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David Castle
J.C. Hughes
Brad Morris
Nathan Parks
David Smith
Jerry Sturgill
Matthew Vonderheide
Steve Wallace

SERVICES
Sunday Bible Study 9:45am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

WEB PAGE
[www.flatwoodschurch-
ofchrist.org](http://www.flatwoodschurch-ofchrist.org)

CHURCH OFFICE
(606) 836-4207
hours: M-F 8am-2pm

MISSIONS
-Dustin Bolks
Sioux Center, Ia.
-Dahn Ramkelawan
Suriname, So. America
-Michael Mayo
Thailand, SE Asia
-“In Search of the Lord’s
Way” TV broadcast

SEARCH TV
Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)

FLATWOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST HERALD

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Psalm 27:1- The Lord is my light and
my salvation; whom shall I fear?
the LORD is the strength of my
life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 31:24- Be of good courage, and
He shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord.

Psalm 71:14- But I will hope
continually, and will yet praise
Thee more and more.

Matthew 19:26- But Jesus beheld them,
and said unto them, With men this
is impossible; but with God all
things are possible.

Philippians 4:13- I can do all things
through Christ which
strengtheneth me.

We offer FREE: 4 Bible correspondence course series by mail:
an 8 lesson series by Hurt, a 6 lesson series “Acts Of The Apostles”
by Pharr, the “Studies In The Bible” 30 lesson series, and the
20 lesson series “Getting To Know Jesus” by Pharr. Let everyone know!

A Prayer for Enemies

Jesus told us to pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:44). We are to bless them instead of cursing them (Romans 12:14). However, there are some passages in the Bible where God's people call for the wicked to be punished. David, in some of the Psalms, appeals to God regarding His enemies. He prays, "destroy thou them, O God" (Psalm 5:10), and "break their teeth, O God, in their mouth" (Psalm 58:6). David even goes so far as to say, "The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked" (Psalm 58:10). How do these reconcile with Jesus' command in Matthew 5:44 to love our enemies and pray for them? Should we take these as just David venting his anger and as soon as it was released he would not truly desire his enemies to see such a grim end? Were these appropriate for only the Old Testament in keeping with the principle of divine justice that God would curse those who cursed the nation from Abraham (Genesis 12:3) as well those who disobey God who are among His people, as Moses describes in Deuteronomy 32?

No, there are New Testament verses that call for divine vengeance on the wicked in certain circumstances. Romans 13:1-4 argues that Christians should submit to governmental authorities because they function as God's minister to execute wrath on evildoers. It is important to note that David's "imprecatory" psalms (where he is calling for his enemies to be punished) are not intentions of personal vengeance, but rather an appeal to God to exact vengeance. One of the ways God does this is through judicial proceedings. The "eye for an eye" of the Old Testament is not a barbaric code for personal vengeance but rather an instruction to deter crime by prescribing the judges to levy punishment in proportion to the crime committed (Deuteronomy 19:16-21). Justice from the authorities rather than personal vengeance is what is called for.

The call for a curse on evildoers is also on the condition that they are impenitent. We are to desire that men come to repentance like God does (2 Peter 3:9). Peter pronounced a curse on Simon the sorcerer for his wicked request to buy the power to give the Holy Spirit, saying "thy money perish with thee" (Acts 8:19-20). But Peter also appealed to Simon the sorcerer to repent (Acts 8:22). Simon was receptive and asked for prayers (Acts 8:24). Did Peter still desire the sorcerer's death after this penitent request? Certainly not. Those who follow the course of Simon's temptation, but are so hard-hearted that they refuse to repent, promulgating a false gospel in order to use their followers, are not pleasing to God. Paul called for such people to be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9).

There are those extreme cases where after repeated attempts to get the wicked to turn from their ways, they show that they are dead set on assaulting God and His people. In such situations, it is proper to request divine justice. God's justice is represented by those souls who had been slain for the word of God crying out, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:9-10). In a nation, as ours, where Christians are not having their blood shed for following God's word it is easy for us to say that we should never call for God to punish the wicked. But to Christians who are experiencing extreme persecution by wicked men who have continually spurned all appeals to cease from their violence there is solace found in these passages that call for God to punish the wicked. In such extreme cases, as Paul did, we can ask the Lord to repay evildoers according to their works (2 Timothy 4:14).

-Mark Day

News & Notes



Sermons This Week

AM- "Just Wash"

PM- preacher rotation- Mark Aites,
South Point church of Christ

Elders, Deacons, Preachers to Meet

Sunday, the 25th, this group will meet in the annex large classroom at 4:30pm (changed form 18th).

2018 Dates to Remember

Feb 13- Prime-timers- 10a- annex

Feb 20- Prime-timers- 10a- annex

Feb 23- Ladies luncheon- 12:30p- Firehouse
Subs by Dunham's on Russell Road

Feb 25- elders/deacons/preachers meet- 4:30p-
annex large classroom

Feb 27- Prime-timers- 10a- annex

Mar 3- Ladies Day- Sheila Butt- Fishingier &
Kenny Rd. church of Christ, Columbus, OH
8:30a-1p- "Memories in the Making"- Sign
up on foyer bulletin board to go

Apr 1- Potter Children's Home pick-up week

Apr 8-12- Main St. church of Christ Gospel
Meeting w/ Mark Day- Mon-Thu- 7p
Hurricane, WV

Apr 14- Ft. Hill Youth Camp All Staff
Workshop- reservations required

Apr 15-18- Our Gospel Meeting with Jerry
Carmichael

Apr 28- Ft. Hill Camp Teen Spring Retreat

May 18-19- Ft. Hill Men's Retreat- \$50/person

Condolences

Our sympathy goes to Jeff May and family at the loss of their father, Boudreau May, on Feb. 1. His funeral was Feb. 7. Also, sympathy to John & Kelly Motheral on the passing of John's brother Ernest Lee, on Jan. 31 in Mayfield.

February Ladies Luncheon

On Friday, Feb. 23rd (weather permitting), all ladies are invited to meet at the Firehouse Subs beside Dunham's Sporting Goods at 12:30pm.

March 3rd Ladies Day

Several ladies will be attending this event in Columbus. Please, sign up on the foyer bulletin board if you are going so carpooling or transportation can be arranged from this building to the event. You will need to call the number on the flyer to register.

Donations Needed

Potter Children's Home is asking for specific donated items to be picked up during the week of April 1st. Their requested items are: AAA batteries, brown rice, instant potatoes, Magic Eraser sponges and tomato juice. Lists are on the foyer board. Please, put your donations in the sound room hallway under the coat rack. Thank you.

Prime-timers

This open discussion Bible study group meets Tuesdays at 10am in the annex classroom. A new study has just started called "The Attributes of God." Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Have you contacted
a shut-in lately?
Why no today?



Gauging Our Faith

	02/04/18	Goal	02/05/17
Bible Study	99	110	106
AM Worship	144	160	160
PM Worship	93	110	99
Mid Week	nc	110	nc
Contribution:	\$ 6224.50	\$5600.00	\$6224.00

☞ Today's Servants ☞

WELCOME:

AM/PM: J.C. Hughes

SONG LEADER:

AM: Brad Morris

PM: Dan Stone

FIRST PRAYER:

AM: Greg Conley

PM: Edgar Phillips

LORD'S TABLE:

Presiding AM: Jordan Conley

Assisting: Jeremiah Smith,
Steve Wallace, David Smith,
Jerrad Nickell, Shelby Steele,
Mark Gullett, Jacob Martin

Presiding PM: David Trimble

Assisting: Daniel Goshorn

CLOSING PRAYER:

AM: Ben Poling

PM: Nathan Parks

☞ Wednesday Servants ☞

WELCOME: Greg Conley

SONG LEADER: Dan Stone

PRAYER: J.C. Hughes

DEVOTIONAL: Chris Scott

☞ Weekly Servants ☞

POWER POINT: Matt Vonderheide

BLDG. ATTENDANT: Nathan Parks

ATTENDANCE: David Castle

COORDINATOR: David Castle

★★★ Youth Notes ★★★

★★ Every Sunday ★★

Pew Packers

at 5:45pm in front

of the auditorium

-geared to age 12

and under,

but everyone can attend!

Boys: have a song ready
to lead



Welcome, Visitor!

We are so pleased to have you as
our guest today.

If you are a **first-time visitor** with us,
please, fill out a 'visitor card' that you
find on the back of the pew. Please, put it
in the collection plate or hand it to one of
the men at the auditorium doors as you
exit.

We have tract racks on the wall in the
foyer with **free tracts and literature**. We
offer **free Bible correspondence courses**
you can receive by mail at no cost to you.
Let our preacher know if you would like
to set up an **in-home Bible study**. Thank
you for attending. Come back anytime!