus' sacrifice for man's sins. It is a faith that "moves," "acts," "performs," "works," "obeys." All the while, man still recognizes these acts of obedience do not mean he deserves God's forgiveness or that he has earned salvation.

Man's humble submission to God's will prompts him to ask, exactly what does "faith" mean? What is involved in "faith?" What does God mean when he says I can be saved by "grace through faith?"

Through a study of God's Word, one understands that Romans four tells HOW one is made righteous before God. It is by "faith" — trust in God. But as he reads the rest of the New Testament, he learns that James gives more specific details about salvation by faith than Paul reveals. James tells us WHEN faith makes one righteous. It is when faith "acts" or "works." James even uses the same example of Abraham that Paul does. Salvation by grace through faith is an active, working faith.

Through more reading of the New Testament, we learn that man must REPENT of his sins BEFORE he can be forgiven of sins (Acts 2:38). This same verse also tells us that man must be BAPTIZED for the remission of his sins BEFORE he can be forgiven of his sins. We also learn from Acts 8:35-39 that CONFESSION of faith in Jesus comes BEFORE one can be baptized FOR the remission of sins. These passages make repentance, confession and baptism ESSENTIAL BEFORE remission of sins is granted. Therefore, salvation comes AFTER remission of sins, not BEFORE. Repenting, confessing and being baptized are acts done by faith. Therefore, salvation is "through faith" or "by faith" — a "working faith."