

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Floyd Coley is being treated for a sore on his leg.
Britani Baxter, Susie Burdsall's granddaughter, will have back surgery November 25th.
Dave and Tina's grandson, Hunter Cramer, is suffering from bouts of hypotension and is undergoing testing.
Iris Hash's son, Bobby Epeards, is under hospice care with heart issues.
Delores Hendrickson is still struggling with a bad cough and is having some vision issues.
Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.
Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee. She got good results with testing performed regarding her kidneys.
Jean England, daughter of Karen Sproles, is still having stomach issues associated with stress.
John Richardson is battling with bloating and stomach issues.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Deepest Sympathy:

Prayers go out for Mike and Doris Parnell at the passing of Mike's nephew's wife in Tennessee.

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (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 Opportunity:

For the month of November, we will be collecting non-refrigerated breakfast foods for the MSD of Martinsville food pantry. This includes items such as oatmeal, dry cereals, breakfast bars, canned items, etc.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, December 4th at 5:00 PM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, December 8, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song. Note that this was moved from the typical first Sunday of the month to December 8th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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 17, 2024

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 (March through October)

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"
Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

FOLLOW ME

Johnny O. Trail

After His resurrection and before His ascension to Heaven, Jesus tells His disciples to follow Him. In His discourse with Peter and with those close by, Jesus repeats this theme. John 21:18-22 says, “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry [thee] whither thou wouldst not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what [shall] this man [do]? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what [is that] to thee? **follow thou me.***” Ultimately, Peter and all of the Apostles would pay a heavy cost for following Jesus after His ascension.

Eternity will be determined by who we choose to follow. Some decide to follow the wrong person. One who is spiritually blind is not a safe guide for seeking biblical truth. Matthew 15:12-14 says, “*Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*” The only thing that can illuminate our spiritual understanding is the word of God (Psalm 119:105).

There are ways in which we cannot follow Christ.

We cannot follow Jesus and be idle. Jesus worked throughout His three year ministry. John 9:4 says, “*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*” Suffice it to say that Jesus accomplished more in His three years than any of us will accomplish in a lifelong pursuit of ministry (John 21:25). In consideration of what the Master accomplished, we must work while there is time and avoid being idle. John 4:34-36 says, “*Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.*”

When we decide to follow Jesus, we cannot lag behind. Matthew 26:33-35 says, “*Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.*” Evidently, Peter followed Jesus at a great distance (Mark 14:54) during

the mockery of a trial that Christ had to endure. Only one of the Apostles followed Jesus to the very end (John). Since Peter was following at a distance, or lagging behind, he knew he had failed Christ miserably (Matt. 26:75).

Instead of lagging behind Jesus, we need to be following closely. John 10:27-28 says, “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*” Hearing the voice of Jesus means that we must be within earshot of Him! Since Jesus is not in the flesh to speak spiritual truth today, we must study the Word (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). No person can follow Jesus without hearing His Words (Rom. 10:17).

For a moment, we might consider the following analogy. Have you ever been following someone in a caravan and become separated from them as a result of lagging behind? It may be that you became separated by a red light or some other traffic problem. Regardless, lagging behind someone in unfamiliar circumstances can lead to one becoming lost! The same is true in spiritual considerations. If you lag behind in following after Jesus, there is a real and tragic possibility of becoming lost!

One cannot follow Christ and have divided affections. Luke 9:57-62 says, “*And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*” After Jesus explained the nature of His ministry and outlined the cost of discipleship, many people started offering excuses. To follow Jesus, we must forsake all worldly encumbrances. This can include giving up the comforts of life and sacrificing familial relationships.

Jesus makes a promise to those who are willing to forsake all to follow after Him. Matthew 19:27,29 says, “*Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?*” Jesus answered and said, “*Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*”

While the disciples of Jesus might suffer heavily for their devotion to Him in this life, the benefits afforded the faithful beyond the grave are incalculable.