

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Virginia McKinney is suffering with back and hip pain.
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, Terry Richardson

Deepest Sympathy:

John Richardson, son of Don and Barbara Richardson, passed away at the age of 57 last week. Services were held last Friday. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Richardson family.

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.

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 23, 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

SELF-CONTROL

Douglas Hoff

Christianity is a religion that emphasizes self-control. *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”* (Matt. 16:24). To deny self requires subjecting one’s will to that of God. This means that the disciple needs to have the attitude the Lord expressed when he said, *“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done”* (Luke 22:42). To deny self certainly requires control of one’s desires.

Sadly, there are many who have never learned to practice the virtue of self-control. Paul spoke of some unmarried and widows who might not exercise self-control (1 Cor. 7:8-9). When Paul addressed Felix *“...he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee”* (Acts 24:25). He was right to be afraid because his life was one of wickedness and immorality. Proof of this is seen in the next verse where we learn he was hoping Paul would offer him a bribe to release him from custody. His thoughts were evil and it appears he did not desire to control himself.

Christians are commanded to develop self-control in their lives (2 Peter 1:5-7). Doing such makes one able to bear fruit in the Lord. Failing in this regard makes the person vulnerable to false teachers who turn the grace of God into a license to sin (2 Peter 2:18-19; Jude 4). Peter said that developing self-control is intimately connected to the knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 1:8). Thus, it should come as

no surprise that self-control is included in the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

What is necessary to develop self-control in a person’s life? One thing is learning to control what you think about. Proverbs 4:23 says, *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it [are] the issues of life.”* Obviously, the word heart in this verse is not referring to the blood pumping organ in the chest, but the mind of man. What a person thinks about will determine what kind of person he is or will become (Prov. 23:7). Jesus put it this way: *“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”* (Matt. 12:34).

The old saying, “garbage in, garbage out” is very true. If a person wants to live a holy life with self-control, he must fill his mind with things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report and praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8). Paul said to meditate upon these things. In other words, fill your mind with the good and it will push out the bad.

Self-control is developed when a person learns to control his thinking. Far too many never reflect on their thoughts. This is why they fail to change for the better. They are at the mercy of the bad thoughts in their minds. The Lord taught that overt sins arise from the motives that prompted the action. For example, adultery is a sin that arises from lust in the heart (Matt. 5:27-28). To prevent adultery, the lust must be removed. That is why Jesus said, *“If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell”* (Matt. 5:29). He did not mean that a person should literally pluck out his eyes. He is teaching that one needs to control his thoughts. The impure needs to be cut out and replaced with pure and holy thoughts. This is the heart of self-control.