



Volume 31  
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PROCLAIMER

**Our Purpose is to expand God's Kingdom, as we reach, teach, disciple and activate people for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Morganton First Church of God Weekly Schedule

Communion in the Prayer Room	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School:	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evenings	6:00 p.m.
Power House Youth and Prayer Service	
Wednesday Fellowship Supper	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday Small Groups	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Services	7:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study, KidsPlace & PowerHouse Youth	

**Our Website: [www.mfcog.com](http://www.mfcog.com)**



Thoughts From  
Pastor Don

### Understanding Sin for What It Really Is

Some people scoff at the concept of sin by defining it as a prohibition against fun, made by the few who hate it, against the many who enjoy it. In a way, this was the original lie that the serpent told Eve. He suggested that God was withholding things from her that she truly needed and would benefit from (Gen 3:4-5)

Scripture presents sin as anything but fun or beneficial. Sin has devastating consequences. Sin enslaves people and demands that they obey its lusts (Rom 6:6,12,20). Several phrases in the New Testament help to define the perilous nature of sin:

- To sin is to “fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23). People trapped in sin’s tight snare cannot live up to the holy lifestyle that God intended when He created them.
- “Sin is lawlessness” (I Jn 3:4) It involves living for “me first” rather than for God, being “a law unto oneself.”
- “All unrighteousness is sin” (I Jn 5:17). When we sin, we offend the God who loves justice and righteousness (Rom 1:18)
- If we know what is good and yet do not do it, we sin (Jas 4:17). Thus sin involves conscious disobedience against what is right, even to the point of approving the sin of others (Rom 1:32)
- In fact, James goes even further to declare that if we prefer a wealthy man over a poor man, we have sinned.
- Sin separates us from God, who created us.

But...as we looked into the Word of God on Sunday, “at just the right time,” when we were powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. The story is still unfolding, for “the right time” is both a point at which Christ came into the world and died for our sins, and a time at which we decide to embrace that eternal truth and live for God. In response to the love of God through His Son’s gift, we choose different ways of behaving, different attitudes and dispositions. God has such love for us that He has provided for our deliverance from the very thing(s) that separate us from Himself. Praise be to God, whose love endures forever. Let us know and receive this love. And, then, let us be about helping others to be liberated from sin’s enslavement.

Pastor Don