MOUNTAIN GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAMILY NEWS

MARCH 3, 2024

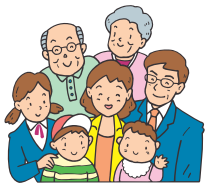
www.mountaingrovechurchofchrist.com

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417-926-4982

www.MGChristianRadio.com



WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

Sunday:
9:00 AM **Bible Study**
10:00 AM **Worship**
11:15 AM **Assembly**(No Communion)
Tuesday:
10:00 AM **Ladies Class**
Wednesday:
7:00 PM **Bible Study**
Thursday:
6:00 PM **Men's Class**

Announcements: Tim Nicks
Scripture Reader: Owen LeBaron
Minister: Keith B. Cozort

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday:
9:00 A.M. **Jeremiah Hicks**
10:00 A.M. **Brent LeBaron**
David Grow
11:15 A.M. **Kevin Cozort**
Phil Driskill
Wednesday: **Wyatt Hicks**
Jeremiah Hicks

SONG LEADERS

Sunday: 10 A.M. **Kevin Cozort**
11:15 A.M. **Richard Sciba**
Wednesday: **Terry LeBaron**

THE LORD'S TABLE

Preside: **Phil Driskill**
Assist: **Ronnie Deaton**
Max Schmollinger
Jeremiah Hicks

LET US SERVE

Communion Prep **Rachell Howard**
Flowers: **Cheryl Cozort**

USHER/GREETER

Sunday: 10 AM **Danny Lathrom**
11:15 **Terry LeBaron**
Wednesday: **Phil Driskill**

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Last Week:
Sunday: (BC, AM1, AM2): 45, 62, 47
Wednesday 22
Contribution $3000.00

NEED A RIDE?

Sunday: **Phil Driskill** - 259-4359
Wed: **Richard Sciba** 926-6416

WELCOME! It is a delight to have you with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out a visitors card & place it in the collection plate or leave it on the pew.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Others: Morgan Connell (surgery Monday, Lathrom's family); **Joe Wyrick** (Linda's brother); **Christin Cook** (Deborah's family); **Phyllis Coffman**; **Steven Jackson** (Alberta's family); **Wayne Crosby** health issues; **Sandie Emery** (Barb's friend); **Mike & Betty Lane** (Tucker's friends); **Byron Frisbee** (James' family); **Stephanie Turner** cancer.
Our Family: Bridget Hicks knee surgery Tuesday; **Russell Robertson** at home; **Tinzie Mackey**; **Lori Lathrom, Terry LeBaron** shoulder surgery**;** **Dwain Murphy**; **Sheila Deaton**; **Buddy & Annette McCarty**; **Lois Schmollinger**; **Effie Hicks**. Please contact Cheryl with any updates (417-349-2419).
OUR MILITARY: Derek Davis New Mexico**, Dusty Deaton** Little Rock, AR

PRIVILEGED TO SUPPORT: On-line Academy of Biblical Studies (OABS); The Bible Institute of Missouri (BIM); Global School of Biblical Studies; Shaddy Chapel; Brent Green; Tyler Bird; David Bass; Levi Hicks.

Worship Leaders, please use the microphone so all can worship with you! Please silence all electronics. Children, no running, please!

UPCOMING EVENTS:
*March 3rd - Potluck, Youth Class at 1:00
*March 16th - Youth serving breakfast for all. Please let Jessica or Rachell know if you plan to attend.
*April 7th - Brent Green speaking.
*April 11th -14th - Mental Health Seminar with Jerry Martin
4/11 - Is Mental Illness Real?
4/12 - What Are the Most Common Forms of Mental Illness?
4/13 - Should a Christian Take Medication to Address Mental Health Issues?
4/14 - Removing Mental Clutter
4/14 - Strategies For Facing Life's Challenges
4/14 - Mental Preparation to Avoid Compassion Fatigue

PANTRY ITEM: Beans: chili beans, kidney beans, black beans (not green beans). Thank - you!

GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE US: Hear the word - Rom. 10:17; Believe Jesus is the Son of God - Jn. 8:24; Repent of sin - Acts 17:30; Confess Jesus before men - Rom. 10:9,10; Be Immersed for the remission of sin - Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Be Faithful unto death - Rev. 2:10.

Dealing with Secret Sin

One of the most challenging lyrics we ever sing is in the song "Purer In Heart, O God." Near the end of that song, we sing these words: "Keep me from secret sin; reign Thou my soul within." Those are very easy (and beautiful) words to sing, but when I truly let my mind contemplate what is coming from my mouth, I have to ask myself if I really mean those words.

When we think of "secret sin," we could [be] talking about actions that no one else knows about, such as a gambling problem or pornography addiction, or we would be talking about sins of our attitude, such as jealousy, bitterness, greed, covetousness, or hatred. The obvious point, though, is that these are sins that are hidden from other people.

These types of sins can be the most difficult to deal with, in part because of their secret nature. Since no one else really knows about them, there is virtually no accountability. While we might hear a sermon or a Bible class that mentions these types of things, there is not another person who is "seeing" them in my life, and helping me by calling me out for them.

So, how do we deal with secret sin? While not an exhaustive list, here are five things that, if done with humility and effort, can help us work to overcome these things.

1. **Call them what they are: sin.** Because they are not "known," it can be easy to just treat these things as less than other sins. But sin is sin, and we must be willing to know that we are struggling with something that will keep us out of heaven should we not seek to overcome it.

2. **Confess them.** Because they are "secret," it may be that you confess these sins only to God. But it may also be helpful to confess this struggle to a faithful Christian or even to a group of Christians. God will forgive if we truly repent. But people cannot help you if they do not know what it is you are struggling with. Remember, if you are confessing these things, confess specifically. In other words, don't just say, "I'm struggling with some things." Be willing to say that you are struggling with your anger (or lust or bitterness or whatever it is).

3. **Cease!** I know that stopping a secret sin is easier said than done, but we must seek to stop. For example, having "just a little" bitterness in our heart and excusing it as such is dangerous. We must seek to root out the entirety of our sin and stop it if we want to overcome it. Obviously, we will struggle at times, but we cannot excuse "a little" bit of sin. We must stop it.

4. **Continue in good things.** It is not enough just to stop the bad. We must fill our lives with the good. Thus the lyric of the song, "reign Thou my soul within." In one of Jesus's illustrations, He spoke of an evil spirit that leaves, but when it comes back, "it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order" (Matthew 12:44). That sounds good, but the illustration ends terribly, because the spirit brings seven others to fill that house and "the last state of that person is worse than the first" (verse 45). Why? Because the house was clean, but it was not filled with good things! If you struggle with secret sin, fill your mind with Scripture, with beautiful Christian hymns, with the joys of Christian fellowship, and with other good and godly things. That will help you fight as you go forward.

5. **Captivate your thoughts.** Paul gave a great principle in 2 Corinthians 10:5, where he wrote that he was taking "every thought captive to obey Christ." Notice the totality of that: every thought. It is as if Paul, with every thought he had, examined it for a moment and, if it was not Christ-like, threw it away. What an example, and what a reminder that we can be faithful and pure in what we sometimes call our "thought life."

In my opinion, the most important thing we can add to this list is the sentiment shared by the lyrics with which this article began. If we struggle with secret sins, we need to pray fervently that God will help us overcome them. We know He desires that we are, in the words of that song, "Purer in heart," so it stands to reason that He would help us if we earnestly seek His help, even in this area of life.

"Purer in heart, O God, Help me to be."

Adam Faughn, Jun 30, 2021, A Legacy of Faith