

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Sean Mathews recently had blood tests indicating elevated prostate PSA levels and is awaiting his physician to determine any next steps.

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's son, Bobby Eppards, is in cardiac rehab in Carmel following surgery.

Karen Sproles' son Ken suffered a mild heart attack and is recovering at home. Her daughter, Jean, is battling LARS, a chronic stomach issue. In addition, Karen's brother-in-law Ken has been diagnosed with bladder cancer and will have surgery soon. On a happy note, Karen and her husband Chet were recently blessed with the birth of a great grandchild.

Deloris Hendrickson is doing better following her battle with respiratory issues.

Joni McConnell is still dealing with a chronic cough and recently had fluid removed from her lungs.

Charlie Henard is recovering from elbow surgery.

Dave Knoy is recovering from foot surgery and is doing well.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, 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 reports of their works on the bulletin board.

Benevolent Opportunities:

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

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, December 7th, 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, December 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".

Ladies' Holiday Party:

The ladies will have a holiday party on Saturday, December 6 at 11:00 AM at the building. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend and are encouraged to bring guests with them. If questions, please see Tina Knoy.

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 23, 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

IS PRAYER A SCRIPTURAL SUBSTITUTE FOR BAPTISM?

Rick Owens

The majority of the preaching one finds in Media (and the denominational world) instructs the alien sinner to confess he is a sinner and ask Jesus to come into his heart. In other words, he is told to pray to Jesus for salvation. If it is the case one can pray to Jesus for salvation, there would have to be evidence in the Bible to support that claim. There are three ways in which one determines authority from the Bible.

First, there are **direct commands**. Peter commanded those on the Day of Pentecost to, *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2:38).

Second, there are **examples** provided by the first century church, such as the day of the week they came together for worship, *“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight”* (Acts 20:7).

Third, authority may be established by a **necessary inference**. An example is having authority for a church treasurer. Paul said, *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come”* (1 Cor. 16:1-2). From that, it is known that the church collected money from its members, and if money was collected, it can be inferred there would be a treasurer to oversee the money.

Understanding how New Testament authority is established, notice the **“sinner’s prayer.”** If it is authorized, there must be a direct command for it, an example of it, or an inference to be drawn. However, there are no Biblical commandments stating one should recite a “sinner’s prayer.” There is no Bible example of anyone ever reciting a “sinner’s prayer” to receive salvation. And, there are no inferences which can be drawn demanding a “sinner’s prayer.” Some have concluded the publican praying in the Temple is an example of the “sinner’s prayer” (Luke 18:13), but nothing could be further from

the truth! The publican was not an alien sinner; instead, he was a Jew and part of God’s chosen people. He was also in the Temple praying to God, not as an alien sinner, but as a member of God’s family.

If the Bible were re-written to accommodate the false practice of a “sinner’s prayer,” instead of the words chosen by the Holy Spirit, it be filled with man’s words. Such as:

1) “He that believeth and PRAYS shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). 2) “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they PRAYED, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he PRAYED, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done” (Acts 8:12-13). 3) “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to PRAY? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he PRAYED him” (Acts 8:36-38). 4) “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and PRAY, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Remember, Paul had been praying for three days. “The like figure whereunto even PRAYER doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21).

These verses DO NOT say pray, prayed, or prayer because the Holy Spirit chose some form of the word immerse (transliterated “baptize”) in the English language.

There is not one example in Scripture where the alien sinner is commanded to pray for salvation. Baptism is the point at which one is forgiven of sins. It is not more important than believing, repenting and confessing, but it is just as important! If one were to walk to the other side of the room, each step would be needed, but the last step is the one wherein the person could say, “I reached the other side.”

The previous scriptures were changed, to show the seriousness of the soul-damning doctrine of “faith only.”