

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

Judy Coley had an appointment late last week to determine the path forward to treat the growths found in front of her right ear, the lymph node and in her thyroid gland. Sean Mathews is scheduled for gall bladder surgery May. Virginia McKinney is suffering with back and hip pain and will begin PT. Karen Sproles continues to battle knee pain. Her husband Chet also has back pain. Joni McConnell's sister is recovering from shoulder issues after falling. Gordon Wonsley, former gospel preacher at the Paris, Illinois Church of Christ, is recovering from heart bypass surgery. Tim Burdsall is still suffering pain from knee replacement surgery. Delores Hendrickson continues to need our prayers for sustained health. Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer. Former Morgan St. member Glenda Coons is recovering from knee surgery. Former Morgan St. member Norman Wells is on hospice care at The Waters. Brother Charles Blair of the Stop 11 congregation suffered a possible mini stroke and his wife, sister Beverly Blair, will need to wear a heart monitor for evaluation.

**Pray For Our Shut-Ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Terry Richardson, Norman Wells and Kathy Malowitz

**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.

**Graduation Reception:**

All are invited to a high school graduation reception for Michaela Mathews on Saturday, May 17 from 4 to 7 PM at the Martinsville City Park shelter house number 5. Our heart-felt congratulations to Michaela! We are proud of you!!

**Benevolent Opportunities:**

We are now collecting macaroni and cheese, instant pastas and rice meals. These items will be donated to the Martinsville school food pantry.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be today, 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, May 7th, at 5:00 PM.

**Fall Gospel Meeting:**

Our fall gospel meeting with brother Donnie Vick, of the Shelbyville Rd. Church of Christ, will be held 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).

May 4, 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](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## A DIVIDED HEART

The book of Hosea pictures the Northern Kingdom of Israel just before the Assyrians are let loose, punishing them for their false religion and immorality. In this graphic and rich writing, there are many figures of speech describing their spiritual ailment. One very simple statement is found in Hosea 10:2, *“Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty.”*

This passage reveals Israel’s main problem —a divided heart. Simply, they were trying to worship the Lord and false gods at the same time. There is no success in that. It is all about **loyalty to God**. They had professed allegiance to the Lord even though they were clearly unfaithful. They had convinced themselves otherwise. Thus, they were deceived. It is a human tendency to convince ourselves of being loyal to God even when we are not.

A simple study of the Bible reveals that **Satan will allow divided loyalties, but God will not!** God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5). He will not share loyalties nor tolerate divided allegiance.

This is what Jesus meant in Matthew 6:19-24. In verse 22, He stated, *“...if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”* By “single” He meant “simple, whole, clear, sound.” The idea is single-minded —not divided. This is why He said in v.24, *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

The inspired James takes this up in James 1:8 and 4:8 by referring to the *“double minded man.”* This term is also a reference to disloyalty to God. And if we are going to make application, we must examine the statement, look deep inside ourselves, and examine our attitudes and actions, and repent or in the words of Hosea, *“break up”* our *“fallow ground”* (Hosea 10:12).

The reason that sound preaching exhorts and admonishes that a Christian cannot “put one foot in the world and one in the church” is because of this principle. You will never serve and worship God acceptably when you are trying to ride the fence; when you try to dabble in the world and in the church at the same time. You become

double-minded. All it will produce is anxiety and misery in us or in the words of James, *“unstable in all his ways”* (James 1:8b).

As a result of Israel’s *“divided heart,”* Hosea says, *“they shall be found faulty”* (10:2). The ASV and NKJV translates it “guilty.” They were at fault because they were guilty. And as a result, they will be punished.

Later in verses 10-11, Hosea uses an agricultural theme of plowing a field. He speaks of how Israel would *“bind themselves in their two furrows”* (v.10), which may be a reference to their divided loyalties in which they tried to serve the Lord and the world at the same time. It simply cannot be done!

Now remember, this was written for our learning (Rom. 15:4). What do we learn from this? God demands our “all” (Matt. 16:24-26)! We must have the proper priorities. God must come first in our lives (Matt. 6:33). There is no middle ground between serving God and serving the world (Matt. 6:24; 12:30). And, there is no compromise with error (Gal. 2:5). The prophet from Tishbeh, Elijah (1 Kings 17:1), who gathered enough courage within himself asked the same question we must ask today of ourselves or of others, *“How long halt ye”* (“go ye limping” ASV) *“between two opinions”* (“the two sides” ASV)? *“if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him”* (1 Kings 18:21)?

Never forget that although God challenges us and requires much, He first gave much (1 John 4:9,10,19). Jesus requires much from us but He too gave much (John 10:15). The rich blessings we will receive cannot even be fully comprehended in this life (Mark 10:30). Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, *“but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

Let us resolve not to have a divided heart but a heart that gives all to the Lord. *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”* (Matt. 22:37).-- Tracy Dugger