

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Ray Sturgill is staying with his daughter, Jennifer, in Mooresville. Following the first of the year he is scheduled to have a stint inserted to address his coronary artery blockage.

Ray Sturgill's great granddaughter, Ava, is back home after being treated for an RSV infection.

Cindy Murray's husband Randy is dealing with an irregular heartbeat, dizziness and shortness of breath..

Iris Hash's son, Bobby Epeards, is doing better with his heart issues and recently had a pacemaker installed.

Delores Hendrickson is still struggling with a bad cough and is having some vision issues caused by dry macular degeneration in her eyes.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.

Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee.

Jean England, daughter of Karen Sproles, is still having stomach issues.

Shirley Cook's daughter-in-law, Judy Cook, is recovering from gallbladder surgery.

John Richardson is battling with bloating and stomach issues.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

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

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:

We will be collecting canned meats, e.g. tuna, salmon, etc., during the month of December. These items will be donated to the Martinsville school food pantry.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, January 1st at 5:00 PM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, January 5th, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song.

2025 Planning Meetings:

The men and women of the congregation will meet at the building on Saturday, January 11th at 8:00 AM for breakfast. Following breakfast, the men and women will hold separate meetings to plan works for the 2025 calendar year.

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).

December 29, 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

SEDITIONS AND HERESIES

Seditious and heresies are both called “works of the flesh” (Gal. 5:20). We need good definitions of these terms.

Sedition is defined as rebellion against lawful and duly appointed authority. It includes dissension, insurrection, with the attitude “not thy will but mine be done.” It has the disposition of Diotrephes who wanted preeminence (3 John 9). It reflects an attitude that will not submit to authority and seeks the overthrow of authority.

Heresy is defined, and closely associated with sedition, as not being in line, the opposite of orthodoxy, separate from the mainstream, a self-chosen doctrine, putting one’s own desires and designs above fellowship with God and the church. Heresy has to do with attitude and action. More specifically it is public and persistent denial of some of the fundamental points in the doctrine of Christ, doctrines that may be entertained by a professed member of the church that are contrary to the fundamental and distinguishing tenets of the church as set forth by Christ and the apostles. The Greek word from which it is translated refers to an opinion varying from the true exposition of the faith of Christ. Sedition and heresy go together, are closely related and one provokes the other.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO SEDITION

The Jews had a history of sedition and insurrection against all those who warred against them. The Persians were reminded of this. Ezra 4:15, “*That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers; so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city (Jerusalem, JWB) is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have sedition within the same of old time: for which cause was this city destroyed.*” This was a warning from the enemies of Judah about the Jews who returned from captivity and were restoring the city. Israel had rebelled against Egypt, Syria, Assyria, Babylon and Persia was warned. This was done in an effort to cause the cessation of rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple. But documentation was cited that gave permission for this work and the Jews were not guilty at this time, though they had been guilty of it many times earlier in their history. Barabbas was imprisoned for sedition and murder (Luke 23:19). There are no details of his actions but we know he was charged with murder (Mark 15:7) and being against Roman authority. Nonetheless, his release was allowed because the Jews hated Christ more than Barabbas, and Pilate feared the Jews more than he feared Barabbas.

Paul was wrongfully accused of sedition by Tertullus before Felix (Acts 24:5). He was called a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. This accusation was made because Paul taught the end of the Mosaic Law had come. However, Paul’s teaching was not unlawful. He was just accused.

Koran, Dathan and Abiram lead an insurrection against Moses and his authority (Numbers 16). “You take too much upon yourself,” they said to Moses. They wanted to share in that authority. The authority of Moses was of God.

In the church, authority belongs to Christ (Matt. 28:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23; Heb. 1:1-2; Matt. 5:17). Authority was delegated by Christ to the apostles (Gal.

1:11; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Thess. 2:10) as they were guided by the Holy Spirit as promised (John chapters 14, 15, 16). The authority is now revealed in Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 2:12-13; Jude 3). Whatever is contrary to the authority and doctrine of Christ is heresy, false doctrine, ungodliness. It foments strife, rebellion and division.

Sedition can also be found in the home, school, government, church, work place, etc. The result of sedition is opposite that of unity. There is condemnation of the guilty (1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 1:27). Peace is disrupted; division occurs. Some say in essence, “Move over Lord. I’m taking charge. Don’t get in my way.” This is the tone of modern day “change agents” who want to revise the church to accommodate today’s rebellious generation. Such will seal the doom of those guilty (Gal. 5:21).

BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO HERESY

The word translated “heresy” is sometimes translated “sect” as in Acts 5:17, 15:5, and 26:5. The Sadducees were called a sect (Acts 5:17), so were the Pharisees (Acts 15:5). The church was called that also (Acts 28:22). It has reference to a party that is separate from the rest. It is used nine times: six times as sect, heresy once, faction once and parties once. It is never used in a favorable light. The church was first considered a sect of the Jews rather than the new religion of Christ. It is used in a derogatory sense referring to followers of Christ (Acts 24:5,14; 28:22). The church was spoken everywhere against because of hatred against Jews and Christians.

Heresy is used to refer to some in Corinth who were abusing the Lord’s Supper, creating strife and division in the church (1 Cor. 11:19).

It is used referring to false teachers (2 Peter 2:1). Heretics brought in damnable doctrines, moving in secretly, privily, without detection at first. What was to be done about heretics? “*A man that is a heretic after the first and second admonition, reject*” (Titus 3:10). Why do some prefer to “run along” with heretics when they know they only harm? In the Old Testament, people were taught not to hearken to the words of false prophets (Deut. 13:3). In the New Testament some false teachers went from Jerusalem to Antioch and created division over the old law (Acts 15:24). Some preached a perverted gospel (Gal. 1:7). There are warnings throughout the New Testament of teachers of error. They come as angels of light (2 Cor. 7:11). They draw disciples away after them (Acts 20:30). They deny the resurrection (1 Cor. 15). They make worship vain by teaching the doctrines of men (Matt. 15:9). They transgress beyond the restrictions and boundaries of the doctrine Christ (2 John 9-11). They contend for the old law, at least portions of it that fit their religion.

FALSELY ACCUSED

Paul and Silas were accused wrongfully of heresy (Acts 16:20-21; 18:13). They were accused of teaching men to worship contrary to the Law of Moses. What they did was to teach what the law and prophets taught; the things which were written. Paul denied the accusation was ever true (Acts 24:13-16) and it could not be proven. Such things as sedition and heresy against the way of Christ are not acceptable to God. It will bring certain damnation to those who are guilty of it. It will also mean the condemnation of those who allow themselves to be misled and influenced by seditious and heretics. -- *James W. Boyd*