



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.  
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Study	10:30 AM
Worship	6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

Bible Study	1:30 PM
Bible Study	7:00 PM

### Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

[www.collinsvillecoc.org](http://www.collinsvillecoc.org)

## STRIFE AMONG SISTERS

According to an Associated Press article\* dated May 12, 2010, a five-year court case between eighty-seven and eighty-four-year-old sisters has been resolved. The two sisters fought over splitting a \$500,000 lottery jackpot. They had not spoken to one another since the dispute arose in 2005. According to the article, Judge Cynthia Swienton wrote in her decision, “There is something in this tragedy that touches most people. While the court may be able to resolve the legal dispute, it is powerless to repair the discord and strife that now overshadows the once harmonious sisterly relationship.”

Most would consider it a shame that two elderly sisters would allow covetousness and the love of money to come between them. Yet, how many times do brothers and sisters in Christ act just as these sisters. They allow petty differences to cause strife and bitterness that divide and destroy Christian relationships?

Strife, anger, and enmity are works of the flesh and can cause one to lose their soul (Galatians 5:19-21). Yet, too often Christians allow these works of the flesh to take root in their lives. In doing so, relationships are destroyed, lives are destroyed through bitterness, and, eventually, souls are destroyed eternally.

The wise men recorded the problems of anger and strife. “*An angry man stirreth up strife, And a wrathful man aboundeth in transgression*” (Proverbs 29:22). Once one allows his anger to control him, there will be strife and transgression, or sin. “*The beginning of strife is (as) when one letteth out water*” (Proverbs 17:14). When the dam holding back the water is breached, the water begins to flow through, and the hole becomes larger and larger. Likewise, when the dam of self-control is breached, the anger and strife grow worse and worse. “*He loveth transgression that loveth strife: He that raiseth high his gate seeketh destruction*” (Proverbs 17:19). Once the strife causes one to raise the gate to shut out others, he begins bringing his own destruction. “*He whose spirit is without restraint is (like) a city that is*

*broken down and without walls*” (Proverbs 25:28).

The wise men also recorded the solution to these works of the flesh. “*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; And he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city*” (Proverbs 16:32).

The Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul, commanded that all bitterness, wrath, anger, and malice be put away from the Christian (Ephesians 4:31). That is not a choice but a command. That is where self-control comes in. The Christian must work to rule his spirit, to develop self-control. As the inspired Peter recorded, “*Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in (your) virtue knowledge; and in (your) knowledge self-control...*” (2 Peter 1:5-6). Develop the fruit of the Spirit in your life—love, joy, peace, kindness (Galatians 5:22).

“*And the Lord's servant must not strive, but be gentle towards all*” (2 Timothy 2:24). “*So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another*” (Romans 14:19).

If you are not at peace with your brother or sister because you have been offended, do not let the dam of self-control be breached. Rather than allow a trickle of anger and strife get through, humbly go to your brother or sister to try and work out the difference (Matthew 18:15-17). If you are not at peace with your neighbor because you have offended him, go to him with a humble heart to be reconciled, asking forgiveness, lest your worship be not acceptable to God (Matthew 5:23-24). If you are not at peace with another, forgive, that you may be forgiven (Matthew 6:12; Matthew 18:21-35).

“*Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord*” (Hebrews 12:14).

TLM

\**Elderly Sister Can Keep Lottery Prize*, by John Christofferson, as seen on Yahoo! News.

## YOU SNOOZE YOU LOSE

**T**he alarm rings. You have the choice to either get up and turn it off, or hit the snooze button.

Some of us hit the snooze button treasuring the extra five or ten minutes of sleep. Have you ever hit snooze one too many times, causing you to be late for work or school? In like manner, there is a danger in hitting the “snooze” button when comes to our spiritual lives.

Hit the snooze, and we can lose our **children**. We are in a heated cultural and spiritual battle for the souls of young people in America today. Recently I heard that it takes approximately four faithful Christians to turn out one. It is going to take more than the youth minister, preacher or Bible class teacher to train our future generations to spiritual security. The Bible teaches that fathers are to train up their children and the older women are to teach the younger (Ephesians 6:4; Titus 2:3-5). Elders, deacons, teachers, and preachers play important roles; however, it is a joint effort. Seeing a young lady, after being baptized, walk down the stairs with a mature Christian woman clutching her hand tightly is an encouraging image. If we encourage and train the next generations we do the will of God (Proverbs 22:6, 2 Timothy 2:2). If we do not, we hit the snooze button. Will we set out to save the world, but not our families?

Hit the snooze, and we can lose our local **church**. The seven churches of Asia (Revelation 2 & 3) were local congregations. Where are they today? It has been said that the church is one generation away from apostasy. As the church continued day by day, the Lord added to them those who were being saved (Acts 2:38-47). What happens when we hit the snooze and stop continuing? When elders, deacons, teachers, and members stop proclaiming, practicing, and growing in the word of God, the doors of the church building may be shut. We know of too many congregations closing their doors never to open again. “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another” (Romans 12:3-4). We each have a role to play. When one of us hits snooze, the whole body suffers.

Hit the snooze, and we ultimately can lose our **Christ**. “Whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:33). It has been said, “If you don’t use it, you lose it.” Do we hit the snooze causing us to stop growing and

developing as a Christian? We cannot adequately confess our Savior, if we cannot give an answer for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15). Therefore, “do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit” (Romans 12:11). Let us not allow our “last state to become worse for them than the first” (2 Peter 2:20).

How precious are our children? How much do we value the church of Christ and, by extension, our Christian family? Do we cherish Christ? You have heard it said, “Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.” The time has come to wake up, get up, and look up. If you snooze we will lose.

- Robert E. Guinn -

### Mabery's Minutes



In less than two weeks, a group of our teenagers will be departing for a week of work in Marshalltown, Iowa. Plans are about complete. Eight of our teens and five or six adults will travel to Marshalltown Saturday, June 12. They will work with the church there, going door to door. They will be offering opportunities for studying God’s word and helping the church develop contacts that can be followed up on later. The following Saturday, they will travel to Independence, Missouri, where they will worship and stay with the Thirty-ninth Street congregation. They will go to the World’s of Fun amusement park on Monday and then return to Collinsville Tuesday, June 22.

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