

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Virginia McKinney fell again and cracked a rib but is recovering well.
Joni McConnell is dealing with chronic coughing issues.
Ray Sturgill's brother-in-law, Teddy Adams, has brain issues and is being treated at the hospital in Lexington, KY but is allowed to return home on the weekends.
Iris Hash is dealing with hip issues and pleurisy.
Iris Hash's son, Bobby Eppards, is in cardiac rehab in Carmel following surgery.
Karen Sproles is dealing with leg pain and is being treated with leg wraps.
Karen Sproles' son Chet suffered a mild heart attack and is recovering at home.
Deloris Hendrickson continues to need our prayers for sustained health.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, and Kathy Malowitz

Prayers Of Sympathy:

Terry Richardson, son of former Morgan St. member Don Richardson, passed away at The Waters in Martinsville on October 10. Services were held last week. Terry was preceded in death by his father, Don, and three brothers. Prayers for the family.

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 reports of their works on the bulletin board.

Benevolent Opportunities:

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

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, November 2nd, following the AM services. Following the meal we will have a service in song at 1 PM then dismiss for the day.

Men's Business Meeting:

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

Area Gospel Meeting:

The Eagle Valley Church of Christ at 8465 Crawfordsville Rd. in Indianapolis will have a gospel meeting October 19 – 23. Services Monday through Thursday will be at 7:00 PM. Brother Don Loftis will be the speaker.

Stop 11 Road Church of Christ 2025 Lectureship:

The Stop 11 Rd congregation will host their annual lectureship November 2 – 6. Lectures will be presented Sunday at 10:00 and 11:00 AM and at 1:30 and 2:30 PM. Additional lectures will be given Monday – Thursday at 10:00 and 11:00 AM and 1:30, 7:00 and 8:00 PM. Our brother Bob Hawkins will be delivering talks at 11:00 AM on Sunday and 7:00 PM on Wednesday.

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).

October 19, 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

WHY JESUS RETURNED TO HEAVEN

Jon Gary Williams

The story of God's wondrous plan of salvation for lost man lies between two grand events: the leaving of Jesus from heaven and the return of Jesus to heaven.

The Scriptures clearly tell us why Jesus left heaven. He left to become the ransom for lost man. But why did Jesus return to heaven? What was His purpose? The Scriptures reveal several reasons. Let's take a look.

1. Jesus returned to heaven to appear before God as the atonement for man's sin.

Under the Old Testament law we learn that each year the high priest entered the most holy place to offer sacrifices for the sins of all the people. The high priest serves as a "type of Jesus," while the most holy place serves as a "type of heaven."

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Heb 9:24).

Jesus, our true high priest, with his own blood, entered heaven to make His gracious offering. And this is further proclaimed in Hebrews 4:14. *"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession."*

It was essential for Jesus to return to heaven to appear before His Father as the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of man. Had he not returned to heaven, His offering would not have been complete—there would be no redemption for man.

2. Jesus returned to heaven to reign as King.

In today's religious world there are false views about the kingship of Jesus.

Some believe that *Jesus was king while on earth*. But why? Because they teach that his kingdom was already in existence then. But this is simply not true! His kingdom (the church) did not come into existence until the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). So we ask, without a kingdom, how could Jesus be king?

Some believe that *Jesus will not be king until His second coming*. However, the fact is, Jesus is already reigning! To the church at Laodicea Jesus said, *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21).*

Also, Paul told the brethren at Colosse that they were in Jesus' kingdom. *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13).*

So, Jesus returned to heaven and now reigns as king.

3. Jesus returned to Heaven to send the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told the apostles He was to leave them, for He was going back to heaven, but for what reason? So He could send them the comforter, the Holy Spirit. *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7).*

Jesus had previously told them about this. *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16-17).*

It was heaven's plan that the Holy Spirit would be the avenue through which the Gospel would go forth. However, if Jesus had not returned to heaven, the coming of the Holy Spirit would not have been possible.

When Jesus ascended to heaven, he dispatched the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles in their work of preaching. Notice these words of the apostle Peter. *"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having*

received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear" (Acts 2:32,33).

Hence, the work of the Holy Spirit began. Through the work of the Holy Spirit the church was established and the Gospel was spread.

We are reminded that without the ascension of Jesus to heaven, this would not have been possible.

4. Jesus returned to heaven to prepare a place for the saved.

Here is a unique question. When Jesus returned to heaven, who did he have on his mind? He was thinking of the saved. And this is so clear. In John 14:1-3 Jesus said, *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

It is so sad some are now teaching that the saved will not go to heaven, but, rather, they will live on a new, spiritualized earth. However, this is completely false! Notice what Jesus said, *"that where I am, there ye may be also."* But where is Jesus? He is "in heaven." Hence, this is where the saved will live. One of the grand purposes of Jesus returning to heaven was to make preparations for the saved. This is something in which Jesus delights—having a place made ready and suitable for the saved.

Jesus said he was preparing "mansions" for the saved. These mansions would be in "a place"—a special prepared place. And oh, how beautiful that "place" in heaven will be!

Here is an interesting question an older Gospel preacher once asked: "What is Jesus using as building material for these mansions? Since they are spiritual mansions, the material must be spiritual material!" Then he cited Matthew 6:20. *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."* He then asked, "Could the Lord's building material be the treasures that we are sending there?"

Yes, Jesus returned to heaven to prepare a place with beautiful, glorious mansions.

5. Jesus returned to heaven to be the intercessor of prayer to God.

Jesus taught his disciples that His Father was to be the recipient of prayer (Matt. 6:9). He also taught them He was to be the avenue through which prayers would ascend to the Father (John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23).

After Jesus returned to Heaven this was the way prayers were offered. Paul clearly said, *"...I thank my God through Jesus Christ..." (Rom. 1:8)*. Again, he said, *"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 7:25)*.

In prayer, Jesus is our advocate—our intercessor. The apostle John said, *"And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1)*. In Hebrews 7:25 we read, *"...He always lives to make intercession..."*

Jesus is now at the right hand of God on His throne, making intercession for all the redeemed. *"...Who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:34)*.

6. Jesus returned to heaven to lead the way there for the saved.

We realize Jesus went to heaven to prepare a place for the saved. But how will the saved get there? The answer is simple. Jesus, as our forerunner will lead the way there. *"Whither [where] the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (Heb. 6:20)*.

So Jesus, as our forerunner, will lead the saved to heaven. But when will this take place? Paul said this will be at the end. *"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power" (1 Cor. 15:24)*.

So Jesus himself will deliver up the kingdom (the church) for the saved to live in their new, eternal home in heaven.