

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

Sean Mathews will have additional blood work performed in 6 months to monitor his prostate cancer condition before determining next steps.

Linda Jones is being treated for Parkinson's disease.

Glenda Coons is scheduled to have back surgery August 20th to remove bone spurs on her spine.

Karen Sprole's son-in-law has serious heart issues and internal bleeding.

Iris Hash's son Bobby Eppards is back home and doing better after being treated for fluid around his heart.

Delores Hendrickson continues to need our prayers for sustained health.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer. Her condition has worsened and she is now under hospice care. We are thankful that Brittany was recently baptized into Christ.

**Pray For Our Shut-Ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Terry Richardson, 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 latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

**Benevolent Opportunities:**

We are now collecting cereals. These items will be donated to the MSD food pantry.

**Fall Gospel Meeting:**

Our fall gospel meeting will be held September 12 – 14. Our speaker will be brother Donnie Vick of the Shelbyville Rd. Church of Christ in Indianapolis. The lesson theme will be: "The Bible and Me!"

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, September 14 during our gospel meeting, following the AM services.

**Fish Fry:**

Our annual fish fry will be held on September 27 at 5:00 PM at the Martinsville City Park shelter house No. 5.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, September 3rd, at 5:00 PM.

**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).

August 17, 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

## THE SINNER'S PRAYER

A common belief in the denominational world, regarding how one gains salvation, is reciting the “sinner’s prayer.” It can take different forms, but all are similar in nature. This is a basic example of the “sinner’s prayer, **“Lord Jesus, I’m a sinner. I believe you died for my sins so I could be forgiven. I receive you as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for coming into my life. Amen.”** (<https://www.pray.com/articles/sinners-prayer>)

The “sinner’s prayer” developed and came about out of a sense of convenience. As the invention of praying for salvation developed, the “mourner’s bench” came into popularity in the eighteenth century. That doctrine asserted a sinner might be saved if he prayed long enough and hard enough, at the mourner’s bench; and stories of people spending long and grueling hours at the bench began to circulate. During that time, phrases like the “alter call,” and “pray through” were also invented. However, today the mourner’s bench is mostly non-existent, though some denominations have preserved the bench as a memento of the revivalist days of long ago, they remember as an old time religion.”

In the early twentieth century, revivalist preachers, like Billy Graham, began simplifying their doctrines of salvation; after all, the mourner’s bench was too time consuming and cumbersome, which made it unappealing to the people. In addition, large crusades became popular, and denominational preachers needed a quick way to “save” hundreds of people simultaneously. Thus, the sinner’s prayer was a quick fix for their dilemma, and the people were led to believe it would forgive them of their sins! However, the question is whether the “sinner’s prayer” is authorized by God; and if it is, where can it be found in the New Testament of Jesus Christ?

Unfortunately for those who have fallen for Satan’s devices, the “sinner’s prayer” is not found anywhere in the Bible, and a careful study of the accounts of conversion provided in the New Testament, will not reveal one single instance of one who has never obeyed the gospel, being instructed, or encouraged to “pray through” for his or her salvation. Instead, those who had been taught were told to *believe on the Lord* ([Acts 16:31](#)), *repent of past sins* ([Acts 2:38](#)), *confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God* ([Acts 8:37](#)), and to *be immersed in water for the forgiveness of past sins* ([Acts 22:16](#)). That was done so the recipient could be added to the Lord’s body, which is the church ([Acts 2:47](#); [Col. 1:18](#)), and the place where all spiritual blessings exist ([Eph. 1:3](#)).

Often, proponents of the sinner’s prayer like to use the parable of the

publican and the Pharisee ([Luke 18:9-14](#)) as an example. However, neither of the two men mentioned was an alien sinner, because they were both Jews, having been born into the family of Israel, and both had gone to the house of God to worship. The publican is simply an example of a child of God having gone astray, asking for forgiveness because of his unfaithfulness.

Scripture makes it very clear, the mere act of “calling” out the Lord’s name to gain His divine mercies, in the absence of obedience to the Gospel, is an act that will not be rewarded. Christ Himself warned, *“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.”* He also asked, *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say”* ([Luke 6:46](#))?

Prayer is and has always been a blessing reserved for the child of God, not sinners. When Christ was asked by His disciples to teach them how to pray, He began the model prayer with the words: *“Our Father which art in heaven”* ([Matt. 6:9](#)). The great prophet Isaiah taught the same thing, *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”* ([Isa. 59:1-2](#)). Isaiah understood the issue was not that God could not hear the people; instead, **He does not hear those who live in sin!** John warned, *“Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth”* ([Jonah 9:31](#)). Of course, the meaning is that God does not act on the prayers of those outside His covenant relationship, because He hears and knows all things; after all, the wickedness of Nineveh had come up before Him ([Jonah 1:2](#)).

One might suggest the good man Cornelius ([Acts 10:1-8](#)) had his prayers answered by God. Cornelius was certainly a believer in God, but not a New Testament Christian; in addition, the text states his *“prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God”* ([Acts 10:4](#)). A memorial is a “reminder,” and Cornelius was the reminder of the promise given to Abraham how the blessings of God were for all of humanity, and it was time for the Gospel to go the Gentiles.

Saul, the great persecutor of the church, could not gain salvation through prayer. He fasted and prayed for three days, and yet his sins were not “washed away” until he was baptized in water in accordance with the divine will of God ([Acts 9:11](#); [22:16](#)). If there was ever a case of the “sinner’s prayer” being exercised, that is it; however, it was not acceptable to God.

The only answer to sin is obedience to God’s plan of salvation, not humanity’s inventions, and the “sinner’s prayer” is just that! - *Rick Owens*