Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:
Sean Mathews is scheduled for some more diagnostic tests on his prostate.
Alice Wade's sister Linda in Florida is suffering with cancer.
Bob Hawkins is still experiencing light-headedness.
Virginia McKinney continues to deal with kidney issues,
Joni McConnell is still recovering from heart issues and a broken hip.
Charlie Henard is still being treated for MS.
Dave and Tina Knoy's daughter-in-law, Jessica Haynes visited the Mayo Clinic and will soon begin a different medicine to try and treat her chronic migraine issues.
Former member Beryl Miner has begun hospice care as a result of his cancer.
Karen Sproles' daughter, Jean England, is still suffering from stomach issues. Jean's husband Tom is in the hospital in Florida, suffering from pneumonia.
Floyd Coley is dealing with water buildup on his feet and legs.
Steve Anderson is being checked by his cardiologist for potential afib.
The husband of Iris Hash's niece is suffering from a rare condition that causes him to be extremely sensitive to touch.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:
Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Karen Sproles

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:
John and Eta Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru) and Brett and Joanne Rutherford (Mission work in Tasmania). See their reports on the bulletin board.

Additional Contribution To Mission Work:
The men recently agreed to send a one-time donation of $1,000 and ongoing support of $400/month to support the work of Brett and Joanne Rutherford, in the country of Tasmania. This work is overseen by the Mersey Bluff congregation in Mississippi.

Benevolent Opportunity:
For the month of November, we will be donating canned soup in support of the Gunner Burnham food pantry.

Men's Business Meeting:
The next monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, December 2nd at 5:00 PM.

Ladies' Holiday Luncheon:
The ladies of the congregation will be having a holiday luncheon at the church building on Saturday December 5th starting at 11:00 AM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:
Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, December 6th following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song.

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).

November 22, 2026

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

THE CHILD OF GOD AND GOVERNMENT

John Hall

We can be righteous under a righteous ruler, and we can be righteous under a wicked ruler. No civil government can force a Christian to do evil!

Be instant in the Political Season (2 Tim. 4:2).

No one would deny that this year is a "political season." In fact, perhaps more so than most election years of the past, it has been the political season for some time now. It may be beneficial for Christians at this stage to spend some time meditating upon the word of God for some very important reminders.

Elihu asked Job and his friends, *"Is it fit to say to a king, Thou art wicked? And to princes, Ye are ungodly"* (Job 34:18)? Regardless of how accurate such a description may be, to what extent or through what avenue should a child of God protest wicked leadership? It is true that children of God should not call a wicked ruler good (Isa. 5:20; 1 Kings 22:13-14), and given the opportunity, a child of God should promote what is right and stand against what is wrong before a ruler. For example, John the baptizer took the opportunity to express the unlawful life Herod was living (Mark 6:18). In fact, if ever given an opportunity, a child of God should never turn down a chance to influence leaders toward righteousness. The Proverbs writer notes, *"Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness"* (Prov. 25:5). In reality, however, very few children of God will ever be presented with the opportunity to so directly influence their leadership as John the baptizer or Daniel did. Therefore, we are left with such indirect avenues as voting, writing and/or calling representatives, and more locally, influencing the world around us to seek righteousness and abhor evil.

What should be our attitude toward leadership? The law of Moses included, *"thou shalt not...curse the ruler of thy people"* (Exodus 22:28). David explained to his servants upon rejecting the opportunity to reach out and slay the wicked King Saul, *"The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD"* (1 Sam. 24:6). Jesus taught us to *"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's"* (Matt. 22:21). Peter wrote, *"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well"* (1 Peter 2:13-14).

Let us step back for a moment and observe what appears to be the over-arching message of God's word concerning the relationship between the child of God and civil government. We can be righteous under a righteous ruler, and we can be righteous under a wicked ruler. No civil government can force a Christian to do evil! The way God designed government, it is supposed to punish evildoers and praise those who do well. What if this very institution becomes a "terror to good works" (Rom. 13:3) instead of evil? What if the ruler promotes the shedding of innocent blood, and stifles godliness? Does the child of God "curse the ruler?" Does the child of God "stretch forth his hand against" the ruler? Does the child of God reject all civil law? No, the child of God continues to live righteously himself; and, continues to teach others to do so as well.

If the government "strictly commands not to teach in His name" (Acts 5:28), the child of God still teaches in His name. If that means being reduced to poverty, we can be righteous in poverty (Matt. 12:42-44). If that means prison, we can be righteous in prison (Acts 16:25). If that means death, we can be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). We can be as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who told their ruler, *"...O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thy hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou has set up"* (Dan. 3:16-18, ASV).

Children of God should pray for their country —not necessarily that some righteous ruler will come along and save everyone, but that the Gospel will convict and save everyone. More importantly, children of God should pray for the remnant of faithful Christians to remain faithful no matter what the outcome of the "political season."

Take note of these Wicked Rulers who Reigned during the lives of Righteous People:

- Pharaoh over Moses (Exodus 2:15),
- King Saul over David (1 Sam. 24:16-20),
- Nebuchadnezzar over Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan. 3:17-18),
- Belshazzar over Daniel (Dan. 5:29-30),
- King Ahab over Elijah (1 Kings 19:9-10),
- Herod over John the baptizer (Mark 6:17-18),
- Pontius Pilate over Jesus (Acts 4:27),
- Caesar Nero over Paul (Acts 28:19-20).