

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Gloria Hale's condition has worsened. She is now on hospice care.
Linda Jones is being treated for Parkinson's disease.
Glenda Coons is back home and recovering following back surgery to remove bone spurs on her spine.
Allen Davis' mother recently had a cardiac ablation and insertion of a pacemaker and is doing well.
Karen Sprole's son-in-law has serious heart issues and internal bleeding.
Iris Hash is dealing with hip issues.
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 rejoice in that Brittany was recently baptized into Christ.
Joe Boberg, brother of Highland Village Church of Christ sister Joyce Stauffer, has cancer that has spread to multiple locations. Joyce is the wife of brother Mark Stauffer, an elder at the Highland Village congregation.

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). We are looking forward to brother John Grubb visiting with us on Wednesday evening, September 24th to provide us with an update on their work. See latest mission reports on the bulletin board.

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 31, 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

WHAT IF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DID NOT EXIST?

Richard Latham

What was the end result of all the work of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the redemption of mankind? Was it not the church? Yes.

Paul writes concerning the church of Christ and makes clear that it did not come about by accident. It was God's plan from eternity. When the time was right, God sent his Son into the world to die for and establish the church (Gal. 4:4; Eph. 5:25) — *“To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Eph. 3:9-11).

The question asked in the title of this lesson should help open the minds and thoughts of those who are members of the church. Whereas it would be difficult for the faithful to fathom such a thought of the church not existing, it might be easier for those who are less concerned about the will of God. The enemies of Christ would wish that the church of Christ did not exist, and the unfaithful would glory in the freedom to “do as one pleases.”

When speaking of the church of Christ, it is with the understanding that Christ is the builder of the church, and the church of the New Testament is his bride (Matt. 16:13-19; Rev. 22:17). As we think about this question, let us explore some things that might not be considered by Christians or the enemies of God.

First, let me clarify that I am in no way attempting to place the church before her head, nor am I attempting to diminish from the work of God in the redemption of mankind. I ask that you ponder these questions. What was the end result of all the work of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the redemption of mankind? Was it not the church? Yes.

If the church did not exist, what would be the purpose of Ephesians 3:10, and what would be known “by the church” if it did not exist? If the church mentioned in Ephesians 3:10 did not exist, how would that effect the “eternal purpose” of God (Heb. 9:14-15)? Would there be a new covenant (Matt. 26:28)? What purpose would Matthew 16:13-19 serve if the church did not exist? Would it not then indicate that if the church did not exist, then there would be no Christians, since the saved are added to the church (Acts 2:47; Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16)? Who would carry out the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, and Luke 24:46-49?

If the church of Christ did not exist, who would be the “*salt of the earth*” or “*the light of the world*” (Matt. 5:13-16)? Since the church of Christ was paid for by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28), and it does not exist, then what did Christ purchase with his blood? If the church did not exist, would we have the book of Acts (book of conversions), the epistle written to various congregations of the

Lord's people, the general epistles, letters to individual Christians, such as Timothy and Titus, instructing them in the church's work, worship, faithfulness, etc.

If the church of Christ did not exist, how could the book of Revelation be written to the seven churches of Asia? What about the spiritual promises to Abraham, would they exist (Gen. 12:3; Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:16)? Once Christ died and was resurrected, then what, if the church did not come to fruition? What about the falling away and departure from the faith mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and 1 Timothy 4:1-3? If the church did not exist, then how do you explain what they fell away from? How could some depart from it? Now, if the church did not exist and there was no falling away or departure from it, then denominationalism would not exist.

In reading J. W. Shepherd's book “The Church, The Falling Away and The Restoration” and F. W. Mattox's book “The Eternal Kingdom,” along with what our Lord taught about people teaching for doctrine the commandments of men, it is evident that there would have to be the leaving and rejecting of truth for error (John 12:48). Are we to think that such organizations who lack “salt” and “light” could ever be pleasing to God, or that a world without Christians (biblically speaking) could preserve this world?

If the church did not exist, what purpose would Daniel 2, Zechariah 1:16, Isaiah 2:2-3, and Micah 4:1-2 serve? Could man by his own righteousness preserve this world, or would there be any reason for it to be here without Christians who make up the church (Isaiah 64:6; 1 John 3:1-2)? While the enemies of God and wayward members of the church despise, ridicule, reject, and deny the church of our Lord, it would be beneficial for them to reconsider those actions. Remember, what happened when there were not ten righteous souls found in Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:32; Eccl. 5:1; Prov. 21:2)?

I know that I have not even begun to explore all the important things that are necessary to be brought out in this lesson, so it is my prayer that some of my faithful brethren would consider this topic and expound upon it. It is my belief they could do a more sufficient job than I have done. Yes, the church of Christ does exist.

For those who love God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the church, we fight every day against Satan by trying to live a faithful life unto God and convince people of the need to put away falsehood and embrace the truth. May God reward our efforts and may we receive our crown in the great judgement day. Now the question is, will you come with us?